

BOARD ON TOP

Newsletter of the Tapanui School Board of Trustees

25 February 2016

Dear Parents / Caregivers

The first meeting of our school board was held on Wednesday night. We extend a very warm welcome back to our existing families and staff and welcome all new students and their families to our school. The Board welcomes Judy Clayton, Rachel Lietze, Vanessa Thomas. Board member Alena Stuart has joined our staff in the role of Support Staff for ESOL/RTL. B.

Our first meeting for the year was business as usual for this time of year. Our first order of business was to elect our Board Chair. This process happens at our 1st meeting each year. During this process we also determine our Sub Committee delegates. We are pleased to announce your board as follows

Mrs. Julia Body	Board Chairperson (Member of all Sub Committee's)
Mrs. Charmaine Blair	Deputy Board Chairperson, Property Committee
Mr. Gareth Kean	Assurance Committee
Mr. Chris Hughes	Assurance Committee
Mrs. Alena Stuart	Modern Learning Environment (MLE) Committee
Mrs. Zita Young	Finance Committee

Our first meeting of the year is about reviewing last year's results (Annual Report) and formalising our work for the current year (Charter). We are required to forward to the Ministry of Education an annual report covering details in respect to our school for the 2015 year. The report covers:

- An overview of the school activities that have occurred during the 2015 year.
- Results against student achievement targets.
- Kiwisport report.
- 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 believe made a difference and where to next.

Student Achievement targets for 2015

While we have expectations for all our students, specifically, student achievement targets must reflect the government's areas of priority which at present are:

- Students not working at or above national standards
- Student with special learning needs
- Maori students
- Pacifica students

National Standards are in place for mathematics, reading and writing. Following are details in relation to the target set for 2015, the result achieved plus supporting documents.

Reading:

Target Set

Students in Year 2-3 who are currently below the Government's National Standards will make accelerated progress towards the National Standard expectations with at least 85% being at or above the Standard by the end of 2015.

Result Achieved/Comment

Target NOT met - 79% of cohort at or above
Year 2

(Target was 85%)

84% of Year 2 students are now working at or above the Government's National Standards compared to 72% in November 2014 and only 62% by February.

Overall we have accelerated the learning of 7/18 learners (39%).

Year 3

After a dip over the January break, we have accelerated the progress of 6/16 learners (38%).

Writing:

Target Set

Students in Year 5-6 below the Government's National Standards will make accelerated progress towards the National Standard expectations with at least 70% being at or above the Standard by the end of 2015.

Result Achieved/Comment

Target MET – 74% of cohort at or above (Target was 70%)

22% of students across the cohort made accelerated progress in the year. Of those who were below or well below in 2014, 44% have made accelerated progress across the year.

Three students moved from Below to At, one from Well Below to Below and one from At to Above

Mathematics:

Target

Students in Year 5-6 who are below the Government's National Standards will make accelerated progress towards the National Standard expectations with at least 75% being at or above the Standard by the end of 2015.

Results Achieved/Comment

Target MET - 78% at or above (The target was 75%)

Year- 5

5/7 71% at or above.

Year 6

13/16 81% at or above.

Kiwisport

Kiwisport is a Government funding initiative to support students' participation in organised sport. In 2015, the school received total Kiwisport funding of \$1750 (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 \$5714 (including \$3478 for pool usage) to Tapanui School.

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

Additional opportunities offered through the Activator Programme included an Activator Swimming Initiative and West Otago Winter Tournament. A number of students had sessions with Otago Country Cricket 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.

School Charter – 2016

The school charter covers the work of the board. It sets out our goals, aims, directions and priorities for the current year. The 2016 charter has now been accepted by the board and a copy is on the school notice board in the school reception for you to look at.

The Board have considered and discussed the student progress and achievement data from 2014 and 2015. Targets have been set based on identified areas of concern. These have been included in the 2016 Charter. The targets include the following:

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. That would require a shift of 11% during the next 12 months.

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

Modern Learning Environments

We are now one year into our MLE journey. The two collaborative learning hubs are working well. However we are still tuning aspects of how learning is delivered. The introduction of BYOD for the Rimu Hub is going well. The Board will be monitoring the effects of BYOD, especially in relation to student progress and student engagement.

As in 2015 the Board/School will continue with our MLE communication fliers and open days, as a Board we regard this link with our community to be extremely important to the success of our school.

MLE continues to be one of our major focuses for 2016. If at any time you have any queries about where we are heading on our MLE journey please come have a chat, your input and thoughts will help make this journey a success for all students at Tapanui School.

Religion in Life Program – 2016

The board has approved the inclusion of this program in our school during 2016.

The religion in life program focuses on Christian values and while approved by the Ministry of Education for state schools in New Zealand, is overseen by the Christian Education Commission. (Currently this is the only programme available to schools).

The main thrust of the program is to help students make good life choices. Christian beliefs are explored plus the values that are tied in with the Ministry of Education New Zealand School Curriculum are taught and encouraged.

This program occurs in our school for the first ½ hour of each Tuesday morning. Attendance is voluntary, so if you wish to withdraw your child from the program or have any queries please contact our Principal – Antony Criglington.

Property

The windows in Room 2 & 5 have now been replaced. We are waiting on the porches to be completed and some minor electrical work to be finished. It has been a very long journey to get the windows replaced, and it is now wonderful to see students back working in these spaces.

Our next main focus in regards to property is to finalise the plans for Modern Learning Environments. Our biggest challenge is finding funds to make these changes. The ministry does not allocate funding for this so it is up to the Board to find ways to make the changes that we need. The most likely course of action will be to allocated a budget to each financial year and do the renovations in stages (here's hoping the MOE comes up with some more money soon so we can have the Modern Learning spaces that we need).

Board Elections – June 2016

With Board of Trustee elections coming up in June 2016 we would encourage anyone that is interested in becoming a Board Member to come and attend a meeting. We would love to see some new faces, especially as we have 3 vacancies on our Board for the June 2016 elections. More information on the Board Elections will be available soon. Our next Board meeting is scheduled for the 7th April.

Kind regards
Julia Body
Chairperson.