



BOARD ON TOP

Newsletter of the Tapanui School Board of Trustees

Nov 19

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

The Board of Trustees met last week for the 7th meeting of 2019. Below are the key items which were discussed.

Curriculum Report

The Arts (Visual)

The arts learning area comprises four disciplines: dance, drama, music – sound arts, and visual arts. Within each, students develop literacies as they build on skills, knowledge, attitudes, and understandings at each of the eight levels of the curriculum. Through arts practices and the use of traditional and new technologies, students’ artistic ideas are generated and refined through cycles of action and reflection.

General / Observations

There is a much greater diversity to how the Visual Arts is taught, experienced and explored by students than in the past. The Arts can be experienced through a very structured, unit based programme but is equally presented through student led engagement; spontaneous and planned, provocations during play based learning and integrated through different curriculum areas.

Learning in the Visual Arts is observed during Year 5/6 Tinker time including: origami, scrapbooking, bracelets, pillow making, stuffed toys, weaving, sketching, construction. The visual arts are also present during class: crayon and dye, optical illusions, Pepeha’s, Matariki - crayon and dye, koru, collages, tropical birds - pastels, Diorama - Novel Studies, Reading construction.

In Teams 1 and 2 with Play Based Learning - a lot more creativity and risk taking is evident. Children are more prepared to try things out without having their work having to be perfect. With that they can also be quick to throw away materials and be more wasteful.

Team 1 had a strong emphasis on the visual arts within Term 3. They investigated cardboard construction (with their large birds), collage (fish, seed birds), dye work (maui and the fingers of fire), they used a tape resist technique (to create seasonal art relating to our writing). The children had a lesson on chromatography, to see how colours can be split (making our butterflies). Many children stated at the beginning of the year that they wanted to do more art, and over the course of the term they thoroughly enjoyed creating so many different pieces.

What next? Next Steps?

Continue to give positive feedback, build confidence, expose students to a variety of artist's work and types of art while valuing creativity, risk taking and student attempts. Play Based Learning is the perfect vehicle to grow interest and capability in the Visual Arts.

Pomahaka Kāhui Ako - Community of Learning (CoL)

We congratulate Lindy Cavanagh-Monaghan who has been appointed for 2 years from the start of 2020 as the Lead Principal of the CoL. Lindy will take over this role from Antony who has fulfilled this role for the last 2.5 years. What this means for Tapanui School is Antony's time will once again be fully focused on Tapanui School.

A new role within the CoL has been created, beginning in Jan 2020, called a Learning Support Coordinator (LSC). This person will work across all 6 centres in our CoL. *"The purpose of LSC role is to ensure children and young people with disability and additional learning needs have access to the services they need. They will substantively contribute to a collaborative approach that organizes learning support around what best meets the needs of children and young people across a local community. They will help simplify the current learning support system, particularly for the key stakeholders that interact with it, including parents and whanau."*

Property

The Matai project finally started during the last lot of holidays. Things were progressing nicely until the builders discovered what they suspected was asbestos.

Samples were sent away for testing and it was confirmed that cladding on the outside of the building did indeed contain asbestos. Work Safe and the Ministry of Education were informed and the Board have been assured all correct procedures concerning asbestos have been followed. The asbestos will be professionally removed by experts when no other person (staff, students, contractors etc.) will be on site. Asbestos has been present for over 40 years at Tapanui School (since the school was built) and while the building material is intact and not damaged, it does not pose a risk to anyone. It is only due to our new alterations and opening up walls that contain this cladding that it becomes a problem.

We are now waiting for a response from the Ministry of Education as to the next steps, as we now face a very large budget blowout as a result of the asbestos problem. All our contingency money in our Matai project is now gone dealing with this problem. The property upgrade plans we had well underway for Rimu have been cancelled as we now have no more money left in our 5 Year Property Plan. Our next 5 Year Property Plan budget is not released to Tapanui School by the Ministry of Education until 2023! This is hugely disappointing for us all but unfortunately our hands are tied.

Again, we have been assured there is no risk to students, staff etc and the experts are dealing with the asbestos in the appropriate manner.

Assurance and Self-Review / Consultation

The Assurance Committee completed a review of the Financial & Property Procedures under the NAG 4 Policy. Several recommendations were made to management. Also the Education Outside the Classroom Policy was reviewed with minor changes made.

Staffing 2020

It is with regret we received Penny O'Meara's resignation after accepting a new position at Heriot School. We wish Penny all the best in the next phase of her teaching career. Penny will be greatly missed by students, staff and the Tapanui community alike.

Congratulations to Rebekah Stoop who has been offered and accepted a full time permanent position at Tapanui School beginning next year. Most of you will be familiar with Rebekah, who has been a great addition to Team 2 this year. We also welcome Maxine Johnstone in another full time permanent role from Cromwell Primary School having been a teacher for the last 24 years. Maxine joins us with vast experience at various schools including overseas.

Board of Trustee Vacancy

It is with regret that I received Theodore Holtzhousen's resignation from the Board last week. Theo joined the Board in June but now finds himself in a position whereby he and his family are moving out of West Otago due to work commitments. We thank Theo for his short time on the Board.

What this means is we are now looking for two people to join the Board. These people 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.

General

As the usual end of year celebrations gets underway and the weather is causing all kinds of challenges particularly for our farming community, remember to enjoy the good times and celebrate the successes when they come. Enjoy the A & P Show this weekend and good luck to all the children competing in the many different categories.

Kind regards,
Zita Young
Board Chairperson