

Southbridge School



Learning for Life

Annual Report

NAG1 Curriculum and Assessment

In 2009 we advanced our work with the New Zealand Curriculum by completing the development of our **2020VISION** school curriculum. This document, the result of extensive community consultation and staff development, becomes our working curriculum from the beginning of 2010. Fine tuning of this curriculum will continue throughout 2010.

2009 saw the second year of our involvement with the Literacy Professional Development Project (LPDP). All staff focussed on development of writing. A very useful part of the project was the establishment of literacy focus groups – small groups of students in each class whose achievement levels were of concern. Teachers worked intensively with these groups, supported by our LPDP facilitator, senior staff and each other through a Quality Learning Circle (QLC) model of peer support and development.

A highlight of learning in 2009 was the expansion of an inquiry curriculum that placed emphasis upon “Inside Out – Outside In” learning: where children went out into the community to learn and community members came into school to support learning. In accord with our **2020VISION** goals this strategy is working well to build learning opportunities and community support.

As part of this initiative we developed a sister school relationship with Addington Primary School, which saw a series of exchanges for sport, cultural and learning activities.

Another feature of community involvement in 2009 was the development of a programme to support parents as teachers. Run by the DP, this programme featured several workshops and a regular parent focus group to develop ideas and activities to build confidence among parents. This initiative also supported our existing pre-school programme.

We were reviewed by the Education Review Office in October and received a very positive report. ERO has placed us on a 4-5 year review cycle.

Progress towards meeting our 2009 student achievement targets is reported elsewhere in this charter, as is the identification and planning of achievement targets for 2010.

Nag2 Self Review and Reporting

The board of trustees developed a new strategic plan and annual plan during 2009, with advice from Dr Janet Baldwin of the Ministry of Education. The board's process meshes with our **2020VISION** school development strategy.

Within the **2020VISION** strategy we continued to work closely with our community, holding several focus group and community meetings and a strategic planning day at Rolleston Community Centre in October, which drew together staff, Board, parents, students and other friends of the school.

Ongoing review was supported by the continuation of a research project to track our **2020VISION** curriculum development. The research project is run by the University of Canterbury and funded by the Cognition Institute. During 2009 researchers focussed on how we use students and community members to lead and inform curriculum development at Southbridge School. Research results were published in two milestone reports and presented in several papers to national and international conferences.

2020VISION action plans were reviewed in November at a community evening and targets identified for 2010.

NAG3 Employment and Personnel

Two new teachers joined the staff in 2009, one from the UK and the other a first year teacher. We also employed two additional teacher aides for part of the year.

Roll growth saw the opening of community eight in term four. 2010 has started with seven communities but we expect to reopen community eight as new entrant numbers grow.

A reorganisation at the end of 2008 saw the establishment of two syndicates (roopu) in 2009, under the leadership of the DP and AP. These have established clear identities and roles within the life of the school, supporting school-wide development goals and enabling highly focussed support for staff and students.

We met all our responsibilities regarding EEO, staff appraisal and employment legislation.

One new teacher has been employed in 2010, as part of a job share arrangement with an existing teacher.

NAG4 Finance and Property

The school continues to manage its finances well. A planned budget deficit in 2009 ended up as a small surplus, due largely to increased operational funding through roll growth and by controlled spending. The 2010 budget anticipates a deficit of around \$37,000, which will be supported from school reserve funds.

2009 saw the completion of major property development with the opening of a new classroom and technology kitchen in September. This is an excellent building and an exciting learning environment.

In October we replaced an adventure playground. This project was generously funded by the Home and School Committee, with additional funding through a community grant.

Early 2010 saw the replacement of hard surfaces on the netball court and carpark and the development of new grassed areas. This completes almost all the work identified in our current five year capital works programme, which expires in 2012. The school exterior was also repainted early in 2010.

NAG5 Health and Safety

All safety audits and building compliance requirements were met during 2009.

The board appointed a health and safety officer in 2009. This person is responsible for managing all aspects of health and safety, reporting regularly to the principal and monthly to the board of trustees. We are very satisfied that health and safety procedures, including risk management and review, are conducted to a high level.

Staff, students and board members reviewed pandemic planning during 2009 and all staff undertook first aid training.

NAG6 General Legislation

At the initiative of the Ministry of Education we prepared an enrolment scheme during 2009. This was approved by the MOE and the board of trustees early in 2010 and will come into effect in May 2010. The scheme sets a managed roll of around 172-175 students. The school's home zone may be inspected on our school website: www.southbridge.school.nz

We consider 2009 to have been a very successful year at Southbridge School. Children's achievement continues to be of a good standard and in our **2020VISION** curriculum we are confident we have an excellent model for identifying areas of need and for building teacher and student capacity to lift achievement to higher levels.

Peter Verstappen
Principal

Allison Lumsden
Chairperson