

All A-Board

Amberley School Board of Trustees News

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9th February 2012 Vol 6

2011 Results

At the very end of term 4 last year the board was given an excellent presentation by the school's management team and lead teachers, summarising the student achievement data for the year. The results were very good, with every year in the school able to demonstrate a rise in student achievement, over and above what would be expected from the simple increase in age of the students. This clearly shows us that our teachers are doing a great job "adding value" to our children's education - overall, our Amberley children are learning faster and achieving more quickly than the national average. These results were reported against National Standards for the first time, so this year we will be able to make a direct comparison, to see the school's progress.



New Classroom

Late last year the board received the go-ahead from the Ministry of Education to build a new classroom. This funding is separate from the money we receive every five years to spend on our existing classrooms (and expect to see some work on the main block in the next few years). After some discussion with staff we have decided to construct a purpose-designed new entrants classroom for our five year olds. We are still in the process of appointing an architect, so this project will take most of the year, and the new room may not be ready for classes till late in the year. We envisage a bright, funky room, with cheerful colours, interesting spaces, and a special vibe which children new to the school will be excited by. We definitely don't want a boring beige rectangular classroom, although the spaceship design below may stretch our budget!!

Room 7 Extension

We know its not ideal having room 7 located in the PRIDE room for the first half of the year, neither as a classroom but also restricting use of that room by other groups in the school. However, we are progressing with the room 7 extension as fast as we can, and everyone involved in the project is aware of the need to work quickly. The work is currently out for tender, a process which takes a set minimum time period. We have been told that schools in the area have faced considerably increased building costs from city firms, so we have deliberately encouraged local builders to tender. As well as adding 3m in length to the building, we will be adding bleachers, new carpets and wall coverings, and updating some of the interior fixtures to bring this rather shabby room up to standard, and to a similar size to rooms 8 and 9. Most of the cost of this work will be met from school reserves as it is not directly funded by the Ministry.



School BBQ

The board invites everyone to a school BBQ on Friday March 2nd. Come along around 5.30pm, we will provide a free sausage sizzle, a soft drink for the kids, and there will be BBQs running so you can cook your own food if you wish. This is a social occasion, an opportunity for children to play in the school grounds, older children to return to the school for a look around, parents can chat and mingle with staff. The PTA will be there to explain their plans for the year, and we hope all our school families will turn up. Look out for more details nearer the time.

Four year old programme

Even before the decision to build a specialist new entrants room was made, the board were encouraging the staff to expand our four year olds' programme, as part of our strategic plan to get our school more involved in the local community, and bring the community into our school. The new classroom project gives us an opportunity to think more widely and creatively about four year old education in the area, and how a bigger better service for four year olds might be possible. The Ministry is encouraging more interaction between pre-schools and primary schools, so the board is investigating options which might eventually see the new entrants room as the hub of a more integrated educational opportunity for four and five year olds in Amberley.