

NATIONAL STANDARDS

Over the past week there has been renewed interest from the media in the National Standards introduced in to schools this year. You may have seen in the paper last week an article titled "School boards defy Minister" in the implementation of the National Standards. This is, however, not quite true. What we and other school boards have agreed is to *defer the setting of our school targets against National Standards*. This in no way breaks our legal obligations around the National Standards but provides us with the opportunity to wait until concerns with the Standards have been addressed and hopefully rectified.

We will, for the time being continue to set student achievement targets related to our New Zealand Curriculum and measured against established standardised tests. These targets promote high learning expectations and are constantly reviewed by class teachers and senior leadership to inform best practice, identify areas of concern, and are used to report to students and their parents on achievement.

We invite you to attend our 'Reporting to Parents' evening on Tuesday 23rd November where we will discuss in detail our student achievement targets, assessment strategies used and the 'where to next?' for assessment, including National Standards.

For further information on the concerns raised by many schools please see www.ourprincipals.org.nz