

Titahi Bay School Board of Trustees Newsletter Term 1, 2017

We've had a great start to the year with parent-teacher meetings completed and the school's 9th annual triathlon done and dusted already! This is going to be another busy year for our school and we're looking forward to making it a great one.

Kindness

We saw some significant academic affects from our Ngahere children using the Maths Whizz programme last year. The cost of this programme is now \$40 per child. The Board has reshuffled the budget to subsidise \$30 per child of the cost of this programme as we feel that it has proven to be such an effective teaching and learning tool. This leaves a remaining \$10 contribution from the families of Y4-Y6 children. For our school fees, we've consciously kept these unchanged for years now and comparatively we ask for a very humble donation. Kindness is very much a part of our community and we are so thankful to you for paying school fees, Maths Whizz and school trip costs, and particularly to those who pay a little extra. We sincerely appreciate any and all contributions.

Unity

Engaging with our community was so evident at our KURA on the Green evening so we have happily decided to make this a regular event! We'll be running the next one in Term 1 2018 and will give you a date to add to your diaries as we get further into this year.

Our current Board consists of the following trustees, who each bring specific expertise and skills to the table:

Sarah Campbell (Chair, Policy, Home and School)
Gaby Wesley-Smith (Finance, Home and School)
Scott Hemsley (Property)
Ria Tomoana (Maori)
Lynette Renouf (Pasifika)
Sharon Thompson (Staff representative)
Kerry Delaney (Principal)

With the recent triathlon training period and increased use of the bike track, we're seeing a significant increase in our children's fitness levels. We're so proud to see so many tamariki pedalling, running, climbing and jumping and the school seems to hum with activity and play. To grow on this, we can't wait to use the Garden to Table Programme to incorporate our cooking room into our school curriculum, and we've already had plenty of cooking room use as a teaching and learning facility. We will have Love Food, Hate Waste and Healthy Schools working with our tamariki in the cooking room in Term 2.

Respect

School attendance continues to be a primary focus for us and we thank you for taking this as seriously as we do. We cannot stress the importance of this enough and look forward to continuing 2017 with this front of mind.

The annual triathlon is our school's primary fundraiser and is a huge event. We're so thankful to all who contribute to this wonderful event, even if it is in the smallest way. This event is simply not possible without huge community collaboration and effort. We know you'll agree that the Home and School group do a phenomenal job every year.

Achieve

We are currently undertaking a review of our strategic plan. This part of our governance is effectively an outline where we set the school's direction and destination for the next 3-5 years, and our very capable management team then navigate to this. We will share this with you as we progress further.

We're excited to have signed off the Rooms 12/13 Refurbishment Property Plan and this project now sits with the Ministry of Education for the next phase. This will consume the remainder of our 5-Year-Property-Planning/Maintenance funds, and we now enter into our next 5-year property budget.

The National Standards data at the end of 2016 submitted to the Ministry of Education shows that our school performed better in reading, writing and mathematics than the average Wellington region school and also nationwide, and that the amount of children who aren't yet meeting the standard is far less than in both the Wellington region and nationwide. Although we will always maintain that positive change and goal-achievement in our school is bigger and far more complex than national standards data, we do still consider it is a useful yardstick. Each year we see a small but steady increase in our end of year results, something that is entirely the result of our very effective teachers and the targeted programmes that we choose to fund and operate in support of teaching to children's individual and specific learning gaps and potential. We are so very proud of the focus and work that the school management and teaching team continue to tirelessly put into their targeted teaching and to evolving their teaching approach.

Have a safe and happy Easter break everyone and we look forward to seeing you return refreshed in May.

Titahi Bay School Board of Trustees

Sarah Campbell, Ria Crawford, Kerry Delaney, Scott Hemsley, Lynette Renouf, Sharon Thompson, Gaby Wesley-Smith