



24 July 2009

Board of Trustees Newsletter

PROJECT ENDEAVOUR **(The Roll Growth & Infrastructure Property Project.)**

Dear Parents,

It is timely to provide an update on **Project Endeavour**. You will have noticed earthworks have commenced at school, and we are extremely pleased to have moved into this next phase.

Background:

Let me start with an outline on what has created our current situation resulting in the need for expansion. The roll growth at St Heliers has been overwhelming, culminating in us having seven Year 1 & 0 classrooms by the end of 2009. In 2003 we had three classrooms in this year group.

The Ministry of Education have supported us via re-locatable classrooms. With growth continuing, our submission for a permanent classroom development was approved in 2008. Further funding was approved for infrastructure work, which are areas such as resource rooms, ICT facilities, library, office space and staffroom facilities. It makes sense that we manage these two significant initiatives co-dependently to maximise efficiencies and minimise disruption.

The effect will be a new two storied permanent building comprising of 14 classrooms, an Information Centre (ICT room, multi-media room and library), small teaching spaces, toilets, and an extension to the existing staffroom and to the staff car park. At the end of the construction period, 10 of the existing re-locatable classrooms will be removed from the school site.

Update – where are things up to now:

Our Project Manager is Alan Milne whose background is in civil engineering. He has been in project management for twenty-two years. Our Architects are Adams De La Mare and we are also now able to announce the appointment of our construction company, Robert Cunningham Construction. They are an extremely capable and well resourced firm and have had experience in school construction.

All appointments went through a robust selection process by the Board of Trustees Property Committee headed by Dave Stewart and Murray Jordan. Both Dave and Murray have extensive experience in the construction and property industries. Fortnightly Project Control Group meetings have been in place throughout 2008/2009 in order to monitor progress and provide sign off as appropriate.

Next steps:

The construction is something that we will watch with interest, and will no doubt form the content of our children's conversations in their classrooms, the school yard and at home. The construction site is totally enclosed and fenced off which ensures a safe environment during the project. Construction vehicle access is off Walmsley Road, and we ask that all care is taken near this entrance if you walk that route to school or when picking up children.

We will continue to provide updates, and welcome any questions that people may have as the project develops. We also invite you to visit the school website; www.stheliers.school.nz to view computer generated pictures of the complex and regularly updated photos of progress.

Kind regards

Lana O'Neill,

Chairperson Board of Trustees

St Heliers School