

Cheviot Area School – News from the Board

December 2009

This will be the final newsletter for the year and I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for their contribution to the school this year. It is greatly appreciated by the staff and board and in particular the students. All the educational research shows that families that have an active input into the schooling of their children make a positive difference in terms of improved student outcomes.

We have had our final board meeting for the year and as always, the minutes are available in the foyer of the administration block. Also Home and School have a copy of all the reports that were presented. Briefly below is what we discussed;

1. Strategic Goals

- All students who attended CAS for the year have passed their respectively NCEA level 1. Not many schools can boast that.
- KAMAR student management system been installed with data migration of student information taking place. This will enable better data assessment and eventually there will be the ability for individual parents / caregivers to access their own child's assessment information at any time online.
- Aeronautics will be introduced in the STAR and Gateway programmes next year
- Life skills programme linked well with Gateway and Star programmes
- 5 new PC's installed in rooms 2 and 3
- Feedback from three way conferences indicated a number of improvements but very well received
- More information regarding national standards and the revised curriculum to be organized in the new year for parents
- Boyle River leadership camp organized and going with a number of other schools

In focus goal

Numeracy

1. 24 students Y1-8 identified as being 'at risk' at the beginning of 2009. They all received targeted teaching throughout the year. Of these students 1 is still 'at risk', 7 have moved from 'at risk' to 'cause for concern' and 14 students have moved from 'at risk' to 'at or above expectation'. Whilst this progress is encouraging, these students will receive monitoring in 2010 and beyond to ensure this continues.
2. Implementation of the 'numeracy project' still continues, with all staff being fully familiar with the current thinking.
3. Students who presented as achieving 'above expectation' on the curriculum expectations as set out by the MoE received extension teaching within the class environment.
4. 81.5% of all Y1 -8 students are achieving 'at or above expectation'. This is well above national norms.
5. 75% of Maori students (national priority) are achieving 'at or above expectation' which once again is well above national norms.

Literacy

1. After 1 year of instruction all students to be reading at or above Green (as set out by the Moe). 100% achieved.
2. After 2 years CAS students will be reading at or above purple (as set out by the MoE). 90% achieved.
3. After 3 years CAS students will be reading at or above gold. 100% achieved.
4. Y4-10 88% achieved 'at or above stanine 4'. Nationally 77% of students are at or above stanine 4.
5. All Maori students (national priority) are achieving at or above expectation for both primary and NCEA

These are great results and once again thank you to all the staff for working so tirelessly to teach our students what they need to know.

2. Curriculum Review

Every two years each curriculum area (of which there are eight) does a full internal audit which is then reported to the board. This looks at the teaching and learning in the area, strengths and weaknesses, documentation, structure, professional development and aspirations.

Social Sciences

We have developed a new format with management and this was the first curriculum area to report to it. (Home and School have a copy) Also beginning next year an external reviewer will be involved in the process to add more rigor.

Strengths

- Collegial support
- Collaborative planning
- Use of local environs
- Community resources
- Librarian support
- Digital cameras in every class
- NCEA 1-3 all students on track to achieve their respective level

Recommendations

- Strengthen the CAS professional learning community with time allocation
- Development of the CAS inquiry model
- Working with the Y1-10 Social Sciences plan and curriculum
- Refining seamlessness through Y1-13 in line with NZC and national standards
- Time allocation for PD and professional dialogue
- Develop connected, confident, actively involved life long learners

3. School Resources (Housing) Policy

The surveys completed found that we are functioning in accordance with our policies. No recommendations were made. All houses are tenanted and a budget and capital expenditure programme are in place.

4. Other Areas highlighted in Principal Report

- ❖ David Gill confirmed his intentions for next year.
- ❖ National Standards have been received
- ❖ Update on school trips
- ❖ Spanish being taught online next year for Cantatech NCEA Level 1
- ❖ First international student has enrolled for 2010
- ❖ Annual audit completed
- ❖ Appraisals completed
- ❖ 2010 staffing now completed
- ❖ Tenders for middle school block awarded and we are still waiting for quotations for the drinking fountains. This should be completed during the Xmas break.
- ❖ Draft 2010 budget approved

5. Library Report

In 2009 the librarian's hours were increased so that staff had access to her support during class time. This has enabled greater use of the library from all classes and the implementation of new programmes. Also two new computers were installed for student use. All computers are now included on the schools computer upgrade plan.

There have been numerous library activities and I would like to thank Gretchen Smith for all the hard work she does for our students, staff and community. We are very fortunate to have a librarian with her extensive knowledge and someone who is so enthusiastic about children's education.

6. Adult Community Education

Unfortunately the MoE, under our current government will no longer be funding our school to run ACE classes for our community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cushla Fitzgibbon for all the work she has done to provide our community with quality classes over the years she has been involved. one of the MoE's priorities is to ensure our students are life long learners. It is a pity that has to stop once you leave school!!

However there will be courses that adults can enroll during school time. They are fully accredited so look for more information in the upcoming budgets.

7. Perception Survey

Thank you to all those parents, staff and students who completed the perception survey. It is greatly appreciated that you took the time to consider the strengths and weaknesses of our school. It was the same survey that went out last year so it was a good gauge on whether there had been any improvement regarding perception.

Results / Recommendations

- Overall most students enjoy CAS and that they feel informed regarding their learning.
- Survey needs to be altered so better information is gained. Also next year will be done online as well so hopefully we will get a better response
- Homework policy needs to be better enforced / altered ie differing teacher expectation, parents not knowing what is required, and students not valuing it
- Better procedures in the senior school so that students value each other and staff.

8. Board of Trustee Parent Elections

Next May is the Board of Trustee Parent elections. 5 parent representatives, 1 student rep, 1 staff rep and the principal make up the CAS board. So now is the time to start thinking about whether or not you would like to make the commitment to being on the board. We will have a 'CAS On Board' booklet available after the prize giving which has more pertinent information regarding the roles and responsibilities of being a representative at our school. The personal skills required are integrity, honesty, curiosity, courage, interpersonal skills, genuine interest in the school community and its students and the time and commitment.

For more information you can go to www.trustee-elections.co.nz.

From all the board it has been a pleasure representing you at the governance level to improve student achievement this year. I wish you well over the festive break and may you have fun with friends and family.

Kind regards

Fiona Bush
(Chairperson Board of Trustees)

MoE = Ministry of Education
BoT = Board of Trustees
NCEA = National Certificate of Educational Achievement
STAR / Gateway, programs run for student years 11 and older around careers