

Principal's Annual Report For the 2007 School Year

It is my pleasure to present the 2007 Principal's report for Marina View School.

Roll growth has stabilised at Marina View School. The school year began with a roll of just over 650 children and ended with 720 children.

2007 was a full year in the academic, cultural and sporting arenas and our children undertook a wide variety of activities thanks to the efforts of our teachers. Whilst there were many exciting activities undertaken throughout the 2007 school year, some highlights of the year included:

- A positive review from the Education Review Office.
- A visit from our Prime Minister, Helen Clark.
- A visit from our Minister of Education, Steve Maharey.
- A visit from the Leader of the Opposition, John Key.
- The continued development of MVTV. As well as assisting the development of sophisticated interschool communication system, this initiative has been the catalyst for children developing high level communication technology skills, the ability to present to peers and various adult audiences, (including MVTV students presenting at the National ULearn ICTPD Conference), the sharing of school-wide learning and the base for the further development and enhancement of ICT skills school-wide.
- The continuation of ICT integration in classrooms throughout the school with highly successful topics including *Our Caring Learning Community*, *Life on the Ice* and *What it Means to be a Kiwi*.
- Children continuing to visit other schools to instruct both teachers and children on the use of ICT to Support Learning.
- Renewal of Reading Recovery Literacy support.
- Continued development of the delivery of integrated units of study.
- The ongoing development of GATE programmes throughout the school.
- Consolidation of French Language lessons for our Year 7 and 8 students.
- Success in the West Auckland Chess Championship.
- Success in interschool Sporting Competitions (Hockey, Basketball, Softball, Swimming)
- Successful sporting representation in after-school Netball, Hockey and Basketball Competitions.
- Success in interschool Speech Competitions.
- Success, coming second, at the National Jump Jam competition.
- Success of our children shown in Eternal Assessment of Achievement.
- An impressive mid-year Art Exhibition.
- The school choir involved in a number of events including the APPA Choir Festival in the town hall.
- Australian Educationalist Julia Atkin working with staff focusing on our educational values and beliefs.
- More Murals painted to enhance the school grounds.
- Successful application to the Ministry of Education to gain Extending Higher Standards in Education funding as part of the REACH cluster of schools (Summerland, Pomaria, West Harbour, Henderson Valley, Marina View).
- Landscaping developments undertaken.

- The consolidation of our School Website so that it is a conduit for interaction between home and school.
- A strong EOTC programme throughout the school including; Senior School Camps (Years 6 and 8) and Year 7 Activity week, Year 2 swimming programme, visits to; Butterfly Creek, Kelly Tarltons, Corbans Arts Centre, Year 7/8 Leaders to Rainbows End, the Museum, KUTE, Kids Congress, Young Leaders Day, Snow Planet, Bowling, Badminton, Golf and Tennis.
- Visitors to the school have included: TV3 anchorman Mike McRoberts and Comedian Oscar Kightley, 40 teachers from the Auckland Computers in Education Society (ACES)

In my report I have included the following review of our Annual Goals for 2007.

NAG 1. Curriculum

1. **Goal:** To have all teachers participate in curriculum development focused on consolidating and enhancing formative assessment practice to support classroom Reading programmes and individual students development needs

Outcome: The involvement in this professional development helped both consolidate teacher practice regarding formative assessment and reading programmes. Catherine Hope from Evaluation Associates helped facilitate this initiative. Teachers formulated 'Buddy Teaching' teams to support this initiative through mutual observation, feedback and discussion. We will look at further consolidation of both assessment practices and reading programmes in 2008 and 2009 through our involvement in a Ministry of Education 'Literacy Professional Development Project' focused on enhancing our teaching of, and student achievement in, Reading.

2. **Goal:** For Year 4 – 8 students to trial and evaluate the use of the AsTTle Reading assessment tool to support class Reading programmes.

Outcome: The Year 4 – 8 students and teachers all trialled using the AsTTle Reading assessment tool to support class Reading programmes. The teachers are still getting used to the resource, but have made favourable comments about what they have seen so far and the tools potential to analyse students' areas of strength and areas for development. We have also been impressed that the tool gives teachers an outline of available resources to assist students with their next learning steps. Our Year 7 and 8 Syndicate have ventured a bit further with the use of the tool with students in a transparent and interactive way so that our students are developing more understanding, and ownership, of their achievement in reading and next learning steps required.

3. **Goal:** To have all teachers consolidate and enhance Instructional Reading programmes.

Outcome: During 2007 all teachers participated in professional development to consolidate instructional Reading programmes within our school. Catherine Hope from Evaluation Associates helped facilitate this initiative. Senior teachers began to investigate the Ministry of Education resources books 'Effective Literacy Practice'. The development of our school's teaching and learning programmes and student achievement in Reading will be an area of ongoing focus and development for 2008 and 2009. We have applied, and have been accepted to take part in a Ministry of Education, Literacy Professional Development Project', in 2008 and 2009. The project is facilitated by

Learning Media and I believe it will be a powerful curriculum development for our school.

4. **Goal:** To have all teachers participate in curriculum development focussed on the delivery of powerful integrated learning experiences for children.

Outcome: We have continued to develop the delivery of our integrated units of study. Highlights of the year were our 'Learning Community', 'Life on the Ice', and 'What it Means to be a Kiwi' topics. Undertaking these learning contexts as a whole school generated a buzz of activity, learning and sharing. We were fortunate to have some wonderful guests come to our school to support the studies. These visits added an extra dimension to the units.

Whole school planning sessions and evaluation sessions have been an integral part of this curriculum development. In these sessions we have been able to; discuss strategies for integration and possibilities for students to develop the skills of self regulated learners and also share, discuss, analyse and celebrate the outcomes of the integrated topics of study.

As part of our ongoing investigation into powerful learning Australian Educationalist Julia Atkin has worked with all teaching staff on two separate 'Teacher Only Days' in which we looked at our beliefs about teaching and learning and started investigating

5. **Goal:** To consolidate school-wide and class-based programmes that provide a differentiated programme to meet all students learning needs.

Outcome: A number of projects were undertaken with selected groups of gifted and talented students over the year. These included Year 7 and 8 Debating, Photography, various Art activities, Music, Mathematics, Literacy, ICT, Electronics, various sports activities (Badminton, Soccer, Basketball, Hockey, Softball, Chess), interviewing our guests (Helen Clark, Steve Maharey, Mike McRoberts, John Key and Oscar Kightley), instructing teachers regarding MVTV, and various extensions relating to the inquiry investigations undertaken.

As well as the development of these extension programmes for gifted and talented students, teachers have been looking at ways to provide differentiated programmes within their classrooms so that children who are identified as needing extension are catered for within day to day classroom programmes.

A number of professional development opportunities took place to support school-wide developments.

6. **Goal:** Investigate the possibility of establishing a Kapa Haka group for the school.

Outcome: A Kapa Haka group was established during the year. There was difficulty in finding a tutor but we were able to get the assistance of two teacher trainees as tutors and also develop a link between our school and Massey High School. One of the outcomes from the establishment of the group was a visit to the High School Marae. Unfortunately we will not have the support of the tutors in 2008 so will need to look again for another tutor.

7. **Goal:** To develop and enhance Career Education programmes for Year 7 and 8 students.

Outcome: Key staff members (Eileen Brunton, Nikki Williams, Cara Bergin-Stuart and Maurice Young) undertook professional development sessions regarding the delivery of career education for our Year 7 and 8 students. Resources have been obtained to support the programmes. We are planning to have a career focus as part of our integrated topic overview for our Year 7 and 8 students, which will initially take the format as ‘Working for a Living’ integrated study.

8. **Goal:** Curriculum targets for Literacy and Numeracy developed and achievement targets monitored

Outcome: Curriculum targets were developed at all year levels for Writing, Reading and Numeracy and progress towards of all these targets was monitored. The targets submitted to the Ministry of Education were:

Reading -Target group Year 2 students

Baseline data - 2007 beginning of year: 55% of students currently are reading at or above their chronological age

Targets set – 2007 end of year: 70% of students will be reading at or above their chronological age

Results - 2007 end of year: 92% of Year 2 students were reading at or above their chronological age

This is a very pleasing result. I believe that the focused nature of the reading professional development initiative assisted with attainment of this result, as did clear and focused evidence based teaching from teachers at this year level. School wide target setting for all year levels in reading along with whole mid year review of progress towards targets also assisted in keeping focus on desired goals.

Writing - Target Group Year 5 students

Baseline data - 2007 beginning of year: 42% of students currently are at level 3 basic (AsTTLe)

Targets set – 2007 end of year: 51% of students will achieve a score of level 3 basic (AsTTLe)

Results - 2007 end of year: 55% of Year 5 students were writing at level 3 basic (AsTTLe)

This also is a pleasing result. Focused teaching using Assessment for Learning strategies along with moderation of writing samples helped in attaining this result. School wide target setting for all year levels in writing along with whole mid year review of progress towards targets also assisted in keeping focus on desired goals.

NAG 2. Documentation and Review

1. **Goal:** Undertake snapshot reviews in all curriculum areas

Outcome: Snapshot reviews have been undertaken.

2. **Goal:** Continue the programme of Policy Review (NAGs 1 and 5), as per strategic plan cycle to ensure our school's policies are up to date and available for all who need to use them.

Outcome: Policies for NAGs 1 and 5 were reviewed.

3. **Goal:** To redevelop written reports on student achievement

Outcome: All teaching staff were involved in the review and redevelopment of our written reports on student's achievement. As a result we created a new format for the end of year report that we feel is indicative of each student's progress and achievement in line with New Zealand curriculum, and school expectations. We feel we have made significant progress with reporting on our students learning with this revision. In 2008 we will look at the review and revision of the mid year reports.

4. **Goal:** Monitor and report to BOT on school wide student achievement in Reading and Mathematics (including analysis of year level, gender and the achievement of Maori students).

Outcome: Reports have been presented to the BOT regarding student's achievement in Reading and Mathematics. Data in these reports has been analysed and this analysis has informed further school-wide curriculum development.

NAG 3. EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **Goal:** Provide a programme of professional development (whole school and individual) for all staff involved in the Curriculum Goals above.

Outcome: Our school continues to make a significant investment in resourcing the growth and development of staff members and to this end a comprehensive range of professional development activities took place during 2007. Whole school and individual professional development included Formative Assessment, Reading Programmes, the Revised New Zealand Curriculum, Integrated curriculum delivery, Art, First Aid, Careers Education, GATE and the New Zealand curriculum. Individual staff members undertook a variety of professional development activities to support and/or enhance personal development needs. A pleasing aspect of the professional development programme has been the preparedness of staff members to lead the process and support others when needed. As noted previously, in 2008 we will look at whole school Literacy Professional Development focused on 'Enhancing classroom programmes and raising student achievement in Reading'.

2. **Goal:** Continue to develop and enhance appraisal procedures and process to ensure practice informs ongoing school and teacher development.

Outcome: The appraisal procedures and process have worked smoothly during 2007. We are looking to further develop appraisal practice in 2008 through closer alignment between school team and individual development goals and the development of a model of appraisal that has a greater focus on coaching and mentoring that just meeting the compliance requirements. Through this we will be looking to develop an appraisal system that supports both school and teacher development and one that underpins the notion of our school as a professional learning community.

3. **Goal:** Operate a personnel policy that compiles with the principles of being a good EEO employer.

Outcome: The school continues to operate a personnel policy that compiles with the principles of being a good EEO employer.

4. **Goal:** Assist the smooth induction of new staff members.

Outcome: All new staff members were given support and advice throughout their period of induction into Marina View School. Beginning Teachers also had the support of a tutor teacher assigned to advise them throughout their first year of teaching.

NAG 4. FINANCE AND PROPERTY

1. **Goal:** Undertake preparatory investigations and planning regarding the construction of a school gymnasium.

Outcome: We have continued to progress investigations regarding the construction of a school gymnasium. We have entered into a leisure facility partnership with the Waitakere City Council and look to work with the YMCA to cater for our local communities for after school sporting (Basketball) needs. In 2008 we will progress this property development further.

2. **Goal:** Oversee the following Grounds Developments:

1. Additional Large Tree plantings
2. Rejuvenate fields
3. Replace fence line on Marina View Drive.
4. Landscape development plans drafted
5. Continue mural and mosaic development
6. General site enhancements

Outcome: We have continued to enhance the school grounds and fields. The playing fields are now in a pleasing condition and we will continue to maintain this. With the input from Karen Meyer we have replanted several areas of the school and the grounds are looking increasingly kept and attractive. The Marina View Drive fence line was not replaced and we will look to completing this task in 2008. Another mural for the school was painted during the year and this had added to the aesthetic appeal of the school facilities. A new ride on mower, a hand mower, water blaster and garden/leaf vacuum were purchased to assist with grounds maintenance.

3. **Goal:** Oversee the following Building Upgrades:

1. Room 26
2. External painting
3. Restain all exposed wood on buildings, walkways and seating

Outcome: The external painting has begun with the junior school area, seating and covered way posts being painted. We will continue the external painting over the next couple of years. Room 26 is still to be upgraded internally.

4. **Goal:** Ongoing maintenance programme

Outcome: The school continues to be well maintained and enhanced. We aim to consistently improve and enhance all aspects of the school environment. Karen Meyer works alongside Peter Gross to ensure that the school grounds are progressively developed. Enhancements included; one hundred new chairs for the hall, new furniture and equipment for classrooms and the school library and a filtered drinking fountain.

5. **Goal:** Upgrade ICT resources.

Outcome: Along with ongoing maintenance, thirty new desktop and five new laptop computers were purchased for students use. A number of still and digital video cameras were purchased. The school's wireless network and switching was also enhanced. We still need to look at growing our ICT resources throughout the school. Student management software was upgraded. In 2008 we will be looking at purchasing computers, data projectors and investigating the possibilities of interactive whiteboard technology. As an enhancement of our website we are now able to regularly place videos of snapshots of activity from around the school, to share school life with the wider community.

6. **Goal:** Prepare annual budget to reflect the school's strategic direction

Outcome: An annual budget was created for 2008 to reflect our school's strategic direction and resourcing needs.

7. **Goal:** Monitor and report on school's financial position

Outcome: The finance committee monitors and reports to the BOT on the school's financial position each month.

NAG 5. HEALTH AND SAFETY

1. **Goal:** Undertake annual safety audit.

Outcome: An annual safety audit took place and any necessary remedial work was undertaken

2. **Goal:** Integrate pandemic planning into emergency procedures

Outcome: A draft pandemic plan has been created and incorporated into the school's emergency procedures.

3. **Goal:** Continue peer mediation programme

Outcome: The 'Cool Schools' peer mediation programme continued to support the positive behaviour management activities taking place within the school.

NAG 6. LEGISLATION

1. **Goal:** Review and modify school Charter and Strategic plan

Outcome: This has taken place. The Marina View School Charter is reviewed and modified annually. The Charter was submitted to, and accepted by, the Ministry of Education.

2. **Goal:** Keep up to date with all legislative requirements

Outcome: The school has kept up to date with all legislative requirements during the 2007 school year.

In conclusion

The 2007 school year was a full and very successful year of consolidation and growth for Marina View School. Our children took part in a wonderful range of learning experiences that were both challenging and exciting.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff for the wonderful effort they have put in to ensuring that our children receive both high quality educational development and supportive and caring holistic personal development whilst they are in our care. Our community is lucky to have such professional and caring people looking after their children.

Our community in turn shows great support for our school. Practical examples of parental support are regularly evident and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the PTA for all their efforts over the year. The school continues to benefit greatly from their fundraising efforts.

I would also like to thank the new Board of Trustees for their sound and positive governance of the school. The new board members have made a smooth transition into their governance role and the school has benefited from the various skills and new insights that the new board members offer. It is because of such a positive and supportive relationship between the School and the Board that we are able to achieve (and extend upon) the Goals we have for our children and the wider school community.

We look forward to another exciting year in 2008.

Regards
Maurice Young
Principal