

BOARD ON TOP

Newsletter of the Tapanui School Board of Trustees

8th April 2016

Dear Parents / Caregivers

Your Board met again on Wednesday 7th April to review the progress of the school for Term 1 and to plan for the remaining school year. At our meeting we had a wonderful visit from 3 of the Tapanui School Student Council's members. The students had come to talk to us about their ideas for additional playground equipment that they would like to see at the school. The children provided a presentation of their top 5 wish list of items, including rugby goal posts, swings, Hamster wheel, flying fox, and a tunnel. The students presented us with ideas of how they could help to fundraise for these items. The Board is very keen to work with the students and look forward to receiving the additional information that we need to proceed. On behalf of the Board I would like to congratulate the students they were amazing with their presentation, keep up the good work.

2016 Budget

The draft budget was approved at this meeting.

Modern Learning Environments

It was wonderful to see so many parents attend the Tech Evening on Wednesday night. I am sure you all learnt heaps and enjoyed the opportunity to see how tech is being used with in the classroom environment. We will be holding an open day (similar to last year) on the 10th May. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Board had asked our Rimu Teachers to give us an update on how BYOD was going. Attached are the thoughts of Mrs O'Meara and Mrs Craw.

"BYOD is the option for students of Tapanui School to bring their own device and have exclusive usage of that device in our hub. There has been a number of families who have taken up this option and we have purchased another cupboard to hold these devices so they can be locked at night (if they stay with us) and during the day when someone is not able to monitor their usage.

We are seeing children use these devices to maximise their learning - be it working collaboratively, using tools to help with spelling or getting their ideas down using voice activation programmes or connecting with knowledge that could otherwise be difficult to source. We acknowledge that those without devices have to show more patience in accessing their work or having the same work in their books. We are always working at ensuring all students have equitable opportunities.

Our biggest challenge is to ensure that our families (parents) maintain their skills so that they can still be aware and monitor their child's online behaviour and usage whilst still learning alongside them. This has resulted in the tech info night recently."

The monitoring of BYOD is a high priority for the Board, we will be having regular dialogue with the Teachers and Mr. Criglington to how BYOD is progressing and what (if any) the Board can do to optimised learning outcomes for all students in the Rimu Hub. If you have any comments please forward your thoughts to the Rimu Teaches in the first instance.

To Mrs O'Meara and Mrs. Craw, we acknowledge the huge effort you have both put in to make the introduction of BYOD the success that it is. We look forward to watching the BYOD journey continue to develop throughout the year.

The Teachers and Staff are currently working on the final version of how they would like the school to look in regards to MLE. Once this has been done the updated plan will come to the Board to approve. Prior to approval we will publish the plan for our community to review. Unfortunately making the changes is going to take some time. We are limited by the funds available. When we know the approx. cost of completing this project we will be able to come up with a plan of how to pay for it.

Property

We are hoping the porches (Room 2 & 5) will be completed during the school holidays. We are also about to connect the old dental clinic to the fire alarm system.

Board Elections – June 2016

Thank you to the parent that attended our meeting. It is great to see parents coming along to see what we do for our school and community. We have 1 remaining meeting before the elections on the 3rd June. We would encourage any parent that is considering becoming a Board member to come to our meeting scheduled for Tuesday 24th May at 5.30pm. Three Parent representatives' positions will be vacant at the next election, we look forward to seeing some new faces soon.

General

What a busy Term we have had. Numerous sporting events have taken place. Congratulations to all those students that went on to represent our school at Southland and Otago levels. The Rimu Hub school camp to Queenstown was a highlight for many students, you go home exhausted but create so many memories, well done to everyone involved, a special thanks to those parents that gave up their time and vehicles to make the camp the success that it was.

To the students and families that have joined us in 2016 we hope you are enjoying your time at Tapanui School, we look forward to getting to know you better throughout the remaining of the year.

Have a happy and safe holiday period and we look forward to seeing you for Term 2.

Kind regards
Julia Body
Chairperson.