



LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

[07/02/11]

Welcome to Elmwood Normal School

Welcome to everyone who will be associated with the school for 2011. A special welcome to new families and children. The school opened this year with a roll of 541. It is anticipated that the roll will climb to 600 by the end of the year as new entrants join the junior classes.

The school will promote its vision for success through a Strategic Plan developed for implementation in August 2010. The Strategic Plan is centred on the Mission Statement "Striving to be the best that we can" and what this means to children. Helping children to be the best they can requires a very strong partnership with parents.

At Elmwood Normal School there is a strong focus on the school's role to ensure that the school environment is a safe, secure and happy one for children, parents and staff to enjoy. The Board is confident that there is a culture of sound values reflecting responsibility, respect, equity, passion and commitment. Further, the expectations and educational standards are high and quality education continues to be paramount. Parents want their children to be inspired and inquisitive learners and they know that this can only happen when the school delivers quality programmes.

In preparing our children for the future the school has a determination to provide children with a great start to their learning journey. Fundamental to our teaching philosophy is that children require a set of key competencies and values that emerge through the application of essential tools for living. These tools relate to the application of growing-up steps associated with social, emotional, physical and intellectual learning domains. To successfully achieve at school the growing-up steps centre on character building, attitude building, relationship building and confidence building. These need to be taught at school and need to be strongly embedded into our curriculum designs.

One of the greatest responsibilities we have that is fundamental to our Mission Statement, is to support others and ourselves in living at our highest and best. It is incumbent upon us all to help each other as well as the children to strive for the best that they can be. Both at school, and in the home environment, we are all charged with the responsibility to help our children believe in themselves and to encourage them to adopt an "I can do" attitude that reflects self-confidence, truth in goal setting as well as realism in what can be achieved.

Like all of us, children will have self-doubt from time to time and their confidence may be shaken when there are setbacks. Setbacks will always occur and this is an important part of the learning process that teaches resilience. Resilience comes with analysis and confidence to fire up for the next step of the challenge ahead. It is important for children to have faith in their talents and skills to explore and launch into new initiatives.

"You can do it - I know you can" are positive reinforcers that need to be voiced frequently providing it is sincere and realistic for the situation. In fact it is highly motivational for children to know that someone believes in them at these times. Voicing "you can do it" will be more successful than "don't get your hopes up!"

The Board of Trustees and staff strongly believe in a holistic and inclusive approach to the education at Elmwood Normal. The educational delivery encapsulates important life skills through the development of key competencies, core values and character building. Over the next few weeks parents will be given opportunities to involve themselves in the school's activities and meeting the teachers. On the back of the school's news and events newsletters that is emailed out every Monday, the term calendar lists the important activities to be held throughout that week and the term. The school's google calender on our website also has the dates of activities throughout the year.

During 2011 parents will receive an emailed weekly newsletter every Monday outlining the happenings in the school, listing the important events that are coming up and celebrating the successes of the children. Please be sure we have your up-dated-e-mail address.

The school's website www.elmwood.school.nz also provides access to items as they go live, the weekly newsletter both current and historical and many other articles and items of interest. Teachers also use the website to share the activities of their classrooms and school-wide events.

Please note the website is the school's main communication line to the community and we urge all parents to be regular visitors to our web site to gain the important information about the events of the school.

Teachers are looking forward to meeting with parents this week at the "Meet the Teacher Evenings" being held this coming week.

Thank you for supporting us to do the best we can for your children.

Kevin Gooch
Principal