Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a busy start to the year for the School Board. Much work has been going on behind the scenes, particularly in the area of literacy and numeracy. To improve the literacy and numeracy levels of the school, the Board believes that a comprehensive strategy is required. Teaching staff, parents, the ACT Department of Education and Training (DET), the Parents and Citizens (P&C) Association, and the School Board will all play an important part in the way ahead. All parties working together will create the best opportunity for our students to achieve all that they are capable of in a relaxed, enjoyable and well rounded environment. With this in mind, the Board proposes that each party contribute as follows.

**Teaching Staff**
The Campbell Primary School 2010 Literacy and Numeracy Operational Plan articulates how the school will structure and resource literacy and numeracy programmes across the year levels. This document was tabled at last month’s Board meeting and has been posted on the school website at the following link [http://www.campbellps.act.edu.au/our_curriculum/literacy_and_numeracy](http://www.campbellps.act.edu.au/our_curriculum/literacy_and_numeracy). This document communicates the kinds of teaching strategies that will be used, and the extra resourcing being provided to schools to ensure that every student has the opportunity to excel. There is some great information there. Parents and carers are strongly encouraged to read the plan and to provide feedback through the School Board email address: cblpboard@campbellps.act.edu.au.

**The Board**
The Board is focusing on the curriculum and communication for 2010. With this in mind, the Board decided at last week’s meeting that the Voluntary Contributions payments for 2010 will be allocated to literacy and numeracy resources. All families are asked to pay their contributions promptly so that these resources can be provided to our students as soon as possible. A separate note on voluntary contributions will be sent home with your child shortly. Unfortunately, Campbell Primary has a history of very low contributions from families, something that would appear to be in contrast to our demographic. We are hoping that more families will do their bit in 2010 so that we can drive this money into additional resourcing for the literacy and numeracy programs in our school.

**Department of Education and Training (DET)**
The next step for the Board will be to look to the Department of Education and Training (DET) for additional support and resources. DET is now providing system wide training for staff in literacy and
numeralcy. DET officers from the Literacy and Numeracy Team are currently working with our staff to revisit First Steps: Writing, a revised framework that provides a continuum of assessment for learning, and a range of strategies targeted to students’ developmental needs and enrichment. A further DET initiative is the identification and training of two members of staff as literacy and numeracy coordinators in each school. Their role will be to provide support to classroom teachers in the form of co-teaching, coaching or mentoring during the literacy and numeracy blocks, and also to provide support to identified students for intensive interventions or for enrichment. As we move forward into the year, we will continue to look for further opportunities to provide support to our teaching staff.

Parents and Citizens (P&C) Association
The Board has long recognised that effective resources are an essential component to learning. The Board is keen to engage the P&C to see whether additional literacy and numeracy resources could be the focus of fundraising efforts in 2010. This will be raised with the P&C once the new committee is in place.

Parents and Carers
As I noted previously, the best outcome will be produced by all working together. The continued support of parents and carers is paramount to ensuring that our children come prepared for learning at school. We ask for your help in making sure that your children have adequate sleep, breakfast daily, a balanced lunch, and lots of support.
Parental assistance in the class room is always strongly encouraged and very welcome. Involvement in the Board and the P&C is also a great way of assisting the school. And, remember your voluntary contribution in 2010 is targeted at literacy and numeracy.

Feedback
Your feedback on school issues is necessary and greatly appreciated. I encourage you to raise issues with the Board, either in person, via the Board email address, or on the phone. This allows the Board to ensure that the entire school community is engaged and provided with an ongoing forum for the discussion of ideas, issues and concerns.

Yours sincerely,

John Fry
Board Chair
Campbell Primary School