



Ladbrooks School Board of Trustees News Term 3



Board Chairperson's Comment

A big thank you to Sean and his team for their efforts this term and their contribution to our strategic planning evening.

The Board of Trustees has an election due next term.

Anyone interested in standing as a candidate is welcome to speak with any board member about becoming a school trustee.

Have a happy, safe break and we look forward to finishing the year with a great final term.

Strategic Visioning

This term our Board started a strategic visioning exercise with the staff. The first part of this process involves reviewing our current Strategic Plan in terms of its effectiveness. Our aim over the next month is to develop a clear vision for the school and then to develop 4-5 strategic goals that align to the needs of our students and the community. We are a future focused school, and our Board of Trustees is committed to developing goals that reflect the changing needs of our students without forgetting the history of Ladbrooks!

Teaching and Learning

Integrated Curriculum

Our Whole School Wide theme this year has been 'Power.' This term we focused on 'People of Power'. The key understandings we have looked at as a school were:

1. Power can change society in many different ways.
2. Power can be used positively and negatively.
3. People come into power for different means.
4. People become powerful for different reasons.

Mid way through our unit this term, we held a 'Person of Power' evening. The children dressed up as a powerful person and presented information about their character to an audience which was informative and fun.



Sharpes Drain Tree
Planting



Athletics Practice leading
up to Zone Competition

Staff Professional Development

Over the term, we have continued to focus on Numeracy and Literacy. All our staff have observed 'best practice' in each other's classrooms and focused on specific ways to improve the teaching of Maths and Numeracy under the leadership of Ali Duncan. Keryn Wilson and Linda Ewen have also led Professional Development in Writing. Next term we are about to implement a new School Wide Management System which will involve additional staff training and development.

Student Leadership

Amy Millar has taken over the responsibility of Student Leadership. She has spent time in other schools looking at different leadership models, and has implemented a number of innovative ideas with the Year 7 & 8 Leaders.

Their current projects include:

- Researching ideas for our new sandpit.
- Sunsmart Education.

Enviro Schools

Jo Postles and Frana Bain continue to develop our Nature Ninjas group and sustain our Enviro School's vision. During the Term our Nature Ninjas participated in an Enviro Schools camp at Pudding Hill. We are committed to completing the front garden before the end of the year before any new projects are started. There are several new areas which you will see completed over the next couple of months including a jetty with roof, Japanese style bridge, water tank and pump, and a stone sculpture!

Community Education

Keryn Wilson, our Deputy Principal ran a successful workshop on Bullying this term. Parents were provided with a number of ideas and strategies to use when dealing with this issue. Ross Mitchell, our Police Education Officer, also spoke about the resources and programmes available when teaching children strategies to deal with bullying in schools. If you were not able to attend this workshop, we have placed the handout notes on our website under the news section.

www.ladbrooks.school.nz/news

Reporting to Parents

Our staff continues to increase their understanding of the National Standards, and develop clear systems when reporting student achievement to parents and whanau. In term 4, they will again be reporting on progress in Literacy and Numeracy since mid year, as well as the Key Competencies with a specific focus on *'Participating and Contributing'*.

Property

Our Playground extension project is reaching its final stages. Over the next month Warner Fencing will be constructing the fencing around Sharps Drain, and opening up the two entrance ways to gain access. The Board has decided to use a contractor to level out this area completely before sowing. Stephen Brailsford from the Ellesmere Waihora Trust has been working with the students to plant out this area using funding transferred from the Halswell Stream project. We are all looking forward to being able to use this area soon.



Community Education



Social Skills Training

Enrolment Zone

Because of steady roll growth, we have been able to maintain a 5th teacher for 2012. Our projected numbers for the beginning of next year are around 105 students. We have a number of families who live out of our school zone, who wish to come to send their children to Ladbrooks. This will be dependent on how many out of zone placements may become available next year.

PALS

The PALS (Parents of Ladbrooks School) continue to provide great support in terms of fundraising to improve learning and teaching programmes at Ladbrooks School. Their latest major fundraiser is *'The Great Asparagus Picking Project'* which we encourage our local community to become involved in. Our enthusiastic committee under the leadership of Tui Wagstaff, is always keen to have new parents join them. If you would like to become involved, contact Dot in the office who will provide you with Tui's contact details.



'Person of Power' Evening

Personnel

We are currently in the process of advertising for a Year 7 & 8 teacher for next year.

We look forward to continuing our communication with you around Teaching and Learning at Ladbrooks School.

If you would like to bring any Governance issues to the attention of the Board please contact Jackie Walsh, the Board Chairperson, (c/o of Ladbrooks School office).

Regards,

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Sean Bailey (Principal) principal@ladbrooks.school.nz