



## **BOARD ON TOP**

### **Newsletter of the Tapanui School Board of Trustees**

5th April 2019

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Your Board met on Tuesday for the second meeting of the year to review the progress of the school for Term 1 and to plan for the remaining school year.

#### **Property**

The Innovative Learning Environment (ILE) building project for the Matai Block has been sent to the Clutha District Council for consent. Once consent is received the builder can start work. The project is estimated to take about 15-16 weeks.

#### **Pomahaka Kāhui Ako (Community of Learning)**

The Kāhui Ako gathering on Friday 22 March was a resounding success with positive feedback across all the member centres in the CoL. The day started with a keynote from the UTB Team outlining how digital technologies can be used across the curriculum. Teachers were able to choose from three practical hands on workshops which ran for about 90 minutes each.

The next day for the whole Kāhui Ako is coming up in Term 2 on Monday 20th May. This will be a teacher only day. This day focuses on the CoL's Achievement Challenge #1 - Oral Language and Strengthening Transition.

#### **ERO**

The Education Review Office visited the school from 18th - 20th March conducting an audit on the school. This was a busy time for the staff and Board. As a school we have achieved a lot over the last three years (2015 was their last visit) and our staff do an amazing job constantly looking for ways in which they can improve learning for each of our students. There is consistency across learning, engagement, wellbeing and clear examples of improvement over time. ERO's preliminary feedback was very positive and we look forward to receiving their report in the next few weeks.

#### **Charter Update**

ERO highlighted a change that we might make to strengthen our Student Achievement Targets. Based on their feedback we adjusted our targets for 2019 to read as follows.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### Science:

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

## **Staffing**

Our teaching staff will change at the beginning of Term 2. Abbie Gibson leaves for the Waikato and we wish Abbie all the very best for her future. At this stage we have not been able to employ a replacement teacher, but rest assured it is not from the lack of trying!

## **Board of Trustees Election**

June 7th has been set as our election date as we will have three Parent trustees roles to fill. Parent trustees are an integral part of the Board.

*"The Board's job is to see that everything that needs to be done gets done - legally, ethically, and as well as possible in the best interests of its students.*

*It is also the employer of all staff, including the principal, and sets the overall strategic direction for the school or kura. The principal is the board's 'chief executive' and manages the school or kura in line with the board's direction and policies."*

The role is a great learning experience and interesting, you will understand the education system a lot better and I encourage you to get involved. Governance training is provided and the role can be extremely rewarding. We need representation across all sections of West Otago with a good male and female ratio, farmers, townies, etc so we can hear as many voices and diverse opinions as possible. Please contact myself or any current member of the Board if you would like any further information.

## **General**

Some excellent results in and around sports this last month with many qualifying in Swimming for Otago or Southland and also in the Triathlon for the Otago event. The recent Swimming Carnival was a great opportunity to see the improvements made by all children at different levels and was a great opportunity to celebrate their growth in ability and confidence.

Successful Three Way Interviews were held in mid-March with about a 90% attendance.

The next meeting of the Tapanui School Board of Trustees is to be held on May 23rd at 5.30pm and as usual anyone is most welcome to attend.

Have a great Easter, enjoy the break and we look forward to seeing you in Term Two.

Kind regards,  
Zita Young  
Board Chairperson