



Wadestown School

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News from the Board – June 2009 - No 2

Update on our new Principal - Steve Allen

Although Steve does not officially start as our new Principal until Monday 20 July, it was great to have him attend as an observer at the Board meeting this week. Steve also met separately with trustees during the week as part of his induction to the school.

Steve also spent time with Lloyd May and received a handover briefing before Lloyd's departure.

We are all looking forward to Steve commencing with us full time next term.

Update on Reading Recovery

At the Board meeting, a decision was made to allocate further funding to the Reading Recovery programme, to assist several children who are currently on the waiting list. The overall budget position of the school remains tight. However, trustees considered that additional funding of the Reading Recovery programme this year was required to meet specific student needs and eliminate the waiting time.

The purpose of the Reading Recovery programme is to reduce the number of children who experience literacy difficulties after their first year in the junior school. The children selected for the programme are identified from the 'Six Year Observational Survey' assessment of all children after their sixth birthday. We employ a trained Reading Recovery teacher (Angela Clark) who teaches the children selected for the programme each day on a one-to-one basis. Each lesson lasts for 30 minutes for a period of up to 20 weeks.

When children complete the programme they are monitored for the next three years to ensure that they continue to make progress in their literacy development. The Board receives a report each year on the Reading Recovery programme, including the summary level findings of the three year monitoring. There is clear evidence that the programme makes a lasting difference to children's achievements. The trustees consider that this programme is a priority for our operational funds.

Gifted and Talented Programme

One of the initiatives launched by our former Principal, John Knowles, was a pilot "Gifted and Talented" programme. This pilot programme has been operating in the school since the beginning of the year. The Board has asked school management to undertake a review of the programme, to seek community feedback, and to develop a plan for the future.

If you would like to provide feedback about the "Gifted and Talented" programme, please contact the Principal.

Change to Influenza Risk Management programme

We no longer expect families to hold children back from school for 5 days following international travel (unless of course they are unwell!).

The next Board meeting

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday 4 August in the Staff Room at the Main School at 7:00 pm. Our meetings are held in public, and you are welcome to attend. If you do plan to attend, please let the school office know in advance. You may also request copies of Board papers.

Marshall Clark
Chairman