

We are pleased to bring you our End of Year Board of Trustees newsletter. 2010 has been a busy year at Lyall Bay School and I am sure that it is not just the pupils who are looking forward to some long lazy days in the sun during the holidays.



Our school ends the year with a record number of 418 pupils. As expected, once the current Year 6 students move on to their new schools, this number will reduce for the start of the new school year. However we do seem to be experiencing steady growth in the school roll.

A huge strength of our school continues to be the stability and experience of our teaching staff. The Board is indebted to Dennis, our Principal, for creating and managing such a formidable group! As a result there are only two changes to the permanent teaching team next year. Kirsten Isbister (Room 5) and Sherwin Mottram (Room 15) will be leaving Lyall Bay at the end of the school year. We'd like to thank them both for their dedication to the school and our children and wish them all the best in their new endeavours. Interviews are currently underway to appoint replacements for Kirsten and Sherwin.

We are also delighted that a new position has been created for the 2011 school year, that of SENCO (Special Education Needs Coordinator). Lynda Peterson has been appointed to this role, which will be a huge asset to the staff and students.

### **Current Hot BOT Topics**



#### **National Standards**

Since the new Board held our first meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> May there have been several complex issues to address. Not least has been the ongoing discussion and debate regarding the Government's requirements around the new "National Standards". To follow is a message from our Board Co-Chairs on this topic:

*There is some confusion as to the Board's position, and the school's actions regarding the implementation of the National Standards policy. To be clear, Lyall Bay School is not a rebel school. Contrary to rumour, we are implementing assessment and reporting practices that are consistent with our school's interpretation of the national standards policy. These practices include using reliable data to set high expectations for our children at Lyall Bay, assessing our students, and reporting to parents, the Board and others as required.*

*What the Board did do on 6/09/10 was to agree to a statement that voiced concerns about the haste in which the National Standards policy is being implemented. The majority of the Board agreed that there were issues with the policy, like difficulties associated with setting achievement targets against national standards, and the potential to set up 'ill-informed' league tables. We stated a clear preference that the Minister address issues such as these with the right people. Under a democratic society, there is nothing wrong, and everything right, with expressing an opinion. This was all the Board did - express an opinion and a preference.*

*But that aside, Lyall Bay School remains committed to providing high quality education to our children. The role of our Principal Dennis is to lead the provision of this education. The Board's role is to ensure we are fulfilling all our legal and other responsibilities to important groups like pupils, parents, the Ministry of Education and the Education Review Office. Last year, we received a glowing report from the Education Review Office - the education system's independent monitor of quality and effectiveness. We want to assure you that we aim to get another one of these in 3 years time. If you wish to discuss this or any related matter, myself and Kevin are available to talk. Our contact details are*

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### **New Classrooms**

A second ongoing topic of concern to the Board is our Property portfolio – most specifically our dire shortage of classroom space. Unfortunately the Ministry of Education has recently undergone a staff restructuring which has resulted in a temporary lack of Property staff for our region. This is a frustrating situation, however we intend to persevere. Gaining approval and funding for the creation of two new classrooms is a top priority for the Board in 2011.

### **Friends of Lyall Bay**

The Board was delighted with the efforts of the Friends of Lyall Bay who recently raised a spectacular \$10,543 from the Spellathon and \$1,500 from the sale of school calendars. This fundraising is an essential aid to school finances and will become even more important next year as we face funding shortfalls for our classroom builds. We urge you all to assist the Friends in any way possible – many hands make light work.

### **Parent/Teacher Interviews**

As you are no doubt aware, End of Year Parent/Teacher Interviews were held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> / Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December. These interviews proved extremely popular with more than 320 scheduled over the two days. Understanding of the new reporting format introduced mid-year appears to be strengthening. In addition, staff are working on documentation to further explain “Lyall Bay School Achievement Expectations” and information to help parents support learning at home. Look out for more information on these in the new school year.

Finally, the Board of Trustees would like to thank Students, Parents, Staff and especially Dennis our Principal for all your contributions in 2010. Lyall Bay is a school we can all be proud of. We look forward to another successful, fulfilling year in 2011. Happy, Safe Holidays to you all.



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