

Community Consultation - Results 2016

The Tapanui parent community was surveyed on a variety of aspects of school performance and student engagement during Term 2, 2016. Summaries of the responses received by the Board, as well as recommendations, are shown below. Responses were received from 65 of the 76 families on our roll at the time of the survey.

Trends:

MY CHILD / REPORTING

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. 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. School reports are well received and provide the information parents want.

COMMUNICATION

The school community use a variety of communication tools provided by the school. The most popular were the school newsletter and text alerts. Emailed reminders and notices are also appreciated.

BYOD

A split here about whether BYOD was making a difference to student learning, however the Committee acknowledge that it may have been too early to expect a definitive result. About ⅓ of parent indicated they would likely provide a device for their child in 2017.

CURRICULUM

The community endorsed the four school values and the majority were very happy with the amount of time dedicated to learning, fitness/sport, cultural aspects and meeting student's individual needs. Most parents have a good understanding of MLP and believe the strategy works well for their children. Many parents have raised concerns around Play Based Learning.

EOTC

The community supports the status quo around camp remains - one camp every year with a duration of 2-3 nights. 37 out of 65 parents believe there should be a Leadership Camp for Year Six students in addition. Parents indicated that overall students are given enough sporting opportunities.

CHARTER

Overall, parents responses to the questions in this portion of the survey were very positive, especially in regards to the questions around the Charter and Key Competencies.

The majority of parents find the Principal is approachable (83%), the school facilities and resources are adequate (90%), there are enough opportunities for parents to get involved in the school (94%), the school environment is tidy and complements learning (91%) and the school has a good reputation in the community (90%). Within the comments section there are three references to bullying. We are aware that the use of the word bullying is sometimes thrown around loosely, without correct understanding of its meaning. We believe the school has been actively seeking to reduce bullying and are confident this will remain a focus for school management.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

64% of respondents would like to see the Merino Top added as an option.

THE SCHOOL YEAR

Over half of parents (52%) are in favour of aligning with BMC. However, 66% percent of parents would prefer to start as late as the Ministry allows. It is normal practice for BMC to open as early as the ministry allows. Therefore, if we were to align, we would not achieve option 2 of starting as late in the year as possible.

ONE BIG IMPROVEMENT.....

There were several ideas including

- Upgrade the playground
- Update the buildings to reflect Modern Learning Environments

[While the Board accepts these as areas for development, these are both areas for which there is no funding. To advance this the Board would rely on locally raised funds or using limited reserves.](#)

Recommendations:

The Assurance Committee

- Recommends that the staff provide greater clarity about the Homework Policy particularly for students in Year 1-3.
- Suggests that the community is reminded of the purpose of interviews and that our Charter puts 'students at the centre of learning'. Teachers are available for parents to meet them without their child present should this be desirable.
- Suggests a reminder is put into the newsletter each term of ways to contact teachers directly.
- A one page document is developed by the Principal and the Board bulleting the School's Vision and Annual Goals. It is suggested that this is sent home in Term 1 each year and a pdf placed on the website
- Recommends the BYOD page on the website is updated to provide more information including the 'Fact Sheet' developed during the consultations in 2015.
- Suggests a reminder is put into the newsletter educating parents on the PTC App. A flyer about the setup and use of the PTC App is recommended.
- Recommends that teachers invest more time helping parents understand how learning happens so that those who have concerns particularly about literacy (reading, writing, spelling) have greater reassurance that these facets are happening as well as how they are happening. Help parents understand the philosophy behind changes to how learning is delivered (for example Play Based Learning) in advance in order for them to feel they have been involved and informed.
- Recommends that the Merino Top is added to the school uniform as an OPTIONAL item.
- Recommends that we discontinue our endeavour to align the school year with BMC due to the majority of parents wanting to start as late in the year as possible and a lack overwhelming support to align, which Ministry had indicated we would be required to show. [Tapanui school will therefore look to start as late as possible each year in line with the majority feedback.](#)

Suggested Motion

That the Board adopts the recommendations of the Assurance Committee in relation to the Community Survey and that the report is published to all stakeholders.