

2009 Principal's Report

'How do I communicate my ideas to the world?' was the question set for the children of Willowbank School this year. This inquiry took the children on an incredible learning journey from exploring what communication is and how it is used, to studying examples of modern and traditional literature and the Arts. This learning was used by the Year 0, 1, 2 and 3 children to create dramatic retellings of traditional stories. The Year 4, 5 and 6 children took the challenge of writing and performing surprise stunts to engage the general public (and make them smile). The stunts were then posted on Youtube to 'get their message' out and try to achieve 20,000 hits for each stunt.

The journey culminated in the 'Willowbank Arts Festival', an event with that true 'WOW' factor, a magnificent completion to our learning journey. A number of new initiatives have been introduced this year, for example; in partnership with SKiDs we introduced the 'Right Start' programme, designed to transition pre-school children confidently to school over a term. The new look of Kiwi Awhina has been specifically designed to meet the needs of our Year 0 and 1 children. And of course there was the enrolment of the school rabbit, Willow.

Our children have continued to impress with their sporting prowess this year not only in their abilities but also in their commendable sportsmanship. Many of our senior students have had the opportunity to represent the school in inter-school events, with a number of top placements.

Thank you to the many parents, grandparents and community members who provide so much of their time to support our school. Our PTA, whilst enjoying a laugh or two continues to work tirelessly to raise much-needed funds. Without this support we would not be able to provide those little (or big) extras like the Kapa Haka uniforms, the digital projectors for each class and the café blinds for Kiwi Awhina.

To Scot and our BoT my sincere thanks, it has been an absolute pleasure working alongside you in the governance of our school for the last two years.

To our Year 6 students: hold firmly to our vision of DISCOVERING your potential, DEVELOPING your learning and NURTURING your relationships as the key to on-going learning success. On behalf of the staff and your fellow students, we wish you all the very best for the future.

To the teachers leaving us this year, thank you for your wonderful contributions to Willowbank, you will be sadly missed.

Deidre Alderson
Principal



George - The School Mascot

2009 Board Report

They say "the best compliment you can give is a referral" – and that what Willowbank School has been getting this year. We have seen the implementation of some really exciting initiatives in 2009 and we as a Board are very proud of what has been achieved.

Together with the staff, the board and the senior leadership team have refined our Strategic Plan. These changes will continue to take Willowbank School down the path of constant development and will see the effective implementation of the new curriculum. To assist in this implementation and other education sector initiatives, we have restructured and refined the roles of the leadership team to now include two Deputy Principals and two new Assistant Principals.

Through the reporting that the Board has seen this year, we are pleased that Willowbank School has continued to provide a high level of education, especially in the core areas of Numeracy and Literacy. The teaching staff have also been building on our school wide professional development around ICT and 'Assessment for Learning'. This continues to ensure that the education our children gain from the Willowbank School teaching staff is of the highest level.

The Board would like to thank our wonderful PTA who have been supportive in recognising the importance of following through on the professional development of our staff by raising funds that will help provide ICT equipment for each classroom. This will enhance learning and shows that the professional development undertaken by the staff is valued. Thank you again PTA and all it's helpers, we couldn't do it without you.

The Board is also pleased to report that as a result of the school being fully fenced, we have experienced a marked decrease in vandalism. We have commenced the process of issuing keys to those within the school community who wish to use the school playgrounds. This ensures we have an environment that is there for the whole community to use.

Finally, a big thank you from the Board of trustees to all the staff of Willowbank School, the helpers, the parents and children that make this school a fabulous place to be involved with. And to Ms Alderson, Ms Danielson and Mrs Cowan, our thanks for your dedication and ongoing commitment to our school.

AS many of our Board will be retiring in 2010, I thank you for your time, energy and support of the last three years. Thank you especially to Chris Day and Dianne Partridge who have been on consecutive boards and have provided a foundation of stability and knowledge to the present board.

Scot Bailey
Chairperson
Willowbank School Board of Trustees