

**Richmond Road School Board of Trustees**  
**December 2008 Newsletter**

**Kia ora koutou katoa, Bonjour, Talofa Lava, Greetings.**

The Board met for its final meeting of the year on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

**Review**

This has been a difficult year for the school, with the departure of the Deputy Principal and Te Whanau Whariki ropu leader at the end of Term 1. Perhaps unsurprisingly it was not possible to find permanent replacements mid-year and this placed a significant additional burden on our new Principal. The Board wish to place on record our enormous appreciation of the work Stephanie Anich has done during the year. It would have been challenging enough settling in to a new school without the additional pressures of staff changes. Thank you Steph!

Much of the year has been spent on the development of the new Charter and Strategic Plan. The Board wish to thank the community warmly for contributing with energy and enthusiasm to the consultation process. We feel we now have a document which genuinely reflects the direction in which our community wants to take the school. The final Charter, including the targets and performance standards relating to each objective, will be presented at a hui in Term 1 2009.

One of the most significant outcomes of the consultation process was the decision to introduce Te Reo to the school outside Te Whanau Whariki. At our meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> November we moved: ***That the board introduces a Te Reo programme to commence by Term 2 2009, subject to plans and consultation with Te Whanau Whariki.***

Another significant outcome of the consultation was the overwhelming majority in favour of building a new school hall. We had a presentation at this week's meeting from an experienced fundraiser, and we are well briefed on what must be a significant undertaking. The implications are wide and the Board will be determining the way forward early next year.

**Budget and Donations**

The school will end the year with a budget deficit. The reason is that insufficient donations have been given this year and fundraising has not been able to meet the deficit. Consequently, on Monday we moved: ***That the board increases the donations asked for in 2009 to \$250 for the first child, \$200 for the second child and \$150 for the third child, with no payment for subsequent children. A 10% discount will be offered to those who pay in full or set up an automatic payment within Term 1.***

The increase in school donations is necessary because the school cannot afford to run a budget deficit two years in succession. We regret that the decision was not taken at an earlier board meeting so that the community might have had more notice. But the fact remains that an increase is necessary. At our November meeting we determined that teacher aides will be guaranteed work for terms 1 and 2, but that subsequent employment will depend on the level of donations paid and the success of fundraising activities in the early part of the year.

**Thank you**

We wish to thank the fundraising committee and many members of the school community for the activities which have raised indispensable funds for the school this year. We have a packed programme for 2009 already and will be calling on the goodwill of the community again. 2009 is the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school and we have invited the Governor General to attend our celebrations.

The Board thank all the teaching and administration staff of Richmond Road School for their hard work during 2008 and wish everyone a happy Christmas and good New Year.

This newsletter was brought to you on behalf of your Community and Management team at Richmond Road School: **Ewen Mackenzie-Bowie (Chairperson), Stephanie Anich (Principal), Nerra Nealiifano (Staff Trustee), Jo Okesene, Shelley Ruha, Katerina Solomona, Dan Salmon, Tina Barclay (Secretary), Sue Winslow (Minute Taker).** The next Board meeting is scheduled for **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2009** at 6pm in the staffroom.