

# St Clair School

16 November, 2010



Dear Parents

This morning, our Board Chair Rachael McLean and Principal Richard Newton, were asked to meet the Minister of Education. The meeting was also attended by the principals and Board Chairs of all primary schools in South Dunedin.

At the meeting the Minister of Education announced that a review of South Dunedin schools was to be undertaken during 2011, with changes (if any) to be in place from the start of the 2012 school year.

The Minister outlined 3 possible options. These included:

## **Option 1:**

- The merging of Caversham School, College St School and Calton Hill School on the Caversham site as a Year 1-8 school
- The merging of Forbury School and Macandrew Intermediate on the Macandrew site as a Yr1-8 school
- **The recapitulation of St Clair School as a Yr 1-8 school.**

## **Option 2:**

- The merging of Caversham School, College St School and Calton Hill School on the Caversham site as a contributing school (Year 1-6)
- The closure of Macandrew Intermediate
- **No change for St Clair School or Forbury School.**

## **Option 3:**

- **A creative solution** developed by one or more Boards of Trustees that provides quality education for children in the South Dunedin area.

The Minister also stated that **'no change' was also a possible outcome.**

The Minister stated that the benefits of reorganising existing schools into larger schools were:

- Extra resources
- More teachers per school
- Greater flexibility of programmes
- Greater stability in the future.

The Minister is seeking feedback from each school's Board by December 14 and is looking for solutions and options that will serve South Dunedin for the next 20 years.

Our Board will meet shortly with Ministry of Education officials to learn more and begin to consider our response. The Board will also be seeking feedback from the community – details in regard to a meeting or other ways of communicating will be sent to all families in the next week.

At this stage it is important to note that the stated options are just that – **options**. The Minister has made it clear that she is open to creative solutions and ideas, and wants the best possible outcomes for all children.

The Board Chairs and Principals at today's meeting also expressed their desire for a positive outcome for the review, with the needs of children and their learning being central to the process.

**NB: ALL SCHOOLS IN THE REVIEW WILL BE CONTINUING AS NORMAL IN 2011.**

**THE FINAL DECISION IS MADE BY THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, NOT BY THE BOARDS OF TRUSTEES.**

Please contact either Rachael ([rachaelmira@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:rachaelmira@yahoo.co.nz)) or Richard ([rnewton@stclkair.school.nz](mailto:rnewton@stclkair.school.nz)) if you any queries or need more information.

Regards

Rachael McLean (Board Chair)

Richard Newton (Principal)