

Graeme
Lind
Principal



Jason
Mischewski
Curriculum



Christina
Leef
Curriculum



Eiryl
Pearce
Staff Rep



John
Tomlinson
Chairperson



Wayne
Gribble
Finance



Phil
Gregg
Property



Sheree
Trotter
PTA Rep



Melissa
Osmond
Secretary



Elected Parent Representatives



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School
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Board of Trustees Newsletter

August 2010

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The Board of Trustees for Greenpark School met on August 3rd 2010.

Kia Ora Whanau,

Term three is now well underway with lots happening around the school and unfortunately high levels of sickness. We hear that many children have stayed tucked up warm at home to rest and recuperate which is great to hear. Spring is just around the corner so hopefully we will see everyone return to good health soon.

Unfortunately, Graeme Lind became part of the sickness statistics and was unable to attend this meeting. We look forward to hearing all about his recent visit in China at the next board meeting.

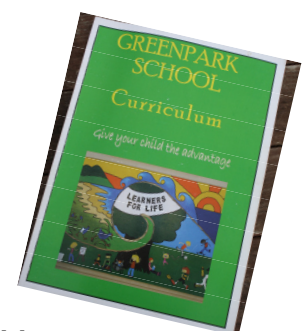
At this, our second meeting as a new board, Jason Mischewski talked the board through the schools journey into developing Greenpark Schools Curriculum; Learners for Life. The school has been working on the document for over 6 years now and were one of the first schools in Aotearoa to complete this Ministry requirement. This has been a very collaborative piece of research with teachers, management and outside experts such as Mark Treadwell working together to formulate a document that reflects the schools understanding of the New Zealand Primary Schools Key Competencies. Since the document has been published all teachers have been unpacking and aligning the new theories in their every day practice. This is very much a working document, never intended to be prescriptive in what is taught, rather a guideline to the attitudes and values we hope children will apply to any learning situation as they continue on their learning journeys. For example, Thinking Concepts is one of the Key Competencies. Under this competency you will find goals such as these.....

Intellectual curiosity initiates thinking. Level One - Curiosity is what fuels learning and humans are naturally curious;

or

Knowledge and experience provide the framework for wise application of ideas:

Level Four - Practicing doing and saying wise things can help make wisdom a habit.



These concepts encourage children to become active participants or co-drivers in their own learning journey rather than mere passengers.

This document has been in high demand with many other schools throughout Aotearoa purchasing the curriculum as a guide to development their own work; with the understanding that every community of learners will have different goals and aspirations for the communities they serve. The board understands the teachers are working hard to develop a robust understanding of this curriculum and as they come to feel confident in how the concepts work in the classroom they will

begin to share this information with parents and whanau. If you do have a question to ask your child's teacher then please remember that teachers are learners too, they might not always know the answers and that's okay. It is important that children see learning as a life long process, so please be supportive of this learning community and contribute to classroom learning when you can.

Of particular interest and concern to the Board were the statistics presented regarding participation in organised sports. There are many opportunities to participate in sports available to Greenpark students so it was surprising to hear these figures. It is a widely researched fact that children who don't participate in team sports find it difficult to contribute in team learning situations later in life. The Board have offered their full support to Darren Leef, Greenpark Sports Co-ordinator, to help address this problem and we hope to see our families do the same. If you would like to find out more about sporting options then please contact Darren.

The board will meet next on Tuesday 7th of September so we look forward to reporting back to you then.

Kind Regards,

Melissa Osmond
B.O.T Secretary
August 2010