

Titahi Bay School Board of Trustees Newsletter

Term 3, 2016

So much has happened since our last newsletter and typically, we also have many exciting things in the pipeline to share.

Unity:

Newly Elected Board of Trustees: Earlier in the year you voted to elect the school's current Board of Trustees. We are fortunate to have a mixture of new, single-term and long-standing trustees, so have been able to maintain continuity and momentum whilst enjoying the fresh perspective that come with change. We feel very privileged to be elected as trustees and we thank all of you who took the opportunity to vote.

This feels like a timely opportunity to re-introduce ourselves and provide you with a brief refresher on our school's governance.

Our current Board is made up of seven community members and representatives: Sarah Campbell (Chair, Home & School, Policy), Kerry Delaney (Principal), Scott Hemsley (Property), Lynette Renouf (Pasifika Strategy), Sharon Thompson (Staff Elected Representative), Ria Tomoana (Maori Strategy), and Gaby Wesley-Smith (Finance). Lynn Lang is our Board Secretary.

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.

Respect:

Former Trustees: Of course, we can't forget that we are lucky enough to build on the foundations laid by our former Trustees. Shelley Cheyne – a relentlessly positive leader, Carl Jones – a go-to for all things property and a lifetime TBS cheerleader, Barbara Edmonds – a true can-do woman with a keen intellect, and Terry Crawford – the mighty and calm distributor of sage advice and anecdotes. Thank you for your time, your support, your advice, and your perspectives.

Kotahitanga o Tuauru o Porirua: Earlier this month performances from the Western Porirua Cluster Schools were welcomed and hosted by Titahi Bay Intermediate. We're so proud of the strong group of years 5 and 6 children who represented our school and we encourage you to watch their performance once it has been put on our website.

Aspire to Achieve:

Mid Year Data: Raising student achievement is always a core focus, particularly so in the last 6 months, and we're seeing some significant progress being made here. To gauge student academic achievement, each child's progress is considered and judged against standards set by the Ministry of Education (National Standards). Our school's teaching teams work hard on these judgements, moderating them with other teachers, and we are confident that the judgements made are fair and accurate. Our mid-year math, reading and writing data has been very positive with the whole school figures in all three categories measuring above the national average data.

As always, our teachers have been working tirelessly driving the learning-momentum of our tamariki so they can achieve these results. We thank them for their commitment and perseverance here. You can find more detailed information about this, the school's acceleration programmes and targeted teaching in the BoT section of our school website. Thank you Jamie Merrick for compiling this for us.

Parent/Teacher Meetings: We'd like to thank you for taking the time to come down and discuss your child's achievements and learning goals as these moments can significantly impact your child's engagement and learning. The school had a massive 97% turnout and we'd like to acknowledge our staff for the huge amount of work that goes into each child's report and parent meeting.

School Attendance: We've received a very positive response to our recent emphasis on school attendance. We cannot stress the importance of this issue enough and will continue the year with this front of mind.

School Property Update: We're getting there! The kitchen and toilet block addition to the hall has been bustling with builders and tradespeople lately, which always provides the children with ample writing topic ideas. We're also making plans to undertake the gradual upgrade of the south block and will keep you updated as we progress here.

Kindness:

Thank you: School halls are typically very busy places and with the addition of school show rehearsals things could have gotten more than a little complicated, especially considering the hall is currently out-of-service. We'd like to extend a huge thank you to the Titahi Bay Baptist Church next door for generously lending us the use of their space.

Let's Celebrate! We can't wait to open the cooking room extension to the hall, so we thought we should get together to celebrate! You've all contributed to this dream in so many ways and it's finally coming true so we'd love for you all to come on down and enjoy the opening with us. It'll be next term and there will be food, laughs and family fun to be had by all – we'll keep you posted so watch this space ...

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