

## Glowing mark in ERO report

Mt Somers-Springburn School principal Brent Gray has passed one of his first major tests as a principal.

The rural school's latest Education Review Office (ERO) report was recently posted online, which gave Mr Gray, staff and the board of trustees a glowing mark following a visit last November.

Reviewers noted the strong sense of community within the 84-pupil school, its high achievement levels as well as its ability to identify and support pupils who were either at risk of not achieving or are regarded as gifted and talented.

Mr Gray was proud of the report, with it being his first ERO report as a principal since he took over the school in 2012. He was previously the assistant principal at Ashburton Borough.



**Brent Gray**

"It's really positive, it's just a reflection of the hard work the previous and current board have been doing and the previous principal leaving the school well set up," he said.

Mr Gray said he was most satisfied with the recognition ERO gave to his teachers who have used their strengths to further the learning of their pupils.

He pointed to a staff member who "had a science bent", another who had a current affairs interest and a teacher who was passionate about e-learning.

"Students benefit from a rich variety of learning opportunities. Effective use is made of staff members' strengths and interests to develop these opportunities, the report found.

"Teachers are successfully building on students' interests and everyday experiences to help motivate and engage them in learning."

Assessors said the school was "well placed to sustain and improve its performance".

Mr Gray said the school would now look to improve the principal's appraisal process, while ERO said the school could further clarify the aspirations of parents of Maori pupils and find ways to integrate bicultural elements into programmes.

Teachers could also make more effective use of pupil goal setting to help pupils progress further.

ERO is expected to return in three years.

- Myles Hume