



At the Board meeting

At the September Board meeting the Ministry visited us to ensure that we include National Standards in our charter. We held off on national standards as a board because we were concerned at their ad-hoc and rushed nature, and the potential for our children to be discouraged and declared as failures. However, we are required to include these in our charter. As recommended by the “Coalition for taking action against National Standards” we will be including targets based on national standards in our charter with a disclaimer stating that we have included them as required by the government and that we still have concerns about their content and implementation.

I have to say that the local Ministry people have been very helpful over the earthquake and were very friendly when they attended our meeting. They left congratulating us on a great school!

The rest of the meeting was spent discussing the results of the bullying survey, which went out recently. Thanks to all parents who replied to the questionnaire.

If you are interested in becoming a board member remember that you are welcome to attend board meetings and find out about how the board operates. The next board elections are in 2013.

Looking back at the 2008 parent survey.

What people valued about West Spreydon School in 2008

- Friendly approachable staff
- Spacious grounds
- The pool
- Children given opportunities to be in choir, Kapa Haka etc.
- Caring community feel
- Smaller classes
- Laptops (they were new in 2008 – until then we had very old desktops)
- Cultural and ethnic diversity



What changes did people want in 2008?

- **Physical environment and playground**
 - Improve pools or scrap them
 - School looks a bit dull and shabby
 - Better playground
 - Hall needs to be brightened – dark and gloomy
 - Plant more flowers

- More teacher supervision in playground
- Anger management for children

Classroom

- Better behaviour management
- Better student achievement/higher expectations
- Gifted and talented programme
- Better sports programme
- Better uniform
- Children to be excited and stimulated by education
- Better communication to parents/feedback/portfolios
- More Maori culture and language (also some wanted less!)
- Support for children with dyslexia/teacher to have SPELD training
- More spelling, reading and maths

Extra activities

- Dance
- More variety with music
- Drama
- Cooking



Gripes

- Better assembly times
- Parents listened to more
- Wanting to know what happened from the previous survey



What has been achieved since the 2008 Survey?

Physical environment

- New school signs/branding
- Hall painted
- School painted
- Roses!
- Pool was refurbished with fantastic community involvement and fund-raising \$90,000 was put into the pool – unfortunately 22nd February severely damaged the pool.

Classroom

- Better reporting to parents
- Leadership team observing lessons and giving regular feedback to teachers
- Coordination of testing
- Introduction of new assessment tools
- Improved feedback to students /student-led conferences



Other activities

- Sports coordinator – competitions for younger children
- Ultranet – beginning or further extension of contact with parents (those that have internet). “It’s really good, kinda like facebook for kids”
- Introduction of swimming lessons this year (cut short unfortunately)
- Walking school bus
- Jump jam and dancing like the stars

Still to be done!

- Playground (now underway)
- Pool??????
- Further refurbishment of the hall
- More extension learning
- Continued work on student achievement