

Kia ora tatou.

On Wednesday, the Southland Times published the letter below. I wrote it for obvious reasons; it is included here for our community because these are worrying times for the future of our kids and their education.

"In February last year, I put the newly launched New Zealand Curriculum up for sale on Trade Me. The intention was to stimulate informed public discussion. The advert's wording included that the then three-year-old New Zealand Curriculum was "well researched; tested and proven to be effective"; and that it was being replaced with (untested) national standards."

Monday's education press release from Mr Key referred to the National Curriculum: "Our National Standards and the National Curriculum are helping teachers focus on the education outcomes children will need in the 21st Century," it stated.

"Surely he meant the New Zealand Curriculum?" I thought. Sadly, no. A quick search revealed that National's policy statement quite clearly states "The National Curriculum and our new National Standards are helping teachers focus on the education outcomes that children will need in the 21st Century." Indeed, the wording of the press release reverses the order of the policy statement; promoting "our new National Standards" to the start of that sentence.

It appears that the prophesy of February 2010, has become November 2011's reality. Even the pretending has stopped. The internationally recognized New Zealand Curriculum is in the throes of receiving the last rites... and nobody really notices."

Michael Fullan is Professor Emeritus of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto. Recognized as a worldwide authority on educational reform, he said: *"The more complex a society gets, the more sophisticated leadership must become."*

Renowned thinker and writer Eric Hoffer wrote, *"In times of change, learners inherit the earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists."*

World-wide, standards-based education systems focussing intensely on reading, writing, and mathematics (even when paying lip-service to the rest of the curriculum) have proven both men right.

These are times of change; and New Zealand is rapidly engaging the educational equivalent of reverse gear.

**Waverley Park School
Board of Trustees Election
Declaration of Parent Election Results**

Parent Representative votes:

Harper, Craig	19
Smith, Melanie	23
Tou, Lisa	75
White, Joanne	58
Invalid votes	5

I hereby declare the following duly elected.

Lisa Tou
Joanne White

Signed:
Denise Findlater
Returning Officer

A sad week...

On Tuesday this week, two former members of staff lost their respective battles with cancer. Shirley Bremer and Sandra Campbell were highly professional and valued members of our teaching staff. They were both truly positive and genteel ladies; liked and respected by colleagues, kids and parents; they were each a genuine pleasure to have on our team. Our thoughts, prayers and condolences are very much with their families.

Maori whanau hui...

Raiha Johnson is leading a meeting for our Maori families at 5.30pm on Wednesday 7 December. Details were in a separate notice from Raiha - given to whanau kids to bring home last week.

Advertise on our newsletter...

We are about to organize our newsletter covers for next year.

If you'd like to advertise on it too, you can join the generous businesses who support us by contacting the team at i-CUE: education@i-cue.co.nz or phone on 0508 4 PRINT or via their website at www.i-cue.co.nz;

Flippa Ball...

Well done to the Flippa ball team. They had a win on Friday and have made 3rd - 4th play-off for our group. Our game on Friday is at 3:55pm. Good luck for the game. - Ms Young & Mrs Bell

Coming up ...**December**

02	Assembly 10,10am; Kia Kaha
07	Maori whanau hui 5.30pm
09	Reports sent home
14	End of year class presentations
15	Year six farewell ceremony; 7.00pm
16	Christmas service; final assembly 2.00pm
19	Board of Trustees; 7.00pm

Diaries...

If you received a diary from Abacus last week and noticed sticky marks on the outside then we advise you just to wipe them with a dry cloth and the marks will come off.

Yes really!

No stopping to drop children off on yellow lines! This week cars have been seen stopping to drop off children on the yellow lines outside the school. The safety issues should be obvious but apparently not.

"The winner" had to have been the driver who drove up onto the footpath (only the left side of the car though); straddling the yellow lines, covering a fire hydrant and partially blocking the entry to the staff car park. And talk about timing: just before 8.30am: couldn't possible have obstructed more people in a single manoeuvre. There were cars and pedestrians backed up in both directions.

Scholastic Book orders close...

Book orders close on Friday 2 December. Please make any cheque out to Waverley Park School.

Food-wrap fundraiser...

Orders close Monday 28 November.

The insurance claim is because...

"The battery in my old VW Beetle died because I left the lights on overnight. I was in a hurry to get to work on time so I ran into the house to get my wife to give me a hand to start the car. I told her to get into our second car, a prehistoric oversized gas guzzler, and use it to push my car fast enough to start it. I pointed out to her that because the VW had an automatic transmission, it needed to be pushed at least 20mph for it to start.

She said fine, hopped into her car and drove off. I sat there fuming wondering what she could be doing. A minute passed by and when I saw her in the rear-view mirror coming at me at about 30 mph. That's when I realized that I should have been a bit clearer with my directions..."

An Aussie teacher's true story...

I was teaching my class a Christmas song when all their eyes suddenly looked under the table behind me. I couldn't believe I was looking at two identical lizards about 30cm. One appeared to be doing push-ups and the other was walking in circles.

"Look, they're dancing to the music!" one boy yelled. Everyone laughed. I chased the lizards out carefully with a book and attempted to continue my lesson but noticed that one little boy seemed really upset.

"Now they have to find somewhere else to finish their date," he wailed.

Until next week, ka kite.
Kerry Hawkins & staff

