

24th June 2009

To the Parents and Community of Hampden Street School

These are the findings of the Education Review Office's latest report on **Hampden Street School**.

Located in Nelson city, Hampden Street School provides high quality education for students from new entrants to year 6. The school is becoming more multicultural and at the time of this review in May 2009, of the 389 students enrolled, 46 identified as Māori.

The school is well governed by a knowledgeable Board of Trustees committed to supporting student achievement. Systematic self review is used to inform and advise its strategic and annual planning. This is clearly linked to improving outcomes for students. Self review underpins all areas of school development and improvement.

The principal and other senior managers provide effective leadership for the reflective teaching team. An appropriate emphasis is given to the teaching of literacy and numeracy. Other recent priorities have included increasing student involvement in physical activity, improving the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) as learning tools and encouraging the development of thinking skills through an integrated inquiry approach. High quality teaching practices foster student involvement and promote their understanding of learning.

A wide range of nationally standardised assessment tools is used to collate and analyse student achievement data in literacy, numeracy and creative thinking. Teachers have also devised their own assessments for ICT, physical activity and inquiry learning. Data show that students make good progress with most accomplishing at or above national expectations in reading and mathematics.

Students receive their education in an environment that fosters and values diversity while promoting pride in the school and respect for others. Te Kakano, the Māori cultural group, meets weekly. Students from all cultural backgrounds are welcome. They affirm that the school's annual gala with its international foods focus, and some class activities, provide other opportunities to share aspects of their culture with friends. School facilities have been made available for some Pacific Church events.

The school's buildings are well presented and the spacious grounds feature mature trees and student vegetable gardens. Well-resourced, positive and stimulating classrooms support learning. Students have access to a well-stocked library, a large sports field and heated swimming pool. They have many opportunities for leadership. Their involvement in the Sports Squad has seen an increase in physical activity during interval and lunchtimes. Students demonstrate inclusiveness and respect for each other and their teachers.

Community partnership is encouraged. The open-door policy, with regular opportunities for parents to meet with teachers, is supplemented by a variety of methods for communicating school matters and the educational progress of their children. Parents are kept well informed about their child's achievement. An easy-to-negotiate web page includes useful information to assist families new to Nelson and New Zealand.

Future Action

ERO is very confident that the board of trustees can govern the school in the interests of the students and the Crown and bring about the improvements outlined in this report.

ERO is likely to carry out the next review in four to five years.

Review Coverage

ERO reviews do not cover every aspect of school performance and each ERO report may cover different issues. The aim is to provide information on aspects that are central to student achievement and useful to this school.

If you would like a copy of the full report, please contact the school or see the ERO website, <http://www.ero.govt.nz>.

SIGNED

Lennane Kent
Area Manager
for Chief Review Officer