

Principal's Annual Report For the 2008 School Year

It is my pleasure to present the 2008 Principal's report for Marina View School.

The school year began with a roll of just over 650 children and ended with 725 children.

2008 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:

- Our first cultural exchange to Seoul, Korea
- A visit and a broadcast to our school from TV3 Sunrise Show.
- Various guests visiting the school from around New Zealand and beyond.
- Australian Educationalist Julia Atkin continuing to work with staff focusing on our educational values and beliefs.
- Continued development of the delivery of integrated units of study with highly successful topics including *Reach for the Stars*, *Big Business*, and *Lets Get Published*.
- Involvement in the Literacy Professional Development Project.
- The continuation of ICT integration in classrooms throughout the school.
- The continued development of MVTV with a focus of involving as many children as possible.
- The establishment of our worm farm.
- Children continuing to visit other schools to instruct both teachers and children on the use of ICT to Support Learning.
- Success in the 'Made Video' competition.
- The ongoing development of GATE programmes throughout the school.
- Consolidation of French Language lessons for our Year 7 and 8 students and the introduction of GATE Spanish classes for our Year 5 and 6 students.
- 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.
- The school choir involved in a number of events including the APPA Choir Festival in the town hall.
- 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, Young Leaders Day, Snow Planet, Bowling, Badminton, Golf and Tennis.
- Initiation of the Extending Higher Standards Across Schools cluster project involving Summerland, Pomaria, West Harbour, Henderson Valley and Marina View School.
- The consolidation of our School Website so that it is a conduit for interaction between home and school.
- More Murals, mosaics and artworks to enhance the school grounds.
- Landscaping developments undertaken.
- Working with an architect to develop concept designs for the gymnasium.

In my report I have included the following review of our Annual Goals for 2008.

NAG 1. Curriculum

1. **Goal:** To have all teachers participate in school wide Literacy development through the Literacy Professional Development Project to enhance classroom Reading programmes and support individual student's development needs

Outcome: The involvement in this professional development has been of significant benefit to our school. The professional development contract has included an in-depth review and needs analysis of school wide reading goals expectations and programmes, and teacher's reading curriculum knowledge and assessment practices. The project facilitator has undertaken numerous discussions with the school leadership team around the directions for reading programmes in the school and has observed and discussed practice with teachers. Teachers are trialling instructional reading formats that are based around reading into reading that has made impact on student's achievement. From observing instructional lessons based on this format it can be seen that students have a clearer understanding of the instructional learning intentions and have greater clarity of what they need to do to be a successful reader. Consolidation of this development needs to take place in 2009. A team of lead literacy teachers has been established and they, with the facilitator, will be leading the initiative in the second year of the contract.

2. **Goal:** To have all teachers participate in school wide Literacy development through cross level moderation of student writing samples.

Outcome: All teachers worked with an external facilitator to analyse and moderate student's achievement in writing (with the focus being on persuasive writing). It was established in the initial analysis that this was a writing format that students needed to explore and understand more fully. Through targeted teaching of the skills of persuasive writing and numerous opportunities to practice these skills over the year, we noticed a significant shift in student's persuasive writing skills.

3. **Goal:** To develop a clear school wide assessment strategy and have all staff consolidate the use of assessment tools to support class programmes.

Outcome: This is an area that we are still developing. The school is trying to develop greater consistency in assessment practice and are investigating what assessment practices and what assessment schedule suits the school best to ensure that assessment is relevant to students learning needs and efficient and effective to collect and use. We have developed a draft assessment schedule for the year and are trialling and reviewing the schedule in an ongoing manner.

4. **Goal:** To have all teachers participate in the EHSAS cluster initiative to assist personalising learning for our students and the development of the key competencies.

Outcome: The EHSAS cluster of school has gotten off to a positive start. Teachers from all schools initially gathered for a seminar on effective teaching (presented by Graeme Aitkin- Dean of the Auckland University Faculty of Education. A group of lead teachers from each school has been established and they have undertaken ongoing professional development with Julia Aitkin focussing on effective teaching. They have visited several schools to view various approaches to teaching practice and led in-school sessions to assist teachers to critique aspects of teaching practice. The 4 minute walkthrough process

is also helping teachers to reflect on practice. The management teams in each school developed a leadership survey that teaching staff completed and used feedback in surveys as part of their ongoing review and development process.

5. **Goal:** For all staff to become familiar with the revised New Zealand curriculum
Outcome: Professional development has taken place to familiarise teaching staff with the revised New Zealand Curriculum. As part of a teacher only we viewed and discussed the vision, values and principles that underpin the curriculum. We discussed the Key Competencies and ways we can support students developing these competencies. We have also looked at what we would see happening in classrooms if effective pedagogy is in place. We need to continue to develop our understanding of the revised curriculum in 2009 and 2010.

6. **Goal:** To have all teachers consolidate the delivery of powerful integrated learning experiences for children.

Outcome: As a school we continue to develop the delivery of integrated units of study so that they are powerful learning experiences for the children. Some of the units of study undertaken in 2008 were Big Business, Reach for the Stars and Lets get published. The intention is for these units to set a context where children develop enduring understandings relating to the context and specific Learning Areas that focus the teaching and learning experiences. The units are also a context for students to have opportunities to develop the attributes and skills of successful learners.

We again worked with Julia Atkin, this year articulating our educational beliefs and discussing ways to ensure connection of these beliefs to classroom practice.

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

Outcome: A clear focus of the Literacy Professional Development Project is to implement programmes that meet the diverse needs of our students. The knowledge teachers' gain through this professional development process will assist teachers understandings of how to differentiate programmes to meet the needs of all learners. Integrated topics undertaken also require teachers to plan for the diverse needs of students. This is an area that our school needs to further consolidate over the next 2-3 years..

8. **Goal:** To establish a cultural exchange relationship Yang Jin School in Korea

Outcome: The cultural exchange trip to Yang Jin School was a wonderful success. Our students have received an experience that they will remember for many years and one that will give them confidence and a greater understanding of life in other cultures.

9. **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:

Writing - Persuasive writing

Target group Year 8 students

Baseline Data - 2008 Beginning of year: 3% of students currently are at level 4 proficient or above (AsTTLe)

Targets Set – 2008 End of year: 25% of students to achieve a score of level 4 proficient or above (AsTTLe)

Results - 2008 End of year: 48% of Year 8 students were writing at or above level 4 proficient (AsTTLe)

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

Reading - Target Group Year 5 students

Baseline Data - 2008 Beginning of year: 39% of students reading at or above 3 basic (AsTTLe)

Targets Set – 2008 End of year: 59% of students to be reading at or above 3 basic (AsTTLe)

Results - 2008 End of year: 61% of students were reading at or above 3 basic (AsTTLe)

This also is a pleasing result. Involvement of our school in the Literacy Professional Development Contract assisted in the attainment of this result. The school wide professional development in reading, allowed teachers to analyse practice and trial targeted strategies focussed on identified student learning needs. School wide target setting for all year levels in reading, along with whole school mid year review of progress towards targets, also assisted in keeping the focus on, and attainment of, our desired goals.

NAG 2. Documentation and Review

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

2. **Outcome:** Snapshot reviews were undertaken in a number of curriculum areas.

1. **Goal:** Undertake comprehensive reviews for Numeracy, Literacy and ICT delivery.

Outcome: Comprehensive reviews have been undertaken for Numeracy, Literacy and ICT delivery.

2. **Goal:** Review and revise school curriculum delivery schemes in response to the revised New Zealand Curriculum

Outcome: Teaching staff have initiated this task by developing an understanding of the intent and content of the revised New Zealand curriculum and espousing our beliefs

around teaching practice. This is a much larger task than originally thought and will continue in 2009 and beyond.

3. **Goal:** Review the mid year report to parents

Outcome: Mid year reports were reviewed and redeveloped. After feedback from parents and teachers we will redevelop the reports further in 2009.

4. **Goal:** Continue the programme of Policy Review (NAGs 2 and 3), 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 2 and 3 were reviewed.

5. **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 2008. Whole school and individual professional development included Literacy professional development in Reading programmes, unpacking the Revised New Zealand Curriculum, trialling and evaluating integrated curriculum delivery, reviewing our teaching values and beliefs. Individual staff members undertook a variety of professional development activities to support and enhance personal development. A pleasing aspect of the professional development programme has been the preparedness of staff members to lead the process and support others when needed.

2. **Goal:** All teaching staff to undertake professional development with respect to 4 minute walkthrough process to support the development of both reflective practice and coaching and mentoring systems within the school

Outcome: The concept, and process, of 4 minute walkthroughs has been introduced to the school. Senior teachers and the management team have undertaken initial training regarding the theory behind walkthroughs and have trialled the process. Teaching staff have had a brief introduction to the concept and have experienced others walking through their classrooms. This professional development will continue in 2009.

3. **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 2008. We will continue to develop 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. Through this we are 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.

4. **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.

5. **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 2009 we will progress this property development further. We have appointed a project manager and architect and now have concept plans completed.

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

- Additional Large Tree plantings
- Rejuvenate fields
- Replace fence line on Marina View Drive.
- Landscape development plans drafted
- Continue mural and mosaic development
- 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 and enhance the fields. The fence-line for Marina View Drive has been replaced and a length of the fenceline has been adorned with figures created by last years Year 2 students (giving the fence and school a real student focus). New murals and mosaics have been created to enhance the school.

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

- Room 26
- External painting
- Re-stain exposed wood on buildings, walkways and seating
- Security camera systems

Outcome: General enhancements have taken place to buildings. The external painting continued with the junior school area, seating and covered way posts being painted. We will continue the external painting over the next couple of years.

3. **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.

4. **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.

5. **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.

6. **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. In 2009 we will look at a more comprehensive review of the Charter and Strategic Plan.

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

Outcome: The school has kept up to date with all legislative requirements during the 2008 school year.

In conclusion

The 2008 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 Board of Trustees for their sound and positive governance of the school. 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 2009.

Regards
Maurice Young
Principal