

# Titahi Bay School Board of Trustees Newsletter

## Term 4, 2015

Once again we've had quite the year at Titahi Bay School and have so much to share and so many to thank.

### **Unity:**

Decile Ratings: You may remember that around this time last year all the schools within the Titahi Bay area received a decile rating – our school increased from 3L to 4L. Decile ratings are not a measure of how well a school performs, but are a way for the Government to allocate funding. Using census data, the Ministry based their initial decile reassessment on a 10% snapshot of the socio-economic status of a geographical area around the school. We're very pleased to share with you that after lodging an appeal with the Ministry of Education, we've had our decile rating lowered to 4K (a movement of 1 sub-group down) to more accurately reflect our school's families demographic. This change has a direct impact on the funds our school receives from the Ministry so thank you to all of you who completed our survey during parent/teacher interviews. This positive outcome would not have been possible without your input.

2016 Triathlon: Make sure you mark the school triathlon date in your 2016 diaries! We've booked it for Saturday 19 March (postponement date Saturday 2 April). This is such a big event and as our school's primary fundraiser, it's all hands on deck so please start thinking about how you might be able to support our school triathlon – every bit helps. Please contact the Home and School Committee ([homeschool@titahibay.school.nz](mailto:homeschool@titahibay.school.nz)) if you can volunteer for this event. We simply cannot run this event without your help and support.

Ngahere Camp: The Ngahere syndicate went away to camp earlier in the term and a great time was had by all. We thank all the parents and staff who came along to this successful event for all of their efforts and work in making this such a significant event for our tamariki.

Celebrating Pasifika Achievement: We would like to thank our Pasifika Parents Group for hosting such an outstanding evening in November. We got to sign off our school Pasifika strategy at this year's Celebrating Pasifika Achievements event. The evening was such a success and we've had such wonderful feedback from our children and families.

Te Tikanga: During the course of the year the Maori Whanau group helped create a new song "Te Tikanga" which encompasses and embraces our KURA values. They have also worked hard on formulating our schools Maori strategy.

### **Respect:**

We have such a wonderful group of Year 6 children leaving us at the end of this term. These children will go on to prosper and grow in their own individual ways. As KURA kids they can move forward with this identity - they can be proud and should stand tall. We thank them for the many ways in which they have contributed to our school and community. As always this is a bittersweet time of sadness and pride but we can't wait to watch these children continue to thrive.

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## **Aspire to Achieve:**

Maths and Reading Achievements: Raising student achievement has been a core focus this year and we're seeing some significant progress being made here. Our PAT math and STAR reading data from term 3 has been very positive with all categories measuring above the national mean figures. Our teaching teams have been working tirelessly for our children to achieve these results and their commitment has been the true driver here.

School Attendance: We realise that this is a tiring time of year but we ask that you make an effort to ensure that your child is at school before 8:55am and collected no earlier than 3pm. Your child's learning and their teacher's continuity and teaching momentum is hugely affected by a child's lateness, early collection, or unnecessary absence. The impact is massive and we ask that you seriously consider the effect on the teacher and the rest of the class, if not your own child. We cannot stress the importance of this enough and look forward to beginning the New Year with this front of mind.

School Property Update: Initial architectural drawings have been made for the toilet and kitchen hall extension and the school has been busy moving the worm farms and preparing the site for this exciting time.

Additional chrome books have also been bought for the extra Ngahere class next year, and they're currently being prepped so the Ngahere team can hit the ground running next term.

## **Kindness:**

We do this every year but it really can't be said enough – THANK YOU!

We'd like to thank our incredible teachers, our relentless management team, our dedicated support staff, and of course, our tireless office staff Christine and Lynn. We cannot thank you enough for your dedication, focus, commitment and energy in which you apply yourselves to each and every day.

We thank our Home and School Committee - such a wonderful and significant support to our school. Many projects around the school would not be possible without this dedicated and motivated committee and its parent volunteers.

We thank our Pasifika and Maori Whanau groups – your work alongside the school is so impactful and is truly, genuinely motivated. These are both areas where we often look to you for direction so we sincerely thank you for your time and commitment to our school community.

We would also like to express our appreciation to Kerry. She's committed, relentless, community-focused and passionate about our children. She's a very well regarded Principal and we're fortunate to have her as our school's aspirational leader.

And of course, we'd like to thank you – our school community. So many of you are involved in our school at different levels and we love that you actively participate in making our KURA school so remarkable.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas, safe travels to those of you who are journeying in the summer holidays, and a restful, fun and sun-filled summer break.

Titahi Bay School Board of Trustees

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