



# VICTORIA AVENUE SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## **April 2011**

Welcome to the second newsletter for 2011 from your Board of Trustees.

The Board met on 11 April and reflected on what we consider has been a very busy and successful first term for Victoria Avenue School. From the “Meet the Teacher” evening in early February to the “Healthy Lifestyles” week in mid-March to the Year 4 and Year 6 camps, Term 1 has certainly been action-packed and stimulating for everyone involved with our school.

### **School Gala**

The highlight of Term 1 for many was the second School Gala held at the start of April. This was a marvellous and hugely successful event which brought the whole school community together and was even bigger and better than our inaugural Gala two years ago. It was great to see so many smiling faces (both the kids and the adults!) and experience our awesome school spirit during the Gala weekend.

The financial success of the Gala was also exceptional. The latest estimate of \$75,000 raised for our school is a great outcome and a 30% increase on the previous Gala.

The Board is very grateful to the Gala Committee for their huge commitment over the past nine months to making the Gala such a superb event. The Board also wishes to thank the numerous volunteers, sponsors, teachers and children who all helped make the Gala an amazing day.

### **Property Update**

Supported by the funding from the Gala, we continue to make good progress on the school’s various property projects.

The new wooden decks outside Rooms 8-10 are nearly completed and will be available for use from the start of Term 2. We expect these decks will further enhance the teaching and learning environments in these classrooms, following on from the interior refurbishments that were undertaken over the summer holiday break.

The new sound system in the school hall has also been installed and is a huge improvement on our previous system.

The next projects on the Board’s agenda are:

- The extension of the shade cover through to Rooms 11-14 (targeted for completion during 2011)
- The refurbishment of Room 7 (expected to occur over the 2011/2 summer holiday break)

The Board has further property plans as part of its vision for the school over the next few years, with the next stage likely to be a refurbishment of the senior block (Rooms 1-6). We intend putting these on display soon – please have a look so you can see what will be happening in the future.

## **Charter**

At its most recent meeting the Board reviewed and approved the School Charter for 2011. The School Charter comprises:

- Background information on the school
- The vision, values and strategic goals for our school (as determined by the Board at the end of 2009)
- The annual plans and targets for achieving our strategic goals
- Specific targets for student achievement during 2011
- An overview of our 2011 budget (as approved by the Board at the end of 2010)
- A summary of the school's staffing and resources
- An outline of our annual and four-yearly review programme

The School Charter has now been submitted to the Ministry of Education and is also available on the school's website – see <http://www.victoria-avenue.school.nz/our-school/charter>.

## **Principal Performance Agreement**

The Board also reviewed and approved the Principal Performance Agreement for 2011 at its latest meeting. This agreement is a legal requirement for all school boards and covers:

- The Principal's job description and professional standards
- The annual performance and development objectives for the Principal (which are closely linked to plans and targets in the School Charter)
- The process for annually reviewing the performance of the Principal

The Board enlisted the expert assistance of Ron Scott, a leading education consultant and a former school principal, to assist with the preparing the Principal Performance Agreement. Ron will also be involved once again in conducting Allan's appraisal at the end of the year.

## **Te Reo Maori**

Te Reo Maori is an important part of our school's curriculum. Following a review led by Jane Cameron of how we approach Te Reo Maori, the school has decided to trial a new professional development programme for Te Reo Maori during Term 2. This trial will initially focus on Years 3 and 4 and will involve Paul Walker, who has had a long association with our school, assisting with the teaching of Te Reo Maori (language) and Tikanga Maori (customs, protocols and values) each week. If the trial is successful, then the intention is to repeat the programme for the junior and senior syndicates later in 2011.

## **BOT Treasurer**

The Board has had an initial review of its composition and succession plans looking forward to the next elections in April 2013.

Following this review, the Board is seeking to co-opt a new Board member with relevant accounting, financial and governance skills to act as Treasurer for at least the next two years.

Please contact Rob Hamilton (ph. 021 955 944) or Vlad Kozak (ph. 021 473 368) if you have an interest in being considered for this role.

## **School Contributions**

As at 31 March we had received total contributions of \$140,000. This is higher than the same time in both 2009 and 2010, and includes \$12,000 of “extra” contributions above the standard \$460 per child.

Thank you to all the parents who have paid the school contribution already – early payment really does make a big difference to the financial management of our school. A special thank you also to those parents that have generously made an “extra” contribution to support our school.

However, no school contributions have been paid for 38% of the children at school. We encourage all parents to pay the school contribution if you are able to do so. By doing so you will ensure that all families are contributing to the funding gap (after receiving the Ministry of Education operations grant) of over \$400,000 that our school community needs to bridge each year.

The Board will be following up on outstanding school contributions early in Term 2.

We hope everyone has an enjoyable April/Easter break and look forward to another successful term after the holidays.

Rob Hamilton  
Chairperson