

BOARD TALK



Word from the chair

As I sit here typing these few words to describe what has happened in 2009 for the Board and school, I struggle with where to start- as with most things it is best to start at the beginning !

This year the pool complex and extension was completed, and our children immediately appreciated the warm water temperature. The pool being heated meant the swimming season could be extended longer than before. We made some changes in the office area – the most significant by creating a much larger medical room and the Principal now has a much larger office! We had our big celebration with the School's 50th Jubilee. This was a great success with many fun filled events for past and present students to enjoy. I must say a very well organised weekend, indeed.

As the year moved on we worked on changing the library into two spaces. This is so we can have additional teaching spaces as we require them. Now, we have started our new hall project. Watch this space!

As a Board we endeavoured to get a lot feedback to help with setting our vision as a school and we were pleased with a good response to the survey that went home with every child at the beginning of the year. The survey has helped us as a Board, to realise what is important to our community. From this we worked out and how we can meet the community's expectations. This information has helped form our new charter and plan for the next few years. Towards the end of the year the Board attended some training as a group. This training has been excellent for refocusing and strengthening our efforts.

In 2010 we will again be heading into an election year for the Board of Trustees. Three parent trustee positions are up for election. Please take some time to consider the option of putting your name forward. Being on the Board can give you an insight as to how the school operates and how you as a Board member can ensure that the children are well provided for. As a Board member your opinions are heard by people that make decisions that affect the future of the school.

Thanks to everyone that has helped the school over the past year. We especially value all the volunteers, parent helpers and our wonderful staff without whose efforts this school community could not provide what it does.

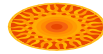
Lewis Preston
Chairperson

The Avonhead School Board of Trustees welcomes

Amberley Harding to Year 3/4

Celia Sheerin to Year 2/3

Anna Normanton to Year 5/6



Congratulates

Chris Tweedie

On the opportunity to teach at a Canadian International school
in Singapore for 6 months



Farewells and thanks....

**Lisa Morrison
Jonathan Ritchie
Sharon Allen
Lucy Franks
Pip Olorenshaw
Gretel Roberts**

Swimming Pool

The swimming pool will be open this week. The pool has been heated to 24 degrees and will remain at this temperature over the swimming season! The pool will close on 18 April 2010.

It is only possible for current families of the school to hire a key to use the pool after school hours and during the holidays. The cost is \$80 a season and you will get \$10 back when you return the key. If you wish to hire a key, you need to obtain one personally as we must have our 'use of the swimming pool agreement' signed by an adult before a key can be issued.

There are only a keys left and last year's keys will not work !!

Staffing

Nikki Todd and Cindy McKenzie will be returning in a shared teaching arrangement in the junior area of the school next year. Cindy will be working three days a week and Nikki will be teaching for two days.

Update on the new Multi Purpose Hall

Mainzeal have started on site and as we go to print the foundation pad for the floor is being prepared. By the time the children start school in the New Year the walls will be being erected and you will be able to get a sense of how the finished structure will look. Keep an eye on the website and in the school reception for some artist impressions of the finished hall.

We still anticipate having the hall finished and available for use in the beginning of Term 2

ERO

The BOT met with the ERO team at the conclusion of their work at the school. While we are still awaiting the formal outcome of their review, we are delighted with the feedback we received about our staff and school. Also we are already underway with some of their suggestions for further improvements. Once the formal copy of their review arrives it will be available in the office and our website.



Alan Smith demonstrates one of the many jobs that BOT members can look forward to performing!

BOT elections

But seriously do consider not what your school can do for you but what YOU can do for your school. I spoke to a number of you at the Christmas Picnic (yet another splendidly organised event by your PTA) to whet your appetite and to get you considering this valuable role. I do encourage you to take the next step and look at the website, to talk to current BOT members and look out for the media releases that accompany the Board election round.

OUR IDEAL BOT MEMBER WISH LIST

General Competencies

- Visionary leadership
- Strategic thinkers
- Analytical thinkers
- Practical people
- People who can communicate well
- Team Player

Personal Qualities

Integrity
Honesty
Curiosity
Courage
Interpersonal skills
Genuine interest in the schooling community and its students
Time and Commitment

Job-related Competencies

Strategic expertise
Financial understanding
Legal understanding
Risk management
People management
Knowledge of education environment

Key Dates:

Call for nominations by 15 March
Nominations close noon 23 April
Voting papers must be distributed by 28 April
Voting day 7 May
Count votes 13 May
Board takes office 14 May

Even if this is not for you....exercise your biggest right – VOTE



Tis the season to be jolly.....

Can we invite you our neighbourhood guardian angels to keep a watchful eye over the school through the holidays and call **Sub 5 security** on:

PH: +64 (3) 962 2003 **24 HOURS**

PH: +64 (3) 356 1200 **24 HOURS**

if you notice anything untoward.