



BOARD ON TOP

Newsletter of the Tapanui School Board of Trustees

27th September 2019

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

The Board of Trustees met last night for the 6th meeting of 2019. Below are the key items which were discussed.

Mathematics (Statistics) Curriculum Report

Statistics involves identifying problems that can be explored by the use of appropriate data, designing investigations, collecting data, exploring and using patterns and relationships in data, solving problems, and communicating findings. Statistics also involves interpreting statistical information, evaluating data-based arguments, and dealing with uncertainty and variation.

Result:

Across the year groups 90% (84/93) are working within or above the expected level for their time at school.

Learning Activities Report

The Board gets a Learning Activities Report every term based on what learning activities that took place across all three teams and reflections on each strand. Some of the highlights of the term include the following;

- ★ **Learner Quality focus: Actively Involved**
- ★ The Value focus for Term 3 is: **Excellence and Equity**
- ★ The Key Competency focus for Term 3 is: **Relating to Others / Participating and Contributing**
- ★ Three Way Interviews
- ★ Rugby World Cup
- ★ Sport in Term 3
 - Cross Country → South Otago / Otago
 - Sports Activator → three lessons per class each term
 - Quick Rip Rugby option
 - Tony Tourell Golf Tournament
 - Balclutha New World Netball Tournament
- ★ Kapa Haka started ... Yr6 joining BMC
- ★ EiS Technology Challenge
- ★ ODT Current Events Quiz
- ★ PB4L - Positive Behaviour for Learning (MoE Contract) → Praise
- ★ Student Voice on Learning #2
- ★ Keeping Ourselves Safe
- ★ Te Wiki o te Reo Māori

Staffing for 2020

We have received our staffing notice for 2020 from the Ministry of Education. The roll based Staffing Entitlement for 2020 is 5.9 based on a maximum roll of 122. What that means is we will have 5 teachers rather than 6 for about 5-10 fewer students plus the Principal. This is obviously a big change from this year and planning has already begun as to what this will look like for our learners next year.

Pomahaka Kāhui Ako - Community of Learning (CoL)

From Term 4 a separate Governance Group and Leadership Group will operate. The Leadership Group is made up of all the Lead Teachers / Principals. The Governance Group consists of Board representatives, mostly BOT Chairs. The Lead Principal reports to this group in much the same way as a Board. Progress in relation to the goals and current work will be the focus of the Governance Group.

Property

Yet again I feel like a broken record.....we are still no further along with the Matai project. Latest from the builder is the project will start during the holidays and they have guaranteed to be finished by Christmas.....don't hold your breath!

Assurance and Self-Review / Consultation

This term was a very busy time for the assurance community and I would like to thank fellow Board members Alison and Tracy for the many extra hours of work put in this term. A review of the Strategic Planning Policy and also the ICT & Internet Policy was conducted with several recommendations made to management.

Community Consultation Survey Results

A big undertaking for the Board in Term three was the tri-annual Community Consultation Survey. All the information received was reviewed and a report was presented at our meeting last night. I would like to thank all those who took the time to fill in the survey, we listened to your feedback and have made several recommendations to management. Remember if you have any concerns about your child/s learning and well being the door is always open to have those conversations with staff. You do not have to wait for formal interviews to approach your child/s teacher about any issues you may have about your child/ren.

All families were contacted by a member of the Board directly and encouraged to fill in the survey.

54 responses were received. There were 79 families on our roll at the time of the survey. This represents 82 of the 117 students enrolled.

Trends:

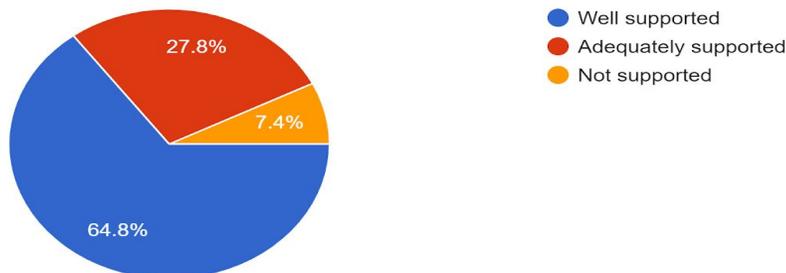
My Child / Reporting

Students enjoy being at school, are encouraged to work to the best of their ability and generally find the work interesting. Parents are confident that the school is meeting their child's learning needs. 90% believe their children enjoy being at school. Of the children represented in this survey, it is believed only

4% do not have their learning needs met.

How well does Tapanui School support your child's social and emotional development?

54 responses



Some parents were concerned over the consistency of the schools management of challenging children and the effect on their children.

The community felt the school was approachable about any issues regarding their child or their learning. The interviews in Terms 1 and 3 were seen as a good way to gain an understanding of children's progress and achievement. Some families would like the interview time to be longer. School reports are well received and provide the information parents want.

Communication

The school community uses a variety of communication tools provided by the school. The most popular were the school newsletter, emails and text alerts.

Curriculum

The community endorsed the four school values and the majority were very happy with the amount of time dedicated to learning, fitness/sport and cultural aspects.

Almost 90% of parents were happy with the progress of their child's learning.

Three quarters of parents have a good understanding of MLE and believe the strategy works well for their children. Parents are enjoying the three Team structure this year.

Tinker Time

A third of respondents did not have a child in Year 5 or 6. A small number of respondents would like to know more about Tinker time, about a third thought it was great and the remainder would like to see some direction given to students on topic choices by teachers as opposed to being student driven.

The School Charter

Overall the responses to the questions in this portion of the survey were positive, especially in regards to the Charter and Key Competencies. A concern is that 2 parents believe that students are "seldom/never" "encouraged or given opportunities to share their ideas effectively" and cannot "confidently use a variety of digital technologies to create and show new learning". What is not clear is which part of the question is being referred to.

Principal & Teachers

A large majority of parents find the principal approachable and helpful. It was heartening to see that 100% of respondents from the survey believe the teachers are helpful and approachable.

School facilities

Most parents/whanau feel Tapanui School has adequate facilities and resources. There was mention made regarding an area being designated specifically just to be a library and not to be used as a classroom, although the Board did note that with imminent building work and six care-groups this was not possible in 2019.

Parent Involvement

50 of the 54 respondents feel that Tapanui School provides enough opportunities for parents to be involved in the school. One parent said there were too many opportunities for parents to be involved, one said there was not enough and two did not know.

School Environment

83% of those surveyed believed that the school environment is tidy and complements students' learning, however 6 responses are concerned that the spaces are "*cluttered*" and "*untidy and not that inviting*".

School Reputation

Only 9 responses out of 54 answered this question. The majority who completed the survey believe Tapanui School has a good reputation with 33% (3 responses) unsure, and only 11% (1 response) stating no. One comment regarding what aspects are in question is as follows: "*I think there is still a lot of misunderstanding and misinformation about the MLE and what is actually going on in classrooms. Bullying also seems to be seen as an issue*". These two aspects are an overall theme in comments to questions asked of parents and whanau.

Pomahaka Kāhui Ako (Community of Learning)

70% of parents know that Tapanui School is a member of a Community of Learning. Some people were unsure of what this meant for the school whilst others recognised a "*closer connection with other schools eg: Matariki Celebrations*".

One Big Improvement.....

Parents voiced a review and upgrade of playgrounds, especially the junior playground. Other suggestions were the inclusion of a bike track and confidence course. While the Board accepts the two playgrounds as areas for development, these are both areas for which there is no funding. To advance this the Board would rely on locally raised funds, using limited reserves or a lease to own scheme.

Conclusion

The Board has reviewed all your feedback in response to the questions in our community survey. Some responses had nothing to do with the question being asked. If you are unsure or concerned about any part of your child's learning or well being, talk to their teacher. Tapanui School has always had an open door policy and parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education. We have made several recommendations to management based on all your feedback and will be following up to ensure these recommendations are actioned.

Board of Trustee Vacancy

With a recent resignation a casual vacancy has occurred on the board of trustees for an elected parent representative.

The board has resolved under section 105 of the Education Act 1989 to fill the vacancy by selection. If ten percent or more of eligible voters on the school roll ask the board, within 28 days of this notice being published in a local newspaper, to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy, then a by-election will be held.

Any eligible voter who wishes to ask the board to hold a by-election should write by 29/10/2019 to:

Zita Young, Chairperson

Board of Trustees

Tapanui School

Sussex Street,

Tapanui, 9522.

General

Well done to the Student Council who raised \$602 for Ribbonwood Home in their recent Bake Sale. Thank you to all the Mum's, Dad's, grandparents, kids etc. who did some yummy baking. It was an awesome effort and could not have happened without your support.

The next meeting of the Tapanui School Board of Trustees is to be held on the 12th of November and as usual anyone is most welcome to attend.

Enjoy the Rugby World Cup; go the All Blacks (and the Irish!). I do have a foot in both camps!

Kind regards,

Zita Young

Board Chairperson