



BOARD ON TOP

Newsletter of the Tapanui School Board of Trustees

April 24th 2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

A first for the Board of Trustees meeting last week online on Google Meet. It worked really well and dare I say it nice to have a bit of normality and have a meeting!! These indeed are very strange times and just about anything goes as long as it all happens within your bubble of course!

From a governance point of view, which is the Board's job, it was business as usual up until lockdown. Things were happening very quickly in the lead up to lockdown and Mr. C and I were pretty much on speed dial to each other as everything was evolving. Whilst postponing the Queenstown Camp was disappointing for the students and staff it was absolutely the right decision and will make it all the more enjoyable when it happens later on in the year. Thank you for your cooperation with our school during these challenging times as we figure out the best way forward together. Our staff have been amazing and I would like to congratulate them all for rising to the challenge and embracing distance learning and connecting with your children in a completely new way of learning. Also do not stress if on-line learning is not working so well for your child/ren. They will learn more from your actions and being in a happy, stress free environment just being kids, playing, baking, helping in the garden, making poppies etc!

Pomahaka Kāhui Ako (Community of Learning)

Unfortunately not much happened with the CoL since my last newsletter. A meeting of the Leadership, Governance and Learning Support meetings have been postponed until after lockdown.

Annual Plan

The Annual Plan section of the Charter has been reviewed after the first quarter. We have made a positive start in relation to two of the three student targets and the curriculum priorities we identified at the start of the year.

Learning Activities Report

This report is one of my favourite ones as teachers provide a comprehensive overview of the learning that is taking place across the school including the how and why these learning activities take place. Some of the highlights for Term 1 were:

- **Learner Quality** focus: **Confident**
- The Value focus for Term 1: **Excellence and Equity** (Students reminded of all our Values)
- The Key Competency focus for Term 1: **Managing Self**
- Waitangi Day
- Sport has a significant emphasis every year in Term 1
 - Swimming → West Otago, Clutha ... *Otago and Southland events cancelled*
 - Swimming Lessons (funded by MLT, delivered by REAP)
 - Swimming Carnival in Week 9 ... *cancelled*
 - Athletics → West Otago, Eastern ... *Southland event in Term 4*
 - Triathlon → West Otago, South Otago ... *Otago event cancelled*
 - Sports Activator → three lessons per class each term

- Launchpad started in March (Week 7)
- PB4L - Positive Behaviour for Learning
- Student Council formed
- House Leaders elected

Property

Yet again the universe has conspired against us and what seems like the longest building project ever continues to be even longer! Nothing has happened in the Matai space since my last newsletter. We are still waiting on the external windows and doors.

We did however have some good news from the MoE. We have received a one off SIP (School Investment Package) of \$81,774 to help with any property project. The Board has decided to put this funding towards finishing the corridor in Matai (painting, carpet tiles, etc.) and doing an ILE upgrade to the " the Watering Hole" (old R5, nearest the road) in the Rimu Block. We plan to lower the ceiling, install a new bench, sinks and wet space, carpet tiles, breakout space, and removal of a cupboard. Basically replicate what was done in the room closest to the road in Matai. This is in the very early planning stages so watch this space!

BYOD

Bring your own device is an option for students in Year 4-5-6. Tapanui School supports a Chromebook.

Support for our optional BYOD has dropped again this year from over two thirds of students in Year 4-6 with their own device to less than half. The remaining students share school devices at a ratio of 1:2.

General

Life before lockdown and after lockdown I think might become a common phrase for a while at least. For Tapanui School it was a very busy term until this change and once we get back to normal it will no doubt be busy again. In the meantime take care of one another and be kind, we are all in this together!

Kind regards,
Zita Young
Board Chairperson