



CORNWALL PARK DISTRICT SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Friday 2 July 2010 No: 237

Dear Parents and Friends of the School

The term has drawn to a close. How fast it has gone by. It only seems like the other day when we were getting ready to start Term 2!! Perhaps it is due to the school being a busy school; something always happening like an educational trip or a syndicate preparing to do something for its parents as in our recent musical evenings.

Such tight scheduling certainly makes us, the teachers, have to plan carefully and then put the school into overdrive in order to complete all that needs to be done. In some ways, it is about the school meeting the expectations that the community has of us. We strive, energetically, to meet your expectations. I think, generally, we do succeed, though there will always be the odd occasion when it is felt by some that "our conversion of a try falls short of the goal posts". That is when communication is vital, candid and frank discussion, as participants are sensitive to the issues involved, and desirous of crafting an outcome that solves the problem. Where there's a will, there's a way.

More change is on the way. We have only just finished dealing with the National Standards. Today, it is broadcast, the Minister of Education is publishing a discussion document "A Vision for the Teaching Profession". The blurb tells us that amongst other things, the document:

1. signals a move toward performance pay for teachers
2. signals changes to initial teacher education

These issues will certainly polarize opinions and support, but at the end of the day it will be Boards and Principals who will have to make it all work. But as I have written already, where there's a will, there's a way.

School Interviews

Thank you, everyone, who took advantage of this sharing of information. Everything proceeded smoothly. I trust parents thought they were worthwhile. It was an excellent turnout. Most classes recorded over 90% of parents booking in for interviews.

National Standards

Your first taste of them. I hope you found the report you received was in "plain English". Staff worked very hard to achieve this goal. Having read all reports, I thought the standards were pretty good. I would like to congratulate teachers on their effort in this respect. Reports had plenty of detail and information for parents. Remember one thing: the working above, working at or working below a standard was referenced TO THE END OF THIS YEAR STANDARD. If a child was already at or above the standard as of Term 2, we could reasonably expect that student to be well ahead of the standard by the end of this year. For those working below, there is still a further five months to go whereby the student can achieve the standard.

Farewell - Mr Andrew Elvidge

This week we farewell Andrew. Many have enjoyed his presence in this school. We wish him well in his career at Kings.

End of Term 2 / Beginning of Term 3

School finishes Friday 2nd July and students are dismissed at the normal time of 3.00pm

Term 3 begins Monday 19th July at 8.55am

SOME COMMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY

To the Teaching Staff and Support Staff

My personal thanks to all these people for their efforts in this first half of 2010. I have enjoyed your collegiality and your dedication to the vocation of teaching. You have worked hard and committed yourself to the task at hand. Thank you one and all. Enjoy your well earned break.

And to the PTA and Board

My appreciation for your hard work and interest in your school. You put a great deal of effort into Cornwall Park School.

Finally to the Students and Parents

I have really enjoyed your company and your school and I have appreciated meeting and talking with you. All the best for your next adventures. Your support has been valued by me.

John Davies, Principal