

BOARD ON TOP
Newsletter of the Tapanui School Board of Trustees

22 September 2017

Dear Parents/Caregivers

The Board of Trustees met on Wednesday for our second meeting of Term Three. Our agenda included discussion around the upcoming Board of Trustees Election, progress on the Annual Plan and the Technology Curriculum report.

Curriculum Report - Technology

Another positive Curriculum Report was tabled at the recent Board meeting. The Board reviews all areas of the Curriculum over a three year period. This report was focused on Technology. People often think of technology only in relation to digital technologies, however its definition is much broader. Technology is about the process of designing and developing products or systems to meet the ever-changing needs of society. Adaptation and innovation are at the heart of technology. It's about creating or realising opportunities to be innovative. The key technological areas are:

- Structures
- Food
- Control
- Biotechnology
- Information and Communication

Students learn practical skills as they develop and adapt models, products and systems that are innovative and enterprising. They learn how technologies are valued as well as how and why they've changed over time.

Play Based Learning, Quest, Inquiry and Topic Based learning all present opportunities for the exploration of the Technology curriculum and are influential in the positive result.

Key findings -

- 85% of the students are working at or above expectations for their time at school.
- By Year 5/6 student capability increases with 22% of these students working beyond expectations.
- By the time students reach Rimu Hub their grounding in the Technology Curriculum is very sound with 92% at or above expectation in Year 4-6.
- This is a positive result showing that students at Tapanui enjoy participating in technology and generally achieve at or above expectations assisted and facilitated by a very passionate, capable and willing staff.

Board of Trustees Election

A Board of Trustees Election will be held on December 1st 2017 with nominations closing on November 17th. Three parent trustees will be at the end of their three year term and two have indicated that they will not be standing for re-election. Therefore, we will be looking for at least two new Parent Trustees to join the Board. Please consider putting your name forward. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Annual Plan Progress

The Annual Plan is included in the School Charter which is our key planning document and the basis for all board activity. It is an extensive document which sets the vision and strategic direction of the school. The Annual Plan sets goals in several areas including Curriculum, Property and Finance and Health and Safety. An Action Plan is developed for each goal. Each term the Board reviews progress made on the Annual Plan. It is pleasing to see that progress is being made on all of the goals set and the school is well resourced in order to help achieve these goals.

Confirmed Staffing for 2018

The Board has received notice from the Ministry of Education that, based on the current roll, the school will begin 2018 with six teachers. We are incredibly relieved that we will be heading into next year with two hubs which are staffed with good student:teacher ratios.

Consultation with Whanau

As part of our annual consultation plan, the Board has committed to consulting with our Maori community at least once a year. A Hui was held last month and the following recommendations were made by whānau and those who attended:

- Marae visit for the whole school every 3 years – next one in 2018
- Hangi every 3 years including a Noho for Year 6 students – next one in 2020
- Rimu Hub participate in the Cultural Festival every EVEN year
- Greater involvement by and with whanau working with students learning skills such as weaving, poi, mau Rakau, haka, Waiata, story telling etc
- Continue reporting on Māori student achievement as we have been
- Plan to complete the smaller Tukutuku panels into framed boxes

General

Each term the Staff write a detailed learning activities report for the Board. The past term has been jam packed full of learning and other opportunities for students to challenge themselves including sports, technology challenges and extension programmes to name just a few. As well as this staff have organised two opportunities for parents to be involved in their students learning through the Maths Forum and the Technology Evening. Thank you to the staff for their continuing hard work!

It is hard to believe Term Four will soon be upon us. Enjoy spending time with your children over the school holidays and we will see you all back again next term. The Board meets again on November 7th 2017, followed by our final meeting of the year in early-December.

Kind regards,
Alena Stuart
Board Chairperson