

Titahi Bay School Board of Trustees Newsletter

Term 1, 2018

Welcome back to a bright new year at Titahi Bay School everyone! We hope you all managed to get out and enjoy some of the wonderful weather we've had and to dip your toes in the sea. How lucky are we to have this incredible natural playground at our doorstep? This is going to be another busy year for our school and we're looking forward to making it a great one.

Kindness

A really important part of our role as the Board of Trustees is to ensure the staff of our school are working in an emotionally and physically safe environment. Teachers have a huge responsibility teaching our children and working with parents to ensure the best possible start for children and as a community we need to be doing our best to ensure our school staff are supported and that their privacy is always respected. Our school's core values of Kindness, Respect, Unity and Achieve all speak to this.

Teachers and staff have become more accessible to parents and community through email and social media, and we really love how direct and effective this makes parent-teacher communication. Unfortunately sometimes, albeit very rarely, our staff receive communication that isn't respectful or polite, so we thought we'd share a reminder of some simple ways that we can help support our teachers:

- If you email staff after 5.00pm or on the weekend, please do not expect a reply until the next working day. We have asked teachers not to respond to messages outside of working hours unless urgent.
- Please be respectful in your correspondence. Teachers and staff do their best for our children, but they can make mistakes. As parents, we are rightly very protective of our children and on occasion, you may be upset about something that has happened regarding your child. We do however encourage you to sleep on it or to take some time before sending a message. Please be mindful of your language and avoid personal comments. Staff will try to arrange to speak to you face to face if you are able to. Unfortunately non-verbal communication can easily be misconstrued and cause difficulties and be misunderstood or misinterpreted - we've all been there!
- Our administrative staff often bear the brunt of emotions. Please remember that Christine and Lynn are often unable to answer your questions, particularly if they are teaching related. They will always do their best to help and always really appreciate your respect and courtesy.
- Lastly, but most importantly for us, please always act with kindness and respect.

We know you'll agree with these simple reminders and we really appreciate your support in this.

The Maths Whizz programme helped many of our children make great progress last year. The cost of this programme is \$31.50 per child. This programme has proven to be such an effective teaching and learning tool and, as we're seeing real value in our children continuing to have access to this programme, we have again agreed to subsidise the full cost per child. We've consciously kept school fees 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 and other 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 school Christmas Picnic Dinner and the opening of our new Kay Jones hall deck. For those asking for more of these types of evenings, we can happily let you know that we'll be celebrating another KURA On The Green evening later this term, but with a sports-night focus. We'll give you a date to add to your diaries as we get further into the term.

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

table:

Sarah Campbell (Chair, Policy)

Kerry Delaney (Principal)

Scott Hemsley (Property)

Lynette Renouf (Pasifika Strategy)

Sharon Thompson (Staff Representative)

Ria Tomoana (Maori Strategy)

Gaby Wesley-Smith (Finance, Home & School)

At this time each year we always see a significant increase in our children's fitness levels as the kids are out there training for the triathlon and ripping around the bike track. We're so proud to see so many tamariki pedalling, running, climbing and jumping and the school is so busy with activity and play.

Respect

The annual triathlon is our school's primary fundraiser and is always a huge event. This year is especially significant as it's the 10th year we're holding this great event. This year the money raised will be used to purchase and fit out a container to sit on our field area. This will house all our physical and outdoor education equipment, something that is currently very much needed! We are hoping to raise \$15,000 - we'll keep you updated as we progress.

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.

Outside of the triathlon fundraising we're hoping to direct all Home and School grants and fundraising towards in-class resources for our children. Each of the 19 classes needs to update and replace their everyday learning games and resources (these are doubly useful as they provide a little extra indoor fun on those long rainy day lunchtimes). We can't thank the Home and School Committee and team of volunteers enough for all they do throughout the entire year. It's so rewarding to see our children benefit directly from their fundraising activities and it's a really great way for our families to contribute to our school's culture and environment.

(If you'd like to get involved or to even just find out a little more about this engaged group of parents, you can email homeschool@titahibay.school.nz)

Achieve

We're excited with the progress we've made in the Rooms 12/13 Refurbishment Property Plan and we're looking forward to opening this new learning space for these classes to use and enjoy.

Have a wonderful first term everyone and we look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming Triathlon and KURA On The Green Events.

Titahi Bay School Board of Trustees

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