

Titahi Bay School Board of Trustees Newsletter – Term 1, 2016

Welcome back! We've had a very busy start to 2016 and are already well into Term 1.

At this time of year we like to re-introduce ourselves as we have had many new families join our school over the last year.

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

The school's triennial Board of Trustees elections will be held this year. Parents and others may wish to consider standing for election to our school board. All New Zealand's state and state-integrated schools have a Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees is the Crown entity responsible for the governance and the control of the management of the school. The board is the employer of all staff in the school, is responsible for setting the school's strategic direction in consultation with parents, staff and students, and ensuring that its school provides a safe environment and quality education for all its students. Boards are also responsible for overseeing the management of personnel, curriculum, property, finance and administration. Trustees are elected by the parent community and staff members. The principal is also a member of the board. The board may also co-opt additional trustees. The Titahi Bay School board of trustees includes five parent-elected trustees, one staff-elected trustee, the principal and any additional co-opted members.

The common election date is Friday 3 June 2016. The timeline for the election is:

Wednesday 4 May - Main roll closes at noon

Friday 6 May - Call for nominations

Wednesday 18 May - Supplementary roll close

Friday 20 May - Nominations close at noon

Wednesday 25 May - Voting papers sent out

Friday 3 June - Poll closes at noon

Thursday 9 June - Votes counted and announced

Friday 10 June - Board takes office

Further information about becoming a board member will be published over the next few months and persons considering standing for election should have a chat with a current Board member.

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.

Property Improvements

With our school roll currently sitting at 414 children and eight more due to start before the end of the term, it's small wonder that we seem to always be busy with property improvements. 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. We are 5 years into our 10-year property plan. Last year we unexpectedly had to spend a considerable amount of money repairing leaky roofs across the school. We're now left with \$256,000 to spend on a rooms 6 to 13 upgrade. This has led to some creative thinking in how we spend this to ensure we create our new and improved modern teaching and learning environment in the south block. Watch this space!

Engagement

Our school is very fortunate to have a number of very active groups that support us and provide guidance throughout the year. Our Home and School Committee is our fundraising powerhouse and our Whanau and Pasifika Parents Group advocate and provide support for our Maori and Pasifika students, parents and families. If you would like more information or would like to join these groups, please come to the school

library at the conclusion of your whanau interview next Monday or Tuesday, as members from these groups will be in the school library to answer any questions.

Maori and Pasifika Strategies

You may recall that one of the Board's key focuses for 2015 was to continue to develop our school's targeted Maori and Pasifika strategies. Both of these strategies have been formulated and are now displayed visually in our school playground. If you haven't yet had a chance to take a look, please do when you stop in for your 'meet the whanau' appointments next week.

We would like to thank all those who contributed to the creation of these strategies and have helped guide us through to seeing them come to life. They've been a long work in progress but our school is already benefiting from applying these living strategies.

School Attendance

A structured approach to address lateness, early collection and unnecessary absences will be implemented this year and the School has the Board's full support in this.

School attendance is very closely linked to your child's achievement and contentedness. Even just being 5 minutes late to school can affect your 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. We cannot stress enough how important it is that your child is ready to learn when the bell rings at 8:55am each morning and that they are collected no earlier than 3pm.

In real terms, a child who is 30 minutes late to school each day will miss more than an entire school day of learning over a fortnight. That's up to 5 days of learning a term missed, or almost 20 days over the year!

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 your child's teacher and the rest of the class, if not your own child.

We cannot stress the importance of this enough and look forward to continuing the year with this front of mind.

Coming Up ...

A few things to consider in the coming months:

- The teachers are looking forward to catching up with you all this Monday and Tuesday (7 and 8 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 2016.
- Our annual triathlon will be held on Saturday 19 March (postponement date 2 April). This is our school's primary fundraiser each year and this year all funds will go towards fitting out our new cooking room. We encourage you to get involved - support your child with training, bring their bike to school, seeking sponsorship and cheering them on on the day!

This event provides a focus on health and fitness and is a great opportunity for our tamariki to gain confidence, especially on bikes, and to use the school's wonderful bike track. We hope to see our school community, and wider community turn out to support our children and our school.

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 around school and on the beach for the triathlon!

Titahi Bay School Board of Trustees

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