



BOARD ON TOP

Newsletter of the Tapanui School Board of Trustees

March 6th 2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

The Board of Trustees met last Thursday for the first meeting of 2020. We extend a warm welcome back to our students and staff and welcome any new students and their families to our school. We presently have 91 students on our roll with an estimated peak roll of 105.

The Board welcomes Maxine Johnstone to our staff.

We also welcome Brooke Woolsey to the Board as a parent rep and Rebekah Stoop as staff rep.

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;

Zita Young	Chairperson (Member of all Sub Committee's)
Tracy McHutchon	Deputy Board Chairperson, Property Committee, Maori Liason
Alison Sim	Assurance Committee
Christianne Horrell	Assurance Committee
Brooke Woolsey	Assurance Committee
Paul Roulston	Finance Committee

Our first meeting of the year is about reviewing last year's results (Annual Report) and formalising our goals for the current year (Charter). We are required to forward to the Ministry of Education an Analysis of Variance covering details in respect to our Student Achievement Targets for the 2019 year. The report covers:

- 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 believed made a difference and where to next.
- Kiwisport Report (also below)

Results of Student Achievement Targets for 2019

While we have expectations for *all* our students, specifically, student achievement targets must reflect the government's areas of priority which until the end of 2019 were: Students not working within the curriculum achievement bands in the NZ Curriculum, students with special learning needs, Maori students and Pacifica students.

At the start of 2019 we identified three areas to target, reading, writing and science.

Target #1: Reading:

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

Result:

- Progress: At the start of the year none of our target students were working within the Curriculum Band for their level. Now 76% of target students are functioning within the Curriculum Band level for their year group.
Target has been met
- Enjoyment: It is pleasing to see that teachers are noticing almost 94% engagement of these target students in class around reading activities (up from 18% engaged at the start of the year and 74% engagement at mid year).
Target has been met.

Target #2: Writing:

To stimulate 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.

Result: A reduction from 53% to 20% of students not reaching the target. All children have made progress.

Target has been met

Target #3: Science:

To extend interest and achievement in Science, especially for the 43% already achieving above expectation.

- 63% of children who were working beyond their level at the end of 2018 have consolidated their learning and remain working at the same level at the end of 2019.
- 21% have continued to move and demonstrate a deeper understanding and skill in the different science ideas presented to them, progressing to the next level.

This target was Partially Achieved. Engagement and interest remain high. Achievement consolidated.

Kiwisport

Kiwisport is a Government funding initiative to support students' participation in organised sport. In 2019, the school received total Kiwisport funding of \$1710 (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 \$5375 (including \$3478 for pool usage and swimming lessons) to the School.

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

All students were provided 11 x 45min Activator sessions across the year, plus a day at the Activator Sports Extravaganza in November.

Additional opportunities offered to students included 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 - 2020

The School Charter is our key planning document and is the basis for all board activity. It is an extensive "live" document which sets the vision and strategic direction of the school. It includes an Annual Plan which sets goals in several areas including Curriculum, Property and Finance and Health and Safety. An Action Plan is developed for each goal. Updates are provided to the Board at every meeting .

At our recent meeting the Board approved the 2020 Charter. If you wish to view this document it is available on the Tapanui School website or at the school office.

The Student Achievement Targets for 2020 are as follows:

- **Reading:** To raise achievement and improve engagement of the 17 (52%) students in Year 3 and 4 who are at the lower end of the expected curriculum band, so that they make sufficient progress to enable them to continue to successfully access the curriculum.
- **Writing:** To raise achievement and increase enjoyment in writing for the 24 (28%) of students across the school who are achieving at lower than desirable levels or who are below expectations. *This target includes 39% of our Māori students.*

Other areas of focus identified within NAG 1 and in the 2020 Charter include the following:

- Improve transitions across the school measured at Year 3 and Year 6 in relation to the Kāhui Ako Critical Capabilities Rubric
- Review Play Based / Project Based Learning (PBL) across the school alongside progress in literacy
- Develop and extend the ethos of PBL across the school and document progress
- Review models of teaching reluctant learners in maths with a view to improving outcomes
- To accelerate the progress of students performing below expectations

Pomahaka Kāhui Ako

The change of leadership from Antony Criglington to Lindy Cavanagh-Monaghan has tak. Judith Johnston our new Learning Support Coordinator for the Kāhui Ako has begun her role and has visited all the centres. We look forward to working with her and see what benefits she can bring to our students in need. BMC is her employing Board.

Property

Some of you may have had a sneak peek at the renovations in Matai at the Meet the Teacher night. Several of the students were very keen to have their first walk through the renovated rooms and are really excited about being able to use them soon. We are waiting on the new doors and windows to arrive and do the finishing touches, move the students in and start the process all over again in the remaining room. It is really frustrating to all involved at just how slow this whole process has been and the Board acknowledges both the staff and students patience and resilience in dealing with the renovations. As the saying goes "good things take time!"

Christian Religious Instruction (Launchpad)

The Board has again approved the inclusion of this programme for 2020. LaunchPad is a religious instruction programme, overseen by the Churches Education Commission, for state schools within New Zealand. It provides an opportunity for students to explore Christian beliefs and values through the lens of the Key Competencies and values found in the New Zealand Curriculum.

A Christian Religious Instruction programme has been delivered at Tapanui School for many years and continues to be well received. This program occurs in our school from 9.00 to 9.30am Tuesday mornings. Attendance is voluntary. Supervision is provided for children who are not participating in the programme. If you wish to withdraw your child from the programme or have any other queries please contact the office.

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L)

The school has been invited to continue in Tier 1 of the Positive Behaviour for Learning initiative offered by the Ministry. This comes with \$10k of funding for the second year.

Positive Behaviour for Learning initiatives help parents, whānau, teachers, and schools address problem behaviour, improve children's well-being, and increase educational achievement.

PB4L is a long-term, systemic approach involving ten initiatives. These include whole-school change initiatives, targeted group programmes, and individual student support services.

General

As always, it has been a busy start to Term One. Well done to all students who took part in the West Otago Swimming & Clutha Swim Champs. Athletics Day was another great success and a fantastic one weather wise. Best of luck to those students who qualified to go through to the Eastern Zone Athletics.

Good luck to all the Rimu Hub students and staff that are going on the School Camp to Queenstown in a couple of weeks and a big thank you to the parent helpers that are attending as well. As with several activities run by the school, parent help is vital and the Board really appreciates those parents that give up their valuable time to help all our children.

Enjoy the fine weather while it lasts as those first Autumn chills start to arrive.

The next meeting of the Tapanui School Board of Trustees is to be held on Tuesday March 31st and as usual anyone is most welcome to attend.

Kind regards
Zita Young
Board Chairperson