

TITAHI BAY SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER – TERM 1, 2015

Welcome back! We've had a very busy start to 2015 and are already well into Term 1.

We thought we'd take this opportunity to re-introduce ourselves as we have had many new families join our school since the last Titahi Bay School Board elections.

Our current Board is made up of eight community members: Shelley Cheyne (Chair), Sarah Campbell (Home and School Committee, Policy), Terry Crawford (Whanau Group), Barbara Edmonds (Pasifika Group), Scott Hemsley (Property), Carl Jones (Property), Sharon Thompson (Staff Elected Representative), and Gaby Wesley-Smith (Finance).

The Board of Trustees is the governing body of the school and is responsible for the overall direction and supervision of Titahi Bay School. A major focus of the Board is the strategic direction of the school, with an emphasis on sustaining and improving student achievement.

The Board of Trustees also ensure that:

- goals, plans and budgets are approved and reviewed
- student achievement and outcomes are constantly monitored and reported
- all students are able to achieve their personal best
- there is compliance with laws that affect the school
- significant risks are identified, eliminated or reduced
- proper accounting and auditing practices are in place
- annual reports and financial statements are prepared
- general maintenance of the school is carried out
- management is carried out in a professional and competent manner

As well as our regular newsletters, you can also check the BoT section of the school's website for information relating to governance at our school.

One of the Board's key focuses for 2015 is to continue to develop and target achievement levels of our Maori and Pacific Island children. In order to do this we need a plan/strategy to help get us there. Over the last 12 months, members from our Whanau and Pasifika group have put their hand up to help develop and draft these strategies. We were so pleased to hear at our first Board meeting this year that the first version of both these strategies has been drafted.

The two strategies are currently going through a consultation phase beginning with our Whanau and Pasifika groups, before being presented to the Board, staff and our wider KURA community. Our KURA kids will also have a chance to be a part of this process. We would like to thank all those who have contributed so far and we look forward to seeing these documents come to life.

Our Education Review Office (ERO) report was confirmed last month and so we thought we'd share some of the report to give a taste of ERO's overall tone.

"Students are eager to participate in their learning and the opportunities provided for positive play. The tone is inclusive and welcoming. Parents, whānau and the community are respected and valued partners in school activities and decision-making."

"Leaders and teachers track the progress of individuals and groups over time. This data is collated to inform reporting to trustees and to consider future priorities. Student achievement information during 2014 indicates that most students are making appropriate progress and many make accelerated progress. There is evidence that the existing gap in the achievement between ethnic groups is closing."

"The board is experienced and committed to governing well. It supports resourcing of programmes and initiatives to promote improved student outcomes. Co-opted members provide additional specialised expertise. Trustees access relevant training to build understanding of their role."

"Home-and-school relationships for learning for learning have been established to accelerate the progress and achievement of students in Years 1, 2 and 3. Parents and whānau are supported with tools and knowledge to foster the development of their children's skills. Many students have made significant progress as a result of these partnerships."

"Positive behaviours are consistently being modelled and reinforced across the school. Diversity is valued and celebrated. Opportunities are provided for students to lead activities. Students develop a sense of connection and belonging that contributes to wellbeing."

We're so proud of this report particularly as it acknowledges how the teachers, Board, school management and leaders, and our community all contribute to the success of Titahi Bay School.

We seem to always be busy with property improvements and once again this year is looking to be no different. Our property improvement projects will include the refurbishment of the south block and the construction of a cooking room and bathroom facilities attached to the school hall.

A few things to consider in the coming months:

- The teachers are looking forward to catching up with you this Monday and Tuesday (9th and 10th March) to discuss how your child has settled in and how you can work together to support them throughout the year. We know from previous years that this is an excellent opportunity to build on and maximise your relationship with your child's teacher for 2015.
- School attendance is very closely linked to student achievement. Even just being 5 minutes late to school can affect a child's approach to learning that day. Please allow time for your child to unpack their bag, stand their bike or scooter, and settle in their classroom each morning.
- Don't forget to get down to the beach this Saturday 14 March (postponement date Saturday 28 March) to support our kids in our school's primary fundraiser. This year we're fundraising for the cooking room to be attached to the school hall. If you haven't already, please think about how you might be able to help out as the success of this day depends on your help and support. Please contact the Home and School Committee (homeschool@titahibay.school.nz) if you can volunteer for this event.

We look forward to seeing you on the beach on Saturday!

Titahi Bay School Board of Trustees

Shelley Cheyne, Sarah Campbell, Terry Crawford, Barbara Edmonds, Scott Hemsley, Carl Jones, Sharon Thompson, Gaby Wesley-Smith