



Arahoe School Home / School Connect

WEEK 1 TERM 3 2010

"Empowering our learners to access their future"

Monday, 19 July 2010

Our last three years -The Board's perspective

Attached to the last newsletter for Term 2 was the Education Review Office's 'letter to the community', written by the ERO officers who reviewed our school in May. We have now received the final ERO report and feel extremely proud of it. As a Board we are constantly working with our teaching staff to ensure Arahoe children get the very best that we can deliver, not only in terms of the formal curriculum but also in the many opportunities they have to lead their own learning. As a Board we are confident that overall our children achieve at or above the levels expected for their year groups, which we monitor through our regular reporting process to the Board on student achievement. This has enabled us to be flexible and responsive in the way we allocate resources to meet the needs of all of our students.

This ERO report reviews our last three years, coinciding with the 2007-10 Board term. As such it provides a helpful perspective for the new 2010-13 Board as we move forward with new members.

The Board takes great pride in the progress that our school has made over the last three years, including:

- The development of the new learning spaces and the music suite, and the refurbishment of our hall;
- The upgrading of the school's IT network to fibre optic together with wireless access for children and the provision of a laptop computer for every three Year 5 and 6 children;
- The development of the new E-Learning environment for our junior school;
- The painting of the school.



These are all highly visible projects, but there are also other, less visible projects that we are equally proud of:

- The development of our charter with its long term overview;
- The Foundation Skills Programme which is being implemented in our junior school;
- Our negotiated learner project which allows older students to be actively involved in planning aspects of their own learning;
- Our learning support programme that ensures students needing additional support are being taught by experienced teachers.

In their report the ERO officers made many references to the positive nature of the relationships our staff have with the children, the collegiality that they show each other and their commitment to meeting and extending the children's learning needs. As a Board we will continue to strive to provide opportunities for our staff to develop their professional skills and knowledge, which not only enhances their skills but also helps attract suitably qualified and experienced people when positions at our school do become available.

Another of our 'flagship' projects has been the review of the Arahoe School 'brand' and re-examining our values and guiding principles. Our community has changed and we felt that it is important that we respond to these changes to ensure that Arahoe School continues to meet the needs of all children attending. This has been a rewarding project and we are looking forward to sharing this work with you early next term.

During this period we were also involved in extensive negotiations with the Ministry of Education about their proposal to implement an enrolment scheme establishing a school zone for Arahoe. As a Board we have always been opposed to having a zone as it can take away your choice as parents about enrolling your children in our school. The Ministry finally accepted the Board's position and agreed that no zone was required at this time given we could demonstrate that the school had the facilities to cope with projected student numbers for some years.



As we look ahead over the next five-ten year period the Board is confident that it can continue to maintain the high standards achieved and work with our staff to continually develop our school so that it is a place where our children feel safe, are academically challenged, and have opportunities to develop their many talents and diverse interests.

Yours faithfully

John Woodward
Chairman - Arahoe School Board of Trustees.