

# **BOARD ON TOP**

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

07 July 2017

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

The Board met at the beginning of the week. It is hard to believe it is the end of Term Two already and half way through 2017! This meeting is always a busy one as we review the Annual Plan and the 2017 Student Achievement Targets amongst several other items on the agenda. Below are the key items which were discussed.

### **Student Achievement Targets - Mid Year Progress Report**

At the beginning of the school year achievement targets are set based on areas of particular concern. While we are required to report on these targets, it is important to note that as a Board we are interested in the results of all student achievement, not just the target groups. The following targets were included in the 2017 Charter:

- Reading - Students after 2 years and after 3 years at school who are currently below the Government's National Standards in Reading (60%) will make *at least* accelerated progress or *at best, be meeting or exceeding* the Government's National Standards' expectations by the end of 2017.
- Writing - Students in Year 4 and 5 who are currently below or well-below the Government's National Standards (34%) will make *at least* accelerated progress or *at best be at or above* the Government's National Standards' expectations by the end of 2017.

*Note: "Accelerated progress" = more than a year's progress in 12 months ie. Closing the gap*

A progress report on these targets was presented to the board at our last meeting. It is pleasing to see that a number of students are making accelerated progress, particularly in reading.

### Key Findings -

- Reading - An overall shift from 33% at or above the national standard to 56% at or above.
- Writing - An overall shift from 66% at or above the national standard to 67% at or above.

Reading and Writing continue to be a key focus for staff and many avenues of resources and professional learning have been, and will continue to be, explored. Progress around these targets will continue to be monitored throughout the remaining two terms.

### **Curriculum Report - Literacy (Oral Language)**

A very positive report on Literacy - Oral Language was delivered to the Board. Oral Language is the ability to communicate by speaking and listening. It is as fundamental to any society as it is to learning. It is well understood and established that oral language underpins written language. It is vital for children to listen and speak in order to develop a grasp of language and how it is constructed. To acquire literacy successfully is intensely complex. Through engagement in literacy activities, children must: Learn the code, make meaning and think critically.

#### Key Findings -

- 88% of children are achieving within or beyond the required curriculum level for their time at school.
- At least half of those in the who are working towards the required curriculum level are either new to the school or are not yet 6 years old. Oral Language, like reading and writing, develops over time through interaction and exposure to new concepts, people or places.

### **Property**

Earlier in the term a Playground Audit was carried out by an independent company. The purpose of the report was to highlight any issues in regards to maintenance or health and safety. The playground is very dated and there were some concerns raised about some equipment. Problems which were highlighted as of high concern were dealt with immediately. The Board discussed our options going forward in regards to maintaining and updating the existing infrastructure. Maintenance checks are carried out regularly and we will continue to monitor the safety of all playground equipment.

The Ministry of Education funded project involving improving the concrete surfaces around the school is nearing completion with the exception of the automatic doors which will be installed sometime in the near future

### **Assurance and Self Review**

As part of our review process, student voice is collected by surveying children selected randomly from the school roll. They are asked a series of questions about their learning, the school environment and any concerns they may have at school. It was reassuring to know that in general children feel safe at school, understand what and why they are learning and they feel the teachers treat everyone fairly. Students enjoy the ability to focus on areas of interest during the likes of Quest and P Lay Based Learning. Any concerns raised by students have been noted and will be followed up by management.

### **Kahui Ako Update**

As you will be aware from a previous school newsletter, the Kahui Ako (Community of Learning) has moved into the next phase after appointing a leader. Tapanui School principal Antony Criglington has been appointed to lead the Kahui Ako through the next phase of setting achievement challenges for the community of schools and Early Learning Centre. The Board are confident Antony will continue to lead Tapanui School as efficiently as he has in the past, with the assistance of Jill Craw when he is working in his role as the Kahui Ako leader. On behalf of the Board I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Antony on his appointment.

### **BOT Elections**

A Board of Trustees Election will be held in November. Three parent trustees will be at the end of their three year term and at this stage only one will be standing for re-election. The role as a BOT member is interesting, challenging and incredibly rewarding. If you have any interest in becoming a school trustee, feel free to talk to myself, Antony or any other current trustee. Our current parent representatives are Alena Stuart, Zita Young, Julia Body, Charmaine Blair, Will Byars and Cliff Brensell.

### **Next meeting**

The Board will meet again in Term Three on the 17th of August in the Blue Room at 5.30pm. Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings.

Finally, a huge thank you to all the staff at Tapanui School for all your hard work over the past term. It has been another busy term and we appreciate all the effort you put into making Tapanui School such a great place for children to learn and grow.

Kind regards  
Alena Stuart  
Board Chairperson