



## BOARD ON TOP

### Newsletter of the Tapanui School Board of Trustees

1st March 2019

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

The Board of Trustees met last Thursday for the first meeting of 2019. 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 111 students on our roll with an estimated peak roll of 120-123.

The Board welcomes new staff members Tamie Fiveash, Heather McNaughton and Rebekah Stoop.

We will also be saying goodbye to Abbie Gibson at the end of Term 1 after her recent resignation and wish her all the best of luck in her next adventure. We have advertised a fixed term, full time position for three terms and hope to fill this position promptly.

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 2018 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 2018**

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 2018 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 2018 we identified two areas to target, one in oral language and one in reading.

While all students in the target groups made progress only one of the targets was met. Achievement was measured using NZ Curriculum Levels.

**Target #1** : Achievement, engagement and motivation will be enhanced through increased oral language opportunities. Students across all year groups will find success in literacy through intensive focus on developing oral language skills. At least 90% of students will be working within or above the appropriate curriculum level across both literacy strands (receiving and transmitting) by the end of 2018. **Result**: *Student achievement was lifted from 71% to 80%. Our aspirational goal of getting to 90% was not met.*

**Target #2** : To increase the engagement, enjoyment and motivation of all boys with reading. Using the Learning Progressions Framework we aim to lift progress from 65% at or above (using the Government's National Standards) to at least 85% within or beyond the appropriate curriculum level. **Result**: *The target was met by raising achievement from 65% (National Standards) to 85% (NZ Curriculum Levels) by achieving 91%.*

As well as the above two targets we track **all** students achievements. The following is the 2018 Overall Student Achievement Results for the entire school.

Reading - 94% are within or above the appropriate bands - up from 79% in 2017.

Writing - 94% are within or above the appropriate bands - up from 83% in 2017.

Mathematics - 94% are within or above the appropriate bands - up from 87% in 2017.

Oral Language - 95% are within or above the appropriate bands - pleasing given the work in this area.

Science - 97% are within or above the appropriate bands.

In summary, most students at Tapanui School are achieving very well inside the Curriculum Achievement bands in the NZ Curriculum.

### **Kiwisport**

Kiwisport is a Government funding initiative to support students' participation in organised sport. In 2018, the school received total Kiwisport funding of \$1858 (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 \$5118 (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.

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 - 2018**

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 2019 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 2019 are as follows:

- **Reading - All students**
  - To advance progress and enjoyment of reading by improving reading engagement at school as well as at home by providing influence and positive encouragement
- **Writing - Year 4 Students**
  - To raise progress and achievement in writing for our Year 4 students where 52% are achieving at lower than desirable levels.
- **Science - All students**
  - To extend interest and achievement in Science especially for those already achieving above expectation.

### **Pomahaka Kāhui Ako**

The first Teacher Only Day for the Kāhui Ako is taking place on Friday 22nd March. All teachers and leaders across the 6 learning centres will be having professional development all together focusing on "Using Technology Better". A second day is planned for Monday 20th May.

## **ERO**

The Education Review Office has confirmed their visit from 18 - 20 March (essentially an audit on the school). The last ERO review was in June 2015 and the previous one in February 2012.

## **Property**

I can finally confirm that the Board approved the tender of Jones & Cooper Builders to complete Phase 1 & 2 of our building upgrade to the Matai Block. Indications are that work in Matai will take 15-16 weeks and will hopefully commence in the next couple of months. The property committee will now turn its attention to the best use of the remaining 5YA funds in the Rimu Block.

## **Christian Religious Education Programme (CRE)**

The Board has again approved the inclusion of this programme for 2019. CRE is a religious education programme, overseen by the Churches Education Commission, for state schools within New Zealand. The program is called Life Choices. 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.

The CRE curriculum 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 our Principal - Antony Criglington.

## **Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L)**

Our school has been invited and has accepted the Positive Behaviour for Learning initiative offered by the Ministry to 6 schools in Otago. This comes with \$10k of funding for the first year. If you have a child that child attends Blue Mountain College you may be familiar with this programme.

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.

## **Board of Trustees Election**

In June we will have three Parent trustees roles to fill and therefore an election. Parent trustees are an integral part of the Board. It is a big ask to expect parents, with little knowledge of education, to volunteer to oversee the governance of a school. However it is a great learning experience, with governance training provided and can be extremely rewarding.

The role is interesting, you will understand the education system a lot better and I encourage you to get involved. Please contact any current member of the Board if you would like any further information.

## **General**

As always, it has been a busy start to Term One. The Year 4, 5 & 6 camp at Camp Columba was a fantastic start to the school year and sounds like the children were physically challenged to move outside their comfort zones with great success. A huge thank you to Penny, Leean and Rebekah, supported by Teressa and all the parents helpers who went. 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, thank you!

Well done to all students who took part in the West Otago Swimming & Athletics Days and best of luck to those students who qualified to go through to the Eastern Zone Athletics and Clutha Swim Champs. 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 2nd of April and as usual anyone is most welcome to attend.

Kind regards

Zita Young

Board Chairperson