



As I write this, the wind speed is picking up again. I'm looking at trees in our playground and thinking, are they on more of a lean than last time, or is this just a normal old nor' west day? What is 'normal' now? The wind must be coming from a slightly different angle today, as the rattle on the corner of my office hasn't gotten into full swing. I look at the term calendar and hope that we don't have to close again as there are just not enough spare days between now and the end of the year to reschedule events. Weather plays its part in school closures across our district, but I didn't think that the number of closed days for snow this year would be equalled by that of wind.



Having grown up in Methven, I remember the stories of the big snow and wind storms of '73 and '75 (I was born in the calm year – '74!) and hearing about the damage to the community and surrounding areas. Forty years on it seems that I have now had a taste of just what these extreme weather events are capable of.

Back to that term calendar – we start at the final prize giving and work back. Junior Camp, Year 4/5 overnighter, Year 6/7/8 Camp, County Sports, Athletic Sports, Pet Day, School trip to Orana Park, Teams to Technology Challenge event, High School and College visits for Year 8 children, End of Year Testing, Report Writing. Right, better have some classroom time in there too!

Term four is full of events that will leave lasting memories for pupils as they move on and reflect later about their time at Mt Somers Springburn School. For many, those memories might be about winning the long jump, planting the school vegetable garden, the prize from the writing competition, the big waterslide at school camp, the project built as part of the technology challenge.

These experiences are where we get to see the real child in action. And as a result, it is the end of year reports that highlight all of the learning a child does at school that I enjoy reading and commenting on.

We are fortunate in Mid Canterbury to have a wide range of academic, social, sporting, and arts focussed opportunities for our children to be involved in both inside and outside of school. In watching the rounded child develop, it is always positive to hear how well they adjust to the larger settings of secondary schooling having had their primary school years in a rural school.

Like I said, this is the time of year to begin reflecting on all the great things that happen in a school year and what it means for the years ahead. Don't forget about the good things. Those are the things that will form the lasting memories!