

22 July 2010

To the Parents and Community of Mahana School

These are the findings of the Education Review Office's latest report on Mahana School.

Mahana School is a rural primary with a roll at the time of this review of 63 Year 1 to 8 students. It is located in the Moutere Hills between Nelson and Motueka. The community has high involvement in school activities.

Since the 2007 ERO review, changes include participation in a local schools' cluster where teachers share information with professional development groups to increase knowledge, improve practice and assist in moderating judgments about student achievement. Reports to parents have been modified and the school has become part of the Enviro-Schools project.

Achievement in reading, writing and numeracy is high. Students make significant improvements during their first year at school. In class, all are focused on their work, interacting positively with their teachers, each other and their environment. They participate enthusiastically in the many curricular and outdoor education activities provided. Year 7 and 8 students take advantage of the many opportunities for leadership and readily take on roles such as mentors to younger children and peer mediators. This nurturing aspect of the school contributes to a settled, respectful and studious tone to support student achievement.

Under the vision and drive of the principal, staff work collegially and cooperatively and have worked with the board of trustees and community to develop the Mahana School culture. There is a focus on continuous improvement with a goal of achieving consistency of practice across the school. Staff know their students well and effectively use achievement information to identify strengths and next teaching and learning steps. Appropriate programmes are planned to meet identified needs. Outcomes of focused professional development in numeracy and literacy during 2009 have assisted curriculum development.

The recently elected board includes a good mix of new and experienced trustees. They are well informed and clearly focused on improving outcomes for students. Additional funding supports programmes for children who are gifted and talented and for those requiring extra help. Feedback from the board's community consultation effectively includes student voice.

Parents value the sense of family evident throughout the school and indicate a high degree of satisfaction with the level of consultation about the school's charter and curriculum documentation.

Future Action

ERO is likely to carry out the next review within three years.

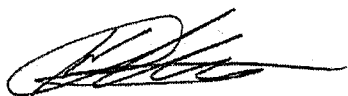
Review Coverage

This report provides an evaluation of how effectively the school's curriculum promotes student learning - engagement, progress and achievement. ERO's evaluation takes account of the school's previous reporting history and is based on:

- what is known about student achievement information, including the achievement of Māori and Pacific students;
- decisions made to improve student achievement using the assessment and self-review information; and
- teaching strategies and programmes implemented to give effect to the school's curriculum.

ERO also gathers information during the review to contribute to its national reports. The national reports are published on ERO's website.

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



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