



BOARD ON TOP
Newsletter of the Tapanui School Board of Trustees

26th September 2018

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

The Board of Trustees met Tuesday night for our last meeting of Term Three. We would like to bring the following to your attention:

Science Curriculum Report

● **What is Science about?**

Science is investigating, observing, understanding and explaining our natural, physical world and the wider universe.

- A way of thinking, testing ideas
- Curiosity, truth seeking
- Standing on the shoulders of giants and looking about
- Challenging the status quo
- Telling stories about “how” and making models to show “how”

● **How is Science taught in our school?**

Science is taught through a conceptual approach. Wherever possible our Inquiry model is used to support teaching and learning. In addition teachers may provide other learning opportunities as they occur.

Our students will learn about the following key concepts:

- Change
- Diversity
- Sustainability
- Energy
- Interconnecting systems - interdependence

Key Findings 94% of the students are working at or above expectations for their time at school. This is a positive result showing that students at Tapanui enjoy learning about their world, how it is changing, how systems are as diverse as they are interconnected as well as taking a greater interest in ideas and concepts around sustainability. It is vital that our 21-Century learners continue to make connections between themselves and their own situation and the world they are living in, now and in the future.

Personnel

- Mrs. Craw. This week we say goodbye to Mrs. Jill Craw who is retiring after a long career in teaching, having spend the last 10 years of it in Tapanui School. Jill has been an enormous asset to our whole school community and has made a difference in many kids lives. I wish Jill and Rod all the best for the future and many happy years ahead travelling the world.
- Deputy Principal Appointment. Congratulations to Mrs. Jane Stuart who has been appointed Deputy Principal upon Mrs. Craw's retirement.
- Staffing for 2019. We received notification from the Ministry that we would be able to retain our 6 full time teachers plus a full time principal. This is indeed great news and we are predicting starting next year with an approximate ratio of 16 students per 1 teacher in Matai and 22 to 1 in Rimu (*based on current information*).

Education Outside the Classroom, Modern Learning Environments, Bring Your Own Device Survey - The Board would like to thank you for your participation in these surveys. We will share these results with you after the next Board meeting.

Kāhui Aho - Community of Learning (COL)

The appointment of a second Across Community Lead Teacher is now complete. The position was won by Mrs Lisa Miller from Waikaka School. Lisa and Jane will work closely with Lindy (BMC) and Antony over the next term scoping the professional learning needs across the Community and working towards fulfilling the vision of our Kāhui Ako goals / achievement challenges.

General

As a parent I was so impressed with all the students and their performances in the school production of Porridge. They did themselves and our school proud. It is wonderful to see what happens when the school's amazing staff pushes our kids outside their comfort zones and they become their character/s. A huge thank you to the staff for all the extra time and effort they have put in, to helping the children entertain us.

There are some exciting things coming up in Term Four, in particular Pet Day, Friday 2nd November.

Enjoy the break form the routine over the next couple of weeks and I hope you all get a chance to take some time out!

The Board's next meeting is on the 8th of November in the Blue Room at 5.30pm. Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings.

Kind regards,
Zita Young
Board Chairperson