

## BOARD ON TOP

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### Newsletter of the Tapanui School Board of Trustees

8 July 2016

Dear Parents/Caregivers

It is hard to believe we are at the end of Term Two already and halfway through 2016! The School Board met on Tuesday evening. As you will be aware, we have recently completed the Mid Year Election process and welcomed two new Parent Representatives onto the Board, Will Byars and Cliff Brensell. Penny O'Meara has also joined us as the Staff Trustee.

Our first order of business was to elect our Board Chair and Sub-Committee Delegates. We are pleased to announce your Board as follows:

Mrs. Alena Stuart	Board Chairperson (Member of all sub committees)
Mrs. Zita Young	Deputy Chairperson, Finance and Property Committees
Mrs. Charmaine Blair	Assurance Committee
Mrs. Julia Body	Modern Learning Environment Committee
Mr. William Byars	Assurance Committee
Mr. Cliff Brensell	Property Committee
Mr. Antony Criglington	Principal
Mrs. Penny O'Meara	Staff Trustee

Special thanks to Julia Body (retired) who has held the position of Board Chairperson for the past two and a half years. Your hard work is much appreciated by the Trustees and the wider school community.

#### **Student Achievement Targets - Mid Year Progress Report**

At the beginning of the school year achievement targets are set based on areas of particular concern. The following targets were included in the 2016 Charter:

##### Literacy Target (Reading)

Boys across the school who are currently below the Government's National Standards will make accelerated progress towards the Government's National Standards' expectations with at least half being at or above the Standard by the end of 2016. That would lift boy's achievement across the school to 83%.

##### Literacy Target (Writing)

All students across the school who are currently below the Government's National Standards will make accelerated progress towards the Government's National Standards' expectations with at least 85% being at or above the Standard by the end of 2016.

*Note: "Accelerated progress" – more than a year's progress in 12 months ie. Closing the gap*

A progress report on these targets was presented to the board at our last meeting. It is pleasing to see that a number of students are making accelerated progress in both reading and writing. Progress around these targets will continue to be monitored throughout the remaining two terms.

Writing has been a particular focus at Tapanui School since 2013. This is reflected in our Annual Report where the number of students at or above, in relation to the Government's National Standards, has steadily increased from 69% in 2013 to 76% in 2015. The teaching staff have undertaken several PLD opportunities (training) which has resulted in some changes to how writing is delivered at Tapanui School.

### **Community Consultation**

At the beginning of Term 3 the Board will be conducting our Community Consultation Survey. The survey will cover a variety of areas regarding our school. We will be looking at gathering your thoughts on the general appearance of our school, our Teaching Staff, Principal, Modern Learning Environments and BYOD to name a few.

This year we intend to offer you the option of completing the survey in a variety of ways including an online option (Google Form), a paper option and/or a phone call from a Board Member. All information gathered will be completely confidential.

This survey happens every 3 years, the information/findings of this survey are very important in helping us identify our strengths and letting us know what we can do better. Therefore I would encourage you all to participate in this survey. More information will be available at the beginning of next term.

### **Hui - Consultation with Whanau**

Whanau are meeting on Saturday 23rd of July to make the Tukutuku panels. These are a series of four panels which will reflect the values of the school - Respect, Perseverance, Excellence and Equity. All are welcome to come down to the school and help out between 1.30-4pm.

### **Road Crossing**

Work on the road crossing outside the school has started and is set to be completed over the July school holidays. Whilst it is not a pedestrian crossing, it will feature bulbous curbs and a crossing platform which will make it more visible as a crossing and a safer place for children to cross from. We hope you embrace this change and set a good example to all children by crossing here.

### **Community of Learning (CoL) update**

At the beginning of 2016 our Board agreed to submit an Expression of Interest to form a Community of Learning with a group of West Otago educational providers. The cluster includes Kidzway Early Learning Centre, Tapanui School, Waikoiko School, Heriot School, Waikaka School and Blue Mountain College. We are collaborating as a group for the betterment of West Otago students. The aim is to support each other in a variety of areas. These areas are still to be determined. At the last COL meeting schools shared student achievement data with the aim of identifying the greatest areas of learning need. Approval from the Ministry of Education is not expected until August. We will keep you updated as we find out more information.

### **General**

The school is planning to hold a New Parents evening in Term 3. This will be open to new families with children at Tapanui School and to prospective parents in the wider community. We will advertise this in the school newsletter and the Blue Mountain Express closer to the time. In Term 4 a Transition Evening will be held for the parents of children in Year 3 who will be moving up to the Rimu Hub in 2017. This will give you an opportunity to meet the Rimu Hub Teachers, learn more about BYOD and ask any questions you may have.

We hope you have an enjoyable time with your children over the school holidays and that the good winter weather we have been receiving will continue throughout term three. Our next meeting is scheduled for the 17th of August.

Kind regards,  
Alena Stuart  
Chairperson