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30 August 2010

Dear Parents and Community Members,

At our Board of Trustees meeting last Wednesday, the Ministry of Education confirmed for us that some of our school buildings require repairs due to gradual water damage and issues which relate to the original construction of the building. This will involve significant repair work that will commence in 2011. During the investigations, we also identified drainage issues that need attention and this will be addressed during the remainder of the 2010 calendar year. The Ministry has provided our Board with a specialist team to oversee repairs and provide technical advice. These repairs are covered by the Ministry of Education so there will be no financial impact on The Gardens School.

Our aim is to manage this repair process in the best possible way to ensure minimum disruption to our students. This will be a staged repair project and, as always, the smooth operation of the school and excellent student achievement is our aim. We anticipate a minimal impact on student learning. We will provide the community with a summary of the project plan for 2011 once this level of details has been finalised.

As part of the earlier investigations, we can confirm that there is no immediate health and safety risk to our community, staff or students. We will continue to closely monitor this once work does commence and we will ensure that all Health and Safety steps are in place to ensure the safety of our school community. Our students have been surrounded by building works throughout the life of our school so having work done to our current classrooms will be of little interest to them.

At this point we are unable to confirm the extent of the issues to be addressed and we will make every effort to keep our community informed at all times as we move through this repair work. We plan to use our school website to ensure our parents and community are kept up to date with developments so please keep an eye out on www.thegardens.school.nz for updates. As always, feel free to contact me directly if you wish to discuss this matter.

Yours sincerely

Susannah Fowler
Principal

Julie Pizzini
Chairperson - BOT

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