



LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

[13/12/10]

It's been a good year despite the shakes! - thank you!

This is the final newsletter for 2010 and I take this opportunity to thank the children, staff and the Elmwood community for what has been another very successful year. Looking back over 2010, I expect the year will be remembered as one with a rather "shaky" dimension to it. For our children and their families, the big quake on Saturday 4 September, along with the numerous aftershocks, provided a first hand reality to what it all means when a major earthquake shakes our daily lives. It certainly was a challenging time, testing our levels of resilience and ability to cope. However the positive and determined responses to this disaster, evidenced by numerous individual and collective acts of support and goodwill, brought us all together even more strongly as we coped with the more stressful moments.

On reflection, there have been many other significant moments that have captured the essence of Elmwood Normal School. These include the Board's strategic review to determine the future direction of the school, the extensive building enhancements, a successful Education Review Office report on the school and the implementation of a revised New Zealand Curriculum along with challenges involved in aligning National Standards to the achievement reporting processes.

Given all these positive impacting factors, we look back on the wonderful sporting successes, the superb musical events and the many educational and cultural achievements of the children. Underpinning all of these is the motivation, commitment and dedication of the school staff and community. Fortunately, this school is able to call upon a large contingent of parents who support the teaching staff in a range of learning activity. It is through this key and fundamental positive relationship between staff and parents that our ability to bring quality education to the children is strengthened. We have a wonderful culture at Elmwood Normal School and it is one that I am proud to be part of. I expect for many of you the School Production, *The Footprint*, held in the Town Hall last Wednesday evening highlighted the high levels of participation and opportunity the school offers in many aspects of learning. Parents would have been very proud of their children as they displayed their performance talents to a "full house" audience of families. Some very strong messages were given by the students throughout their performance about keeping our planet earth a safe and environmentally friendly place to live in and enjoy. 'Reduce', 'recycle' and 'reuse' featured in their musical and drama appeals for environmental protection.

As the school year comes to an end this week we begin our farewells to a number of our community who will be ending their ties with the school. There will be those parents of our Year 6 children, as well as some PTA and Board members moving on to new associations with either the two Intermediates or private schools close by. While it is always a busy time of year with end of year activities that involve these people, it is important that we take some time to acknowledge their contribution to the school over a number of years.

On Wednesday morning we will be saying goodbye to our Year 6 children. Congratulations to all the Year 6 children who will be receiving awards and a leaving certificate. For almost all of them, they have been part of this school for six years and part of the Elmwood Normal School family. Elmwood Normal School has been their

main learning world and they will look back in years ahead with fond memories of the experiences that made a big difference to where they are at today.

I would like to extend a special thanks to the Board of Trustees for their energy and commitment to the very important governance role they fulfill. There has been a huge amount of work achieved in 2010 particularly in the property and financial aspect of their work. I expect most of you will have purchased a copy of our Annual Magazine that presents a collection of photos and stories of the many events we have enjoyed through 2010.

All the staff join with me in wishing you all a very happy and safe Christmas with family and friends.

Kevin Gooch
Principal