

The Tapanui parent community was surveyed on a variety of aspects of school performance and student engagement during Term 3, 2013. Summaries of the responses received by the Board, as well as recommendations, are shown below. Responses were received from 66 of the 80 families on our roll at the time of the survey.

### ***MY CHILD***

Students enjoy being at school, are encouraged to work to the best of their ability and generally find the work interesting.

Parents are confident that the school is meeting their child's learning needs.

### ***COMMUNICATION and INFORMATION***

School reports are well received and generally provide the information parents want. A request for comparisons against others in the class was a theme from the responses received, however this is potentially dangerous as students progress at different rates. Furthermore parents can already compare their child against others in the same year group by looking at progress in relation to the Government's National Standards.

The website is well used and text alerts were seen as a great form of communication. The majority of households find the newsletter useful and a growing number (62%) would be happy to receive the newsletter electronically.

Those who have a Facebook account appreciate information from the school via this medium. This remains as one of a number of ways the school communicates to our community.

#### **Recommendations:**

- More information about the National Standards and understanding the Student Report. This can be achieved through the 'Friday Forums' to be held in Term 1, 2014.

### ***PARTNERSHIP and eLEARNING***

The community felt the school was approachable about any issues regarding their child or their learning. The interviews in Terms 1 and 3 were seen as a good way to gain an understanding of children's progress and achievement, however the Term 1 interview was seen by some (25%) as being too short. This is a time when parents are also still getting to know the teacher.

Parents agreed that eLearning was being integrated into the curriculum at an appropriate pace and that they had enough information about eLearning, particularly Ultranet.

Feedback confirms that 48% have more than 30 minutes of time at home each night to use the internet for school related work. A further 44% have between 15 and 30 minutes access.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Increase the Three-Way Interview times in Term 1 from 15mins to 20mins.
- Continue morning information sessions for parents around our eLearning / Blended learning journey by incorporating this into the 'Friday Forum' concept.

## ***CURRICULUM***

The community has affirmed our curriculum delivery including time dedicated to reading, writing and maths, daily fitness and bi-cultural experiences. The school values were also affirmed as reflective of our community. Student learning is generally meaningful and delivered in contexts they can understand.

### **Recommendations:**

- Retain our current values in our next Charter.
- Indicate how much time is spent during a regular school day on literacy and numeracy.

## ***EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM [EOTC]***

The community continues to support the notion of a Year 5 / 6 Camp every year with the majority (81%) saying these should be 3-4 nights in duration.

A 'Big Day Out' for our Year 4 students each year was supported by 95% of respondents.

100% of those responding wanted swimming lessons to continue for all students.

There was little support for an official School Ski Trip.

Two-thirds of those responding would like to see Beach Education incorporated into the programme, however they were cautious about the cost and suggested it may be every second year.

No year group was identified as one that this would be targeted at.

88% would like to see an additional Leadership Camp/Day for Year 6's each year

### **Recommendations:**

- That we collate the costs associated with the above and provide the information as a whole, so that the community can see what they have asked for as a whole package. Parents would be asked again for their commitment, bearing in mind that EOTC opportunities are often provided in addition to the curriculum.
- There needs to be a higher level of understanding about the purpose of the Swimming Sports
- An aquatics festival, separate to the WO Swimming Sports, might be considered where all students participate in an event congruent with their ability.

## ***CHARTER***

Generally the community were satisfied that Tapanui School provides a safe environment for student's to learn. Parents felt that Tapanui has a good balance when it comes to curriculum delivery. They also feel that the school is adequately resourced both in staffing, learning support and material.

The issue of the teacher-student ratio was raised again, however it is important that parents know that the school is staffed based on its' roll and this is confirmed in March each year. Parents can be assured that classes will be staffed in the best possible way with the resources available.

### **Recommendations:**

- That we take some time to explain or "unpack" the four learner qualities in our school vision – confident, connected, actively involved, life-long learner, so that parents understand what these mean in the context of education at Tapanui School.
- That the community understands the relationship between roll numbers and staffing.

## **GENERAL OPINIONS and UNIFORM**

Generally the community were satisfied that Tapanui School provides a safe environment for student's to learn. Parents felt that Tapanui has a good balance when it comes to curriculum delivery.

After four years of a school uniform, the community are happy with it. While some suggestions in the form of additional options have been suggested, there has been no pattern of uniformity. The vast majority believe the school has a good reputation in the community.

### **Recommendations:**

- It has now been 4 years since the uniform has been compulsory. While there is still 100% commitment for a uniform, when instigated it was agreed that the uniform would be reviewed after 5 years. This should take place in 2014.

When asked about the “one big change” people might make given the opportunity, there were a lot of ideas. Some of the reoccurring themes included:

- A rethink of the entrance including signage for buses.
- Playground upgrade, kids climbing trees etc.
- Smaller class numbers, more teachers.
- Opinions on composite classes.
- Students experiencing a wider variety of cultures.

Overall parents are very happy with the school's performance, the open door policy and the quality of the principal, the teachers and support staff.