



BOARD ON TOP

Newsletter of the Tapanui School Board of Trustees

2nd August 2019

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

The Board of Trustees met last night for the 4th meeting of 2019. This meeting is always a busy one as we review the Charter and the 2018 Student Achievement Targets amongst several other items on the agenda. Below are the key items which were discussed.

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 2019 Charter:

- **Target 1 - Reading:**

To advance the progress and enjoyment of reading for the 26% of students below desirable levels, by improving reading engagement at school as well as at home by providing influence and positive encouragement.

Analysis of Progress

46% of our target students have made progress across levels which is a very positive result.

Enjoyment is difficult to measure as it is quite intrinsic for children and hard to see in some. However it is pleasing to see that teachers are noticing greater engagement in class from 82% disengaged at the start of the year to 26% disengagement in class from these target students.

- **Target 2 - Writing**

To raise progress and improve engagement in writing for all our Year 4 students with specific emphasis on the 53% who are achieving at lower than desirable levels.

Analysis of Progress

42% of our target students have made progress. Teachers have noted that the target students at the start of the year had quite a negative attitude towards writing. Now however they have shown a far more positive attitude towards writing and grown in confidence to write with more independence.

- **Target 3 - Science**

To extend interest and achievement in Science, especially for the 43% already achieving above expectation. Teachers report high levels of interest and have linked in Units of work that have scientific aspects to them e.g. Pomahaka WaterCare Group looking at the 'Living World' strand in science and big issues such as sustainability.

In the 6 months to June we have seen a slight increase in achievement levels from 43% to 50% above expectations which is a good result.

NZEI Te Riu Roa

The Board would like to express our support for Antony and all primary principals in their strike action. Primary principals do an amazing job for their schools and communities, and we think they deserve a collective agreement offer that reflects their considerable skills and responsibilities. We believe that it is a matter of fairness and common sense that primary principals should have parity with their secondary school counterparts. If pay parity is fair for teachers, as the government has acknowledged, then surely it is fair for principals too.

Primary principals have our full support for their current strike action in which they are disengaging from the Ministry of Education and focusing solely on their school.

Pomahaka Kāhui Ako - Community of Learning (CoL)

The work of the Kāhui Ako Stewardship group has continued mostly focused around Professional Learning and Development and what will be on offer for the rest of the year so teachers can plan what they might attend.

Hui - Consultation with Whanau

A Hui was held in week 6 of Term 2. The Hui endorsed the tuakina teina with our Year 6 kapahaka students joining the BMC Kapahaka group every Wednesday prior to our own session. The introduction of kapahaka for our tamariki has proven very popular with the sessions currently at capacity and a waiting list started!

Student Voice

One third of the roll (Yr3-6) was surveyed at random in relation to learning.

The results were pleasing at this point in the year and show that students are generally satisfied with how their learning is progressing.

The results of this survey are shared with staff to help them improve what they can for students and respond to their feedback and perceptions.

Property

Talks with the builder during at the end of last term revealed that work on Matai will not start until mid August at the earliest, sigh!!! The builder is behind in current projects and cannot start before this time. Work will start in the Cave (old Room 2) and work west. Students will work in the Clearing initially. Safety checking has been carried out by the employer and workers will not be working unsupervised around children. Students will be kept out of all work areas using temporary barriers or fencing.

Assurance and Self-Review / Consultation

Review of NAG1 Student Achievement Policy was presented at our meeting. The purpose of the audit was to evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of the procedures that sit under the Student Achievement Policy at Tapanui School.

General

It is with regret that I received John Halder's resignation from the Board yesterday, due to personal reasons. We thank John for his time on the Board. What this means is we are looking for another person to join the Board. This person could be a parent, a grandparent, an uncle, an aunt, a neighbour... they do not necessarily have to have a child at school just an interest to give back to their community. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any other Board member for more information.

The next meeting of the Tapanui School Board of Trustees is to be held on Tuesday 27th August and as usual anyone is most welcome to attend.

Kind regards,

Zita Young, Board Chairperson