



In last week's issue, John Schreurs wrote about what makes a thriving learning community for our pupils. In each school we are constantly looking at ways to engage our pupils to make sure the learning is relevant to their needs and addressing the gaps found when we assess how they are doing academically and socially within our school.

At Mt Somers Springburn School, we are in Year 2 of an Accelerated Literacy Learning Project. In 2014 this gave us the chance to approach our literacy teaching and learning in a different way with a group of selected pupils. The effect was so noticeable that it was implemented within the project teacher's classroom and again, the accelerated progress was too much to ignore. This year, we are implementing some of these strategies school-wide and raising the bar to ensure we are offering pupils the best teaching and learning opportunities they can get. As you get with change, there are reassurances that need to be made and we will certainly be accountable for the outcomes, but it is something the teachers are excited about doing.

Feeding these classroom experiences are the curricular and extra-curricular events that John alluded to last week, and that are an important part of our local communities. Last weekend our school displayed a number of entries in the Mayfield Show. It was a frantic week as classes prepared a variety of artworks and floral arrangements to be entered. Many also did home baking and entered on the day. The hard work was worth it, was the look on the faces of the children seeing their work displayed in the shed, and the excited conversations I had with them as I walked through on Saturday and they shared with me the prizes they had won. It was great to see them taking pride in their work and sharing this with parents, grandparents and staff who were in attendance.

A number of our children then represented the school on Sunday in Christchurch at the Weet-Bix Tryathlon. To have a dozen pupils supported by a teacher and the children's families was another good example of a community in action, and another rich experience for children to share. All this coupled with the amazing support in winning \$5000 through the Weet-Bix Vote for Schools competition shows that our community is certainly sharing in our schools vision of 'Our Children Our Future'.

We are grateful that we have teachers and families who are passionate about providing opportunities within and outside of school that form a broad range of learning experiences for our pupils. These are then able to be referred to in relating back to the things that are important to our community as we go about developing a rich school curriculum for our learners.

...this guy after our ...r Sunday Buffet

...ring a delicious menu of classic
...favourites
...accompanied by live music
...12.30pm, Easter Sunday



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