



## Feb 2009 Update: Hill Top Trust Board

Due to falling roll and increasing difficult economic conditions, the Hill Top Trust Board needed to make the difficult decision in December to restructure the school. Many children, parents, staff and suppliers have been significantly affected as a result.

The Board has held a number of consultation meetings and provided updates on developments, of which this is the next instalment.

### **Fiscal Update**

While short term cash flow is still an issue, the school remains in a positive capital position. The Board is actively pursuing options to obtain funds and/or sell assets to pay the mortgagee, creditors, teachers and outstanding deposits to affected parents. Included with this letter is a statement of monies that are owed to you. These will be paid as soon as the necessary funds are available.

Employment contracts with the teachers from 2008 are now terminated. This has been a particularly difficult decision to make and our best wishes go to the wonderful group of teachers. Redundancy and any other outstanding payments will be made to them as soon as funds are available

### **The Future for Hill Top School**

While the Board and a group of parents have successfully worked together to enable us to provide a combined junior class for Term 1 from 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009, the longer term plan for Hill Top School is still evolving.

As was discussed during December, the Board sees its future in one of a number of options at present. These range from amalgamation with another like minded independent school ideally operating from the current site through to options that include a smaller school operation or the management of a schooling scholarship fund.

The Board is focusing its efforts initially on two long term options, namely school amalgamation or full sale of the Heaphy Street site. School amalgamation discussions with an interested party have been in progress now for several months and we have a number of other parties doing due diligence on the Heaphy St site.

### **Term One 2009 Operation**

The Board would like to thank the support and commitment of the parents who have tenaciously championed for continuation of a junior class at Hill Top School.

We are pleased to announce that Mark and Elise Broadwith will be joining Hill Top to operate the school for Term One (and hopefully beyond).

Mark is well known and respected Headmaster, formally of Ficino School. Elise is also a highly recommended teacher.

The Board welcomes Mark and Elise to Hill Top School.

The Board has also reached an agreement with our neighbouring St Dominics School to share our playing fields and pool. So it will be great to see more children using these facilities throughout the next term.

### **Join Friends of Hill Top and Receive a Free History of Hill Top DVD**

After 93 years it is sad to see Hill Top School so dramatically change, however the Board is continuing to work with parents and other parties to keep Hill Top School alive.

If you would like to keep in contact with Hill Top as it evolves, then we would encourage you to join "Friends of Hill Top" at <http://www.hilltopfriends.co.nz> .

All registrations during February will receive a complimentary "A Short History of Hill Top School 1915 to 2008" DVD

### **Do You Need More Information?**

If you need more information then please don't hesitate to contact me via email at [Board@HillTop.school.nz](mailto:Board@HillTop.school.nz).

For any Educational or day-to-day management issues, please contact Mark Broadwith via the school office.

Regards

Rhonda Evans