

BOARD ON TOP

Newsletter of the Tapanui School Board of Trustees

2 March 2018

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

The Board of Trustees met on Monday for the first meeting of 2018. We extend a warm welcome back to our students and staff and welcome any new students and their families to our school. The Board welcomes new staff members Mary Connell, Joleen Harding, Teressa Young, Sarah Dalzell and Navjeet Kaur. We also welcome back Abbie Gibson from Study Leave. We presently have 116 students on our roll with an estimated peak roll of 130-132.

Our first meeting of the year is about reviewing last year's results (Annual Report) and formalising our goals for the current year (Charter). We are required to forward to the Ministry of Education an Analysis of Variance covering details in respect to our Student Achievement Targets for the 2017 year. The report covers:

- An Analysis of Variance which provides an explanation of what happened in relation to student achievement targets, what we did, how targets were resourced, the results achieved, what we believed made a difference and where to next.
- Kiwisport Report (also below)

Results of Student Achievement Targets for 2017

While we have expectations for all our students, specifically, student achievement targets must reflect the government's areas of priority which until the end of 2017 were: Students not working at or above national standards, students with special learning needs, Maori students and Pacifica students. National Standards (*now optional*) are in place for mathematics, reading and writing.

In 2017 we identified two areas to target, one in reading and one in writing (previously reported in the December BOT report).

While all students in the target groups made progress only one of the targets was met. Achievement was measured using the now optional National Standards. To summarise;

79% are within or above the appropriate level in Reading. ***This target has not been met.***

83% are within or above the appropriate level in Writing. ***This target has been met.***

While not a specific target in 2017 the results in Maths were;

87% are within or above the appropriate level in Mathematics.

In summary, most students at Tapanui School are achieving very well inside the Curriculum Achievement bands in the NZ Curriculum.

Kiwisport

Kiwisport is a Government funding initiative to support students' participation in organised sport. In 2017, the school received total Kiwisport funding of \$1794 (excluding GST). Once again the funding was spent, along with other Board funds and donations, on the South West Otago Sports Activator Programme and West Otago Athletics, Cross Country, Swimming and Winter Tournament at a total cost of \$5098 (including \$3478 for pool usage) to the School.

100% of students participated in organised sport with 3 sport / physical education lessons per year group, per term during the year. All students were provided with 10 x 30min Swimming Lessons, attended the West Otago Athletics, West Otago Cross Country and the Activator Sports Extravaganza.

Additional opportunities offered to students included an Activator Swimming Initiative for at risk swimmers and the West Otago Winter Tournament for Year 4-6. A number of students had sessions with Otago Country Cricket and Otago Rugby while others participated in the Clutha Primary Schools Golf Tournament, Sport Clutha Triathlon, South Otago Swimming Sports, Eastern Athletics Sports, South Otago Cross Country and Eastern Southland Cross Country. A number of students went on to represent the school or the West Otago / Eastern Southland area at provincial sports events.

A new opportunity in 2017 was the adoption of Hockey skills sessions for all students. This was provided by Eastern Southland Hockey and included the training of parents and teachers. The initiative will be in place for three years.

School Charter - 2018

The School Charter is our key planning document and is the basis for all board activity. It is an extensive “working” document which sets the vision and strategic direction of the school. It includes an Annual Plan which sets goals in several areas including Curriculum, Property and Finance and Health and Safety. An Action Plan is developed for each goal. Updates are provided to the Board once a term.

At our recent meeting the Board approved the 2018 Charter. If you wish to view this document it is available on the Tapanui School website or at the school office.

The Student Achievement Targets for 2018 are as follows:

- **Reading - Boys**

To increase the engagement, enjoyment and motivation of all boys with reading. Using the Learning Progressions Framework we aim to lift progress from 65% at or above (NS results) to at least 85% within or beyond the appropriate NZ Curriculum Level.

- **Oral Language - All Students**

Achievement, engagement and motivation will be enhanced through increased oral language opportunities. Students across all year groups will find success in literacy through intensive focus on developing oral language skills. At least 90% of students will be working within or above the NZ Curriculum Level across both literacy strands (receiving and transmitting) by the end of 2018.

Pomahaka Kāhui Ako

The next phase in the building of our Community of Learning (CoL) involved a reworking of our Achievement Challenge #1 to align it more with the Key Competencies and centre it around Oral Language development. The Ministry then has to endorse the Strategic Plan and from there we will be able to start a process for employing both the Across Community and Within School teacher positions.

The Kāhui Ako held a Cluster Gathering on Wednesday at BMC and it was very well attended by staff and Board members across the 5 schools and early learning centre. Everyone was informed where the CoL was at and the next steps.

ERO

The Education Review Office has sent a letter indicating their tentative plans to visit the school in Term 3 or 4 this year (essentially an audit on the school). The last ERO review was in June 2015 and the previous one in February 2012.

Property

New carpet was installed in Room 7 in the Rimu Hub. The Special needs Project from 2017 is fully completed. A procurement plan for the Modern Learning Environment building upgrade to the Matai Hub has finally been approved by the Ministry and it has now gone to tender. To get to this stage has taken several years of planning and discussion by both past and present Board members and staff. It will be very exciting and satisfying to finally see some building work take place however, the speed at which the Ministry works at, it will be several months before this will happen!

Christian Religious Education Programme

The Board has again approved the inclusion of this programme for 2018. CRE is a religious education programme, overseen by the Churches Education Commission, for state schools within New Zealand. The programme, Life Choices, is the only CRE programme approved by the Ministry of Education. It provides an opportunity for students to explore Christian beliefs and values through the lens of the Key Competencies and values found in the New Zealand Curriculum.

The CRE curriculum has been delivered at Tapanui School for many years and continues to be well received. This program occurs in our school for the first ½ hour of each Tuesday morning. Attendance is voluntary. Supervision is provided for children who are not participating in the programme. If you wish to withdraw your child from the programme or have any other queries please contact our Principal - Antony Criglington.

General

As always, it has been a busy start to Term One. Well done to all students who took part in the West Otago Swimming & Athletics Days . Enjoy the fine weather while it lasts as those first Autumn chills start to arrive. Good luck to all the Rimu Hub students and staff that are going on the School Camp to Te Anau in a few weeks and a big thank you to the parent helpers that are attending as well. As with several activities run by the school parent help is vital and the Board really appreciates those parents that give up their valuable time to help **all** our children, **thank you!**

The next meeting of the Tapanui School Board of Trustees is to be held on Tuesday 10th of April and as usual anyone is most welcome to attend.

Kind regards

Zita Young

Board Chairperson