

The Tapanui parent community was surveyed on a variety of aspects of school performance and student engagement towards the end of 2010 and on into 2011. A summary of the responses received by the Board is shown below.

### **COMMUNICATION / CURRICULUM**

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

A more structured approach to homework has been adopted with school-wide consistency. Communication has improved with both the newsletter the website being up to date and use this a one of the communication tools. Teachers are committed to keeping class wikispaces current.

- Technology evening to be run by the Principal in Term 3
- Community encouraged to check the website when seeking information

Methods of reporting to parents, both formally and through sample books have been adjusted in response to parent feedback.

- Trial “Interim Report” against National Standards in mid 2011, seek feedback on both the content and format of the report
- Three-way Interviews scheduled in Term 1 and 3, to evaluate learning, look at next steps and set goals with students
- Staff have reviewed the viability, purpose and format of both the sample books and the samples in them
- An information sheet to be sent home prior to Interviews helping to explain the parents role and what they can expect at their three-way interview

Sport and sporting opportunities for students were a high priority for parents. Feedback indicates parents would like more opportunities for students to participate competitively.

- The principal and staff to run a senior swimming sports from 2011
- The principal is working with the South Otago cluster of schools for swimming and cross country as additional events for students to compete at as well as the existing Eastern Southland events

School camps were another area where many parents provided feedback. Parents were supportive of the current Year 5/6 annual camp.

- The principal and staff will continue to review each camp after it has taken place with a view to enhancing the experience that students experience
- Staff will look at other venues for camps in this area eg. Deep Cove 2012
- Parents have agreed that camp costs need to be treated separately and as such the school will attempt to give plenty of warning about future camp venues, costs as well as timing and duration
- The staff will continue to look for appropriate EOTC (Education Outside the Classroom) options for younger students at Tapanui School

Parents felt that Tapanui has a good balance when it comes to curriculum delivery. They also feel that the school is adequately resourced.

Of concern for some parents was the current teacher-student ratio. The Board believe the quality and support of both teachers and teaching and learning is a more important focus. Parents can be assured that classes will be staffed in the best possible way with the resources available.

Parents liked the introduction of Kapahaka for Year 4-6 students and they endorsed the school’s values and key competencies. Tapanui will continue to maintain its vision of growing confident, connected, actively involved, life-long learners.

## ***ADMINISTRATION / UNIFORM***

The school donation and the durability of the uniform were the main items in this section.

Implications:

- In response to the community's request for a school donation (rather than fees for individual activities), the BOT will ensure that extra-curricula costs are published at the beginning of each year and ask parents to make their donation knowing these costs
- Parents will be able to donate through a variety of methods
- The PTA will be asked to review the durability of the uniform and look for additional clothing specials making these known as appropriate
- The PTA are already looking at the viability of a second hand uniform system

## ***ENVIRONMENT / CULTURE***

The BOT is continually looking to enhance the school environment and keep the school looking welcoming and attractive.

Implications:

- The part-time caretaker's role has been broadened to include more ground / garden work
- Signage for the front of the school is being developed
- The BOT will continue to look at the long term property plan in order to get the best outcome from this area of funding

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.