

# **BOARD ON TOP**

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

17 August 2017

Dear Parents/Caregivers

The Board of Trustees met recently for our first meeting of Term Three. We would like to bring the following to your attention:

### **Curriculum Report: Mathematics (Number and Algebra)**

A very pleasing report on Mathematics (Number and Algebra) was delivered to the Board. Number and Algebra are a strand of learning which are taught under the wider umbrella known as Mathematics. Number involves calculating and estimating, using appropriate mental, written, or machine calculation methods in flexible ways. It also involves knowing when it is appropriate to use estimation and being able to discern whether results are reasonable. Algebra involves generalising and representing the patterns and relationships found in numbers, shapes, and measures.

#### Key Findings -

- Across the year groups, 84% are working within or beyond expectations.
- It has been found that teaching children a range of strategies allows them to find at least one strategy to find success.
- Maths is taught for understanding and there is a focus on making sure it is fun in order for children to engage eg. cooking, baking, telling the time (fractions). Play Based Learning provides opportunities to integrate maths into a child's choice of activity and play where they are engaged and interested.

### **Property**

A discussion was held in regards to the changes we hope to make to the two learning hubs in the future. This has been a very long process and progress has been limited due to lack of funding. Staff have been working hard to make changes to our current plans which are achievable within our current budget. The next step is to have plans redrawn and a quantity surveyor to provide costings so we can hopefully begin the project in the near future.

We have recently purchased some mobile shelving in which to store resources in a compact space. The Board would like to pass on our thanks to Mainfreight who shipped the shelving at a discounted rate to Dunedin, and West Otago Transport who transported it from Dunedin to Tapanui at no cost to the school. Their generosity is very much appreciated.

### **Self Review - Board of Trustees Procedures**

Members of the Board have recently participated in a self review survey which is organised by the New Zealand School Trustees Association. The survey gave the Board the opportunity to reflect on our strengths and weaknesses in terms of the governance of Tapanui School. It was pleasing to see that as a whole, members of the board have a good understanding of our role as Trustees. It has highlighted for us areas where we need further development in order to govern the school as effectively as possible. We will continue to work together to achieve our main priority of raising student achievement at Tapanui School.

### **Hui - Consultation with Whanau**

A Hui will be held on August 23 at 7.30pm in Kikorangi. Consultation with Whānau is an annual occurrence which is designed to hear the voice of whānau and local Iwi about Te Aō Māori and priorities for student learning. I would urge anyone interested to attend and have an opportunity to be involved.

**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 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. 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.

**General**

The Board will meet again at the end of Term Three on the 20th of September in the Blue Room at 5.30pm. Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings. Here's hoping the weather remains settled for those of you in the depths of calving or heading into the lambing season.

Kind regards,  
Alena Stuart  
Chairperson