

# Board of Trustees Newsletter

Term 4, 2010

Beachlands School, 18 Bell Road, Beachlands, Manukau City 2018  
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## Chairperson's Chat By Jane Winterman

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Welcome to the final instalment of the BOT Bulletin for 2010. It's been an action packed year for us all again, and now here we are and it's nearly Christmas time already!

I would like to start off by saying thanks to everyone involved with Beachlands School and to express gratitude for continuing to support students and coming up with ways to innovate and excel. There is an old African proverb which says it takes a whole village to educate a child, and I think people living in the Beachland's area are to be commended for their recognition of the importance of local traditions and customs and for their support of the school for its traditions and expectations.

There has been a great deal achieved this year and highlights include:-

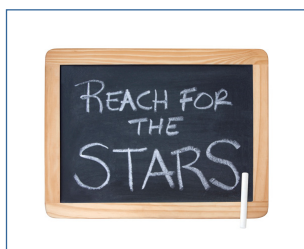
- New 8 classroom block started
- Enhanced cultural and sporting programmes
- Green Gold award for the second time
- Continued literacy and numeracy achievement
- Annual student, staff and community surveys and ongoing communications through this bulletin
- Website and Ultranet development
- More data projectors and computers put into classrooms, etc the list goes on.

It's fantastic to get to the end of the year knowing we are in a great position to continue to move forward in 2011.

I'm proud to say that our school is in robust good health with many strong features - not least of which is high quality learning and teaching taking place in constantly improving surroundings. I am increasingly convinced that we are continuing to build the foundations of a very strong school and that the favourable reputation of our school is spreading.

So, all that's left for me to say on behalf of the Board is best wishes to you and your families for a safe and Merry Christmas, a prosperous New Year and a wonderful summer!

Kind regards,  
Jane Winterman



*Learning opportunities are limitless*

## Principal's Portion *By Brian Gower*

Year 2010 is already coming to a close and again we can sit back and celebrate another successful year in the history of Beachlands School. We are at one of those critical stages in school development where we are faced with roll growth. It is important we make the most of this situation to resource the school well as in time the roll will drop and we will have developed a fantastic school and community facilities for everyone to enjoy.

At the end of next term we look forward to having our eight classroom block up and running and having some spare rooms which will be quickly snapped up for addition learning situations and programmes. We will have 25 classrooms next year along with specialised learning areas. Other strategic property ideas are to build a Year 1 & 2 playground, a school pool, provide transport for the children and develop more sheltered areas for play.

ICT continues to be a focus for us and we hope to further develop our website and the student's ability to use and access their learning blogs and electronic portfolio. This will help us to share children's learning more effectively with parents.

Beachlands School students continue to perform above the national norms set in maths, reading and writing. Next year we will be using the National Standards to support this fact. We have a strong focus on improving student learning and ensuring students are empowered to participate in their learning through being able to understand the purpose and how it can be applied.

Environmental Education and enterprise activities continue to engage the children in applying their learning. We are a Green Gold school with a number of others school throughout Auckland joining us at the top level.

Our school environment and the achievement of students both academically and physically reflect the hard work of student's teachers and parents as we have worked in partnership to develop a great educational facility for the Beachlands children and community. Thank you to the teachers and support staff. We have developed a great foundation as a learning community which will allow us to continue to build upon the excellent practice we have in place. It is this commitment by everyone that makes Beachlands School a special place to be.

As this is the last Board newsletter for 2010 I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and a safe holiday break.

Kind regards,  
Brian Gower

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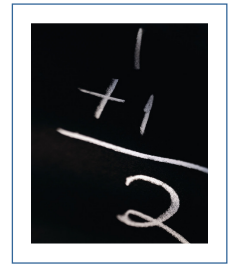
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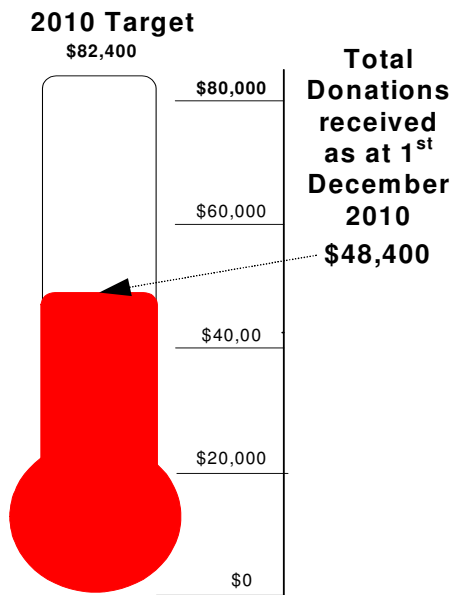
**Finance Focus** *By Raechel Cummins*

As 2010 draws to a close, it is a good time to reflect on the many financial highlights for the year. Some of these include:

- 1) Receiving confirmation from the Ministry that the new classroom block can commence. The project has stayed strictly within budget (no small task as those of you who have built anything will appreciate!).
- 2) Purchasing items off the “wish list” of things our school needs. Wish list items are completely dependent on donations, fundraising, grants and sponsorship. Many of these “wishes” are not the fancy bells and whistles - they are basic things such as teacher aides, computer equipment and extra teaching resources which the Government does not fund. This year the focus has been on providing additional teaching resources, including maintaining and further developing an excellent information technology base.



*Funding for the future*




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*“Again this year we’ve worked extremely hard to stretch each dollar as far as it can go!”*

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- 3) Receiving a \$10,000 donation from our tireless, hard working PTA. These funds have been put towards teaching resources across the school and will be put towards a new playground in the junior area.
- 4) In 2010 we received a total of \$48,400 in parent donations. It’s been a tough year for many families financially so a huge thank you to all the families who have managed to pay the donation in 2010.

Again this year we’ve worked extremely hard to stretch each dollar as far as it can go!

Finally, as the Christmas shopping frenzy begins, don’t forget to support our local businesses - consider buying presents locally. Many local businesses have supported our school for many years, and their generosity is extremely valued. Have a safe and happy holiday.

Kind regards - Raechel

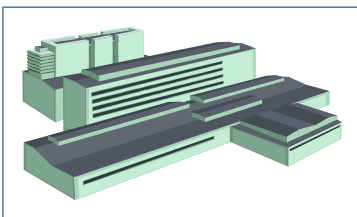


*Culture should be embraced*

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*“The Nga Tamariki Motukaraka kapa haka group have enjoyed another successful year with no shortage of new members to the group.”*

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*Building for the future*

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*“Once again, the BoT would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding during this project.”*

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## Cultural Corner *By Sheryl Witehira*

The Nga Tamariki Motukaraka kapa haka group have enjoyed another successful year with no shortage of new members to the group. The Koanga Festival is always the highlight of the year where many schools participate and showcase their well rehearsed waiata and kapa haka skills.

Many thanks go out to Ruth Nixon and Justine Jones who have tutored the group this year and have done a fantastic job.

We are always on the search for any person that can help out with teaching the group in any way as this really helps the teaching staff and gives the tamariki a fresh face to look at. You may have a skill in traditional poi or harakeke, waiata or kapahaka, te reo. We would love to hear from you. We look forward to seeing the group perform for the final time this year at junior and senior prizegivings.

Ka kite Ano  
Sheryl Witehira

## Property Profile *By Bill Sole*

At the end of Term 3, I talked about the challenge we faced building an eight-classroom, two-storey block when the Ministry of Education funding rules meant they were only prepared to forward us the money for five classrooms.

I'm very pleased to report that common sense has finally prevailed and the Ministry of Education has now agreed to fund us for the full eight classrooms, meaning we can complete the stage two block in one hit, rather than having to wait until the school roll grew sufficiently to trigger the remaining funding. We have therefore asked the contractor to complete the building and fit out all eight classrooms.

The downside is that this has inevitably extended the construction time, meaning the new building will not be complete in time for the start of the 2011 school year. We now expect the building to be finished near the end of term one.

The building has certainly taken shape quickly now that the bad weather is but a distant memory.

Once again, the Board would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding during this project. By the time the children return to school next year, the work will be substantially complete and things can return to normal, without the noise and inconvenience that are inevitable during such construction projects.

In the meantime, the more mundane jobs continue; such as installing air-conditioning in the last of the classrooms and the usual maintenance work continues to get done.

Next year...well I'm not ready to even think about next year just yet!

Kind regards,  
Bill Sole

## Health and Safety Section

By Konrad Heinemann

Summer is here, and with it the lovely sunny weather so remember to slip, slop, slap and wrap these holidays. Also I'd like to remind everyone that sunhats are a compulsory uniform item during the hot sunny months so please make sure all children wear their sunhats at school from the first day of the new term.

I'd like to pick up on a point that Brian recently made in the school newsletter about child road safety. The Christmas holidays are a key period for road safety for our children, in particular as they spend more time outdoors and are more likely to be walking across roads or cycling on the roads as they move around our neighbourhood.

There are two messages to get across here;

- Firstly (and most importantly) teach your kids to be safe on the roads - the NZTA has some awesome tips at the following website: <http://www.nzta.govt.nz/traffic/info/students-parents/safety-tips.html>, or have a look at the police website <http://police.govt.nz/school-road-safety-education>.
- Secondly we all need to keep an eye out for children when driving, and simply take it easy out there on our roads.

Finally if you have any concerns relating to safety (or health) at school, please raise them in the first instance with the principal, associate principal or the office personnel. If you wish to email a concern to the school please send it to the school office at: [info@beachlands.school.nz](mailto:info@beachlands.school.nz). The issue can then be dealt with in an appropriate manner.

Enjoy the holidays and keep sunsmart out there.

Regards,  
Konrad Heinemann



*"An apple a day keeps the doctor away"*

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*"Summer is here,  
and with it the  
lovely sunny weather  
so remember to slip,  
slop, slap and wrap  
these holidays."*

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*Many hands make light work*

## PTA Piece

*By Rebecca Nolan*

The PTA has had another huge year of fundraising and community events.

After starting the year weighing fish at the fishing competition, we are ending the year having fed many of our students plenty of healthy fish thanks to the very popular sushi lunches. Subway lunches and yummy milo drinks have also been great options for the kids to enjoy.

The biggest events of the year were the Intermediate and Community Balls. What a wonderful success they both were, with the senior students looking fantastic and behaving so well. The adults could have learnt a dance move or two from them!

Thanks to all the hard work of a number of parents organising many events, we have not only raised a great deal of money (around the **\$30,000** mark this year), but also helped encourage a great community feel around the school.

This year, the PTA contributions have not only helped with providing essentials in the classroom, but also once the new building is complete, there will be a wonderful new playground for the junior students.

Being involved with the PTA is as much fun as it is hard work. It's great to be involved in contributing to our children's education - the more we can give, the more the school can give back to our kids. We are always in need of more helpers - so don't be shy about putting your hand up next year. There are plenty of jobs, big and small, to go round. Plus, Nobel Hair Design very kindly give the PTA gift vouchers to be handed out to a PTA helper each month.

Thank you to everyone who put their hand up to help this year. None of it could have happened without you all. **A very special thanks to everyone on the PTA this year** - Stephanie Wood, Suanne Kanzig, Julie Benns, Helen Mckie, Andrea Chadfield, Wayne Strong, Rebecca Preston, Kylie Biggs, Oliver Tattersfield, and to Grant Reidy who continues to pull in a number of financial grants for the school.

You are all STARS!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your families!

Warm regards,  
Rebecca Nolan  
PTA Chairperson

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