

# FRIMLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

## FEEDBACK FROM OUR RECENT QUESTIONNAIRE



11<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Sincere thanks for your response to our recent questionnaire. I have attempted to outline what you told us, remembering of course that all comments are the opinion of one person and when we went through and analysed what you said we looked for any trends.

### Question One

**Are these methods of communication / consultation meeting your needs as parents?**

97 % YES

0% NO

3% DON'T KNOW

#### Principal's Comment

We are in the process of updating our website and from the beginning of 2010 it will be an expectation that all school notices are posted on the website in addition to a hard copy being sent home. Hopefully this will solve a number of minor concerns that people expressed. The problem with emailing notices is that there is no end receiver and they can be altered / defaced and spread around the world.

### Question Two

**Are you satisfied with the learning programmes and opportunities that your child is getting here at Frimley?**

95 % YES

2% NO

3% DON'T KNOW

#### A range of your comments:

*"It would be helpful if the child was given a score out of ten, so I have a more objective idea how well he / she is doing. Especially in subjects such as maths and spelling."*

#### Principal's Comment

A score out of ten only tells you the result of that test. A test is only one indicator of a child's ability. It gives the reader no idea whether the test was hard or easy for that child's age. The results of reading tests also vary depending on whether or not the text that is being used is seen or unseen. Outside providers of education booster programmes use this strategy. Children usually perform at a level below their ability when it is the first time they have been tested in a certain way. By using this method it is always very easy to show progress.

*"In the Junior School there are times when you still don't know if your child is where they should be. How low is low? At what point do you start to worry?"*

#### Principal's Comment

On entry to school all children are assessed and are placed into early literacy or enrichment groups. Then within a month of every child turning six the class room teacher gives each child a standardised Six Year Net check and any concerns are identified again at this stage. Children are also identified for Reading Recovery programmes at this stage. All children are assessed regularly and parents are encouraged to attend Learning Conferences to share information. The Learning Journey and children's books are always available. The teacher is always readily available to answer any questions

### **Question Three**

**As parents are you satisfied that we are providing you with enough information about your child so that you can assist with their learning?**

92 % YES

4% NO

4% DON'T KNOW

A range of your comments:

*Learning journeys are excellent as they show weakness and strength in classroom x4.  
Parents and / or teachers can request extra meetings if warranted, teachers are approachable x5  
I would much rather, instead of the child telling us what they are learning that the teacher explain and tell us how our child is doing.*

### **Principal's Comment**

The Parent / Pupil / Child conferences are designed to be a three way discussion between the parties present and this process is recommended in the new National Standards. During the fifteen minutes allocated for each interview parents have always had the opportunity to ask teachers to allow five minutes at the end for a parent / teacher discussion if it is necessary.

*" To know what they are being taught so that I can assist at home."*

*" The evening with Murray Gadd was very enlightening."*

### **Principal's Comment**

Over a number of years we have attempted to hold meetings to inform parents and the turnout has been minimal. Only thirty five parents attended the very informative literacy evening that we organised with Murray Gadd. There is a lot of preparation required by the presenters for these evenings and they need to be well supported to make them worthwhile for all parties. We are aiming to organise a numeracy evening for parents during 2010. Another aim is to place more support for parents on our new website. Teachers are only too willing to discuss any concerns etc with parents either before or after school.

### **Question Four**

**Does your child look forward to coming to school each day?**

90% YES

3% NO

7% DON'T KNOW

A range of your comments:

*Always amazes me that a school of this size doesn't have a bully problem. Girls have spoken a few times about people being mean to others but there doesn't seem to be an ongoing problem."*

### **Question Five**

**From a parent perspective are we providing a safe, secure and happy learning environment for your child?**

97 % YES

1% NO

2% DON'T KNOW

### **Principals Comments**

The concerns that were expressed were based around a couple of children who do have challenging behavioural difficulties and are having specialised medical treatment for their problems. Unfortunately there are times when they do not have any control of their emotions and they resort to unpredictable behaviour, when this happens whoever is the closest is in the firing line. Rest assured I take a no nonsense approach when it concerns the safety of others. We have a very strong behavioural management system in place. On the other side of the coin these children have been let down by a range of sources and their behaviour is often not their fault.

## **Question Six**

### **Are we providing your child with enough opportunities for physical activity?**

80 % YES

6% NO

14% DON'T KNOW

#### **Principal's Comments**

A recent nationwide survey carried out by Auckland University indicated that our children were extremely active at playtimes and lunchtimes. Frimley also provided a wide range of physical activities and outdoor education equipment.

A concern was expressed around a lack of games for Junior children. At a young age it is more important that children develop the skills that are required to play a game. I can assure you that the children are all getting lots of skills development. Research shows that the earlier a child starts playing competitively the greater the likely of them dropping out in their teenage years.

## **Question Seven**

### **Would you consider putting your name forward for B.O.T. elections**

10% YES

89% NO

1% DON'T KNOW

#### **Principal's Comments**

The next BOT elections will be held in March 2010 and we were delighted that a number of you have indicated an interest in standing for election. BOT members play a vital role in the success of a school. Information about the elections will be available early in 2010.

**PTA** - Thank you for your feedback which has been passed on to the PTA.

As far as selection of children for the Blossom Parade Float was concerned. The children who participated came from those families who assisted with the construction of the float and they were certainly not all P.T.A. children. It is really a given the more that parents get involved in any activities be they academic, sporting or cultural the more opportunities and success their children will have.

## **Suggestions**

A fence like Girls High to make it safer. Principal If only we had a spare \$150,000

Would love Frimley to go up to Yr 7 / 8 x 4 Principal No space. A request would not be approved by the Ministry of Education.

**Parking** - Principal HGHS students have as much right to park on Frimley Rd as we do. It is on their boundary as well. There is no parking on Pakowhai Rd that they can use.

Frimley/Pakowhai Rd Corner section - approx five years ago the Hastings District Council were going to gift this piece of land to Frimley for parking. Unfortunately it had been gifted to them and regulations would not allow it to happen.

**Bigger Hall** - Principal Financial constraints but worth looking into this in the long term.

**Bilingual Unit** – Hastings is already well serviced by schools who provide bilingual education and a special request would not be approved by the MOE. As the schools that do provide bilingual education currently have space.

**Compulsory Second Language** . It is a requirement in schools that provide for Y7 and above to provide all children with an opportunity to learn a second language.

## Compliments

Here is a selection of quotes from the five typed pages that we received. Sincere thanks for being so positive and complimentary. It gives everyone who is involved here at Frimley a real boost.

“ My child loves school. As parents we are thrilled with the academic programmes as well as the opportunities to attend music classes, ICT, go to the marae, participate in cross country. The staff all work together to make Frimley School a successful learning environment. Well done! Our thanks goes to everyone who works at Frimley School for making it the special place that it is.”

“Since my children moved to Frimley they have become much better behaved children. Frimley is very positive and secure.”

“Frimley is a great school! Fantastic teachers and a hands on principal. Frimley can only move upward from here as long as they keep on target with the fast changing world.”

“Frimley School has been very helpful in our son’s transition and settling stage. Advice well worth following and I will gladly recommend other foreigners to join. Thanks a million.”

“Great school. I have never heard any negative comments, curriculum, resources, staff all good. Proud to have my moko’s at Frimley.”

“ I have seen some amazing examples of older children helping younger children whilst I have been watching my daughter on the playground. It makes me feel proud to be part of Frimley.”

“ Friendly staff. Great, positive atmosphere. Wonderful music programme. Love the assemblies and listening to all children (including seniors) singing heartily. I love it that Frimley appears to be constantly striving to do things better and the best they can be. Good on You!”

Frimley has a “small school” feel to it – all the staff seem familiar with each pupil. We will miss Frimley next year.

“ We appreciate the fact of encouraging parents to talk to teachers, be involved where possible. Every teacher is helpful, friendly and approachable. Thank you so much for allowing an open door policy, friendliness and help.”

“ Whenever I come to Frimley School I am always impressed at how clean and tidy the grounds are and the friendliness of the children towards each other and towards myself.”

“ My daughter started this year and so far all the staff at Frimley have been awesome. Kind, friendly people. Also love the office ladies.”

“ Your school is missed by my child’s big sisters! You’re awesome, absolutely fabulous.”

“ I like the way my child is learning science and maths concepts in the classroom through exploring ideas to test her working theories on why things work i.e. making rockets.”

“ Great school, great leadership, terrific teachers. Well done Frimley.”

“ Frimley is a great school and the range of things offered is excellent. It is a very positive environment and seems to foster the best in the kids.”

Malcolm Dixon  
Principal.