



# Wadestown School

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## *News from the Board – December 2009*

### **School Budget**

A year ago the Board made some difficult decisions to avoid a large deficit in the current year following a substantial decline in international student revenues, rising costs and minimal increase in Ministry operational grants.

As a result of these decisions, and with careful financial management during 2009, the school will record a modest surplus for the year.

The 2010 year will commence with the largest roll the school has had for many years. Core operational grants are mainly based on roll size. Per student funding levels have also increased. These improve school revenues and have allowed the Board to maintain requested donation levels at the same level as 2009.

The school budget for 2010 provides for increased teaching and classroom resources and two significant initiatives referred to below.

It remains vitally important that the school continues to receive a high level of support from the parent community for donation income. The Board asks that all parents respond generously to the request for donations in the new year.

### **Librarian**

One of the difficult decisions a year ago was the disestablishment of the librarian position. A librarian position is not a Ministry funded position. It needs to be funded from the school's operational grants and other income.

The Board stated that when the school's financial position improved, the funding of a librarian position would be considered as a high priority.

I am pleased to advise that the Board has approved the Principal's recommendation that the school's budget for 2010 includes funding for a trained librarian position for 2010. This position will be advertised early in the new year.

The Board recognises that the school has a valuable library resource.

### **Library Books**

A request from the Board to all parents to search for and return books to the school. A larger than normal number of books are outstanding. Please assist the school with this request.

### **Classroom Furnishing**

For some time now the Board has had a desire to replace very old and tired classroom furniture and commence a program of regular/annual rolling replacement of classroom furnishings (funding permitting).

The Board has approved the Principal's recommendation to acquire new desks and chairs for five classrooms at the main school. The new furniture will be delivered progressively through term one.

This significant capital expenditure (a total of 300 desks and chairs) reflects careful spending over the past two years. In addition, Parents' Association fundraising has enabled many other capital items to be purchased, thereby freeing up more funds for this significant commitment.

### **Education Review Office (ERO) Visit**

During the week of 23-27 November the school was reviewed by ERO as part of their normal three yearly cycle. A final ERO report will be provided to the school in term one and will be made available to the school community. We anticipate a positive and constructive report.

The Board acknowledges the considerable preparatory work undertaken by our Principal and which was necessary for this visit, especially so soon after Steve's commencement at Wadestown School. Thanks also to the teaching staff for their efforts and professional engagement with ERO.

### **Reading Recovery Programme**

The school receives some Ministry funding for our reading recovery teaching position. However during the current year the Board decided to increase the funding allocated to reading recovery (out of operational and other income) to meet a need for additional resource and avoid children having to wait for places to become available in the programme.

The Board reviews the effectiveness of the reading recovery program annually. Eight children were taken into the programme during 2009. During term four all children who have completed the reading recovery programme in the past three years are monitored. 23 children were eligible for term four monitoring and of these, 21 are reading at or above their chronological age, which confirms the effectiveness of the school's reading recovery programme.

### **Board of Trustees Elections 2010**

Every three years Trustee elections need to be held. The Board has resolved that Friday 7 May will be the election date.

In the new year we will provide further information regarding the timetable for nominations and the voting process.

### **Parents' Association**

The Board is appreciative of the efforts of the Parents' Association. Significant funds have been raised for the school during 2009. In addition the school has benefitted from the many other activities organised by the Parents' Association (working bees, emergency kits, sunhats etc).

The recent "Is your style right?" fundraiser evening attracted an attendance of 250 enthusiastic women to this event and generated a healthy profit, in addition to invaluable fashion advice! We look forward to participating in the events being organised for 2010.

### **School Staff**

On behalf of the Board, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and contribution of all the staff of Wadestown School during 2009.

The changes in Principal over the past three years have been a challenge for all but the focus on the achievement of our children has been unwavering. We trust you all have an enjoyable holiday break.

### **Season's Greetings**

Finally, to all in the school community, thank you to all of you who have volunteered your time and efforts to assist in the school during the year. It is very much appreciated.

I wish everyone all the very best for the holiday season. We look forward to seeing your children again in 2010.



**Neil Paviour-Smith**  
Chairman