

Southbridge School



Achievement through Effort

Annual Report for 2007

Southbridge School is situated 45 minutes south east of Christchurch. It is a co-educational state school catering for children from Years 0-6. Children at the school are predominantly European and Maori. The school's decile rating changed from 6 to 9 during the year.

Teaching staff in 2007 comprised a non-teaching principal, a Deputy Principal with two management units and a 0.8 teaching load and two teachers with specific responsibilities who received one management unit each. Including the Deputy Principal, there were 6 full time teachers. Staffing increased to 7 teachers from July.

The school funded two teacher aides, each for 18 hours per week, and a third teacher aide for 10-12 hours per week. Two of the teacher aides focused on supporting children with special needs and the other was employed to work in the library and support children with inquiry learning. The Board also employed an office administrator for 30 hours per week, a part-time cleaner and a part-time caretaker/grounds person.

The staff at Southbridge School are dedicated professionals who continue to reflect on their practice and to enhance learning and teaching at every opportunity. The curriculum is delivered around a major learning theme. In 2007 the theme was "Inspire Us." The school programme is planned and taught in three learning cycles, each focussing on an aspect of the learning theme. An assessment cycle runs alongside each learning cycle, with major curriculum areas assessed school-wide three times through the year and results of these reported to the Board and parents.

We promote evidence-based practice at all times. Assessment information and other indicators of student achievement are processed through the school's SMS by the office administrator and a senior staff member and brought to weekly staff meetings for discussion. Teacher's reflective practice was a focus for professional development activities in 2007 with the establishment of a Quality Learning Circle comprising all teaching staff. Through the QLC staff were enabled to observe each other teaching and give structured feedback on professional practice.

Other professional development programmes focussed on literacy and the numeracy sustainability contract.

During the year staff, Board of Trustees and community began implementing the revised New Zealand Curriculum through the development of a long-term school transformation process called **2020VISION**. **2020VISION** is a wide-ranging development programme that aims to define a local curriculum for Southbridge School and through it to develop a 21st century education for our children. Numerous consultation activities were held, beginning with a one-day retreat at Wigram Air Force Museum in July attended by all staff, BOT and several parents. Eleven major themes for change have emerged from this process and action plans for each of these are in place. These plans form our development programme for 2008 (*see Appendix A*)

Late in 2007 we secured a research contract with University of Canterbury, MOE and NZEI to study the **2020VISION** initiative. The research programme is funded by Cognition Education Research Trust and commenced in January 2008. We intend this to be a long-term research project.

The refurbishment of two classrooms was completed in January 2008. In conjunction with this programme we installed 3 interactive whiteboards as the next step in developing ICT and inquiry learning programmes.

Throughout 2007 we continued to host visits from principals, office managers and senior staff of other schools, interested in viewing our use of ICT, SMS and inquiry learning.

Southbridge School has a very supportive community. Parents and community members are active within the school; assisting in classrooms, on school trips, cataloguing resources and a variety of other tasks vital to the effective running of the school. The Home and School Committee is committed to supporting the school as well as raising funds and organizing events that benefit the children.

The Board of Trustees is an active and supportive aspect of school life in Southbridge. Through their wise governance the school continues to flourish and make the best use of available resources. Board of Trustees elections were held in 2007. Eight candidates contested the election for five parent representative positions. Four of the five successful candidates were returning members. The staff representative was also returned.

The school has also made use of a wide range of support agencies. These include the RTLB Service, public health nurse, school dental therapists, the advisory service and GSE.

Maintaining a positive school culture has continued to be a priority so that all children meet with success in a safe physical and emotional environment. Our vision, 'to create successful citizens empowered to learn', is at the forefront of decision making.

Peter Verstappen
Principal

Allison Lumsden
BoT Chairperson