

A quick update from our last board meeting held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May.

The year is progressing fast as usual and we are now definitely on the downhill slide into winter.

It has been business as usual lately for the board along with a couple of other projects we have embarked on.

Last term the board put out a survey to parents and the community. We were rapt with the response we received and the results were very valuable. Those respondents that indicated they would like a follow up phone call will have received them by now and the board is now interpreting the results and finding how and what we can do better to communicate with you. This update is a result of that and you will now see these regularly after board meetings.

At the last meeting, Terry Kilday tendered his resignation from the board. Terry has been a valuable member of the board for the last 2 and a half years. The Kilday's have now moved out of the area and Terry felt it was time to move on from the board. To fill this vacant spot the board resolved to co-opt Gabby Costello onto the board for a 6 month term through until the next elections in November.

As mentioned we have a triennial election coming up in November for 2 position on the board. Both members are standing down so we are looking for new blood to join the team. If governance of the school is of interest to you, I encourage you to approach any member of the board and find out more or come along to one of our meetings and see what it's all about and gain an understanding of what the board does.

Property wise the Mahi Tahi building has been all signed off and we are now looking at giving the library a little bit of a spruce up. We are investigating extending the carpark behind the library, making it all weather and more usable.

The board monitors student achievement closely and offers as much support as we can to the teachers to help them work their magic and advance our learners. At our previous meeting in March the board resolved to offer a further \$20000 to help fund more resources and teacher resourcing to assist the teachers meeting their goals.

With the school now using school docs as a platform to hold and update our policies, you all have the opportunity to see what policies and strategic goals we are reviewing and when we review them. This is a great place to start if you have any questions around school policy and what the board is required to look at at any given meeting.

As Mentioned earlier and as a result of the survey responses the board endeavours to improve communication. You will find below a list of the board members email addresses. Please contact any of us at any stage if you have any questions and we will endeavour to help you out.

Wrap up warm and we will be in touch again after our next meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> June.

Regards

Andrew Slater

BOT Chair

## What are we getting Right?



## 2017 Communication Survey.

Thankyou to the families that contributed ideas and shared thoughts via the survey this year. We had excellent turnout and some families requested followup contact, which the BOT have done.

The survey was generated by the BOT to provide some ideas about where they and the school can focus their efforts in making the school a clear communicator and a reliable information source. Results were very clear and hopefully some of you

have experienced a better relationship through the following:

- Rakaia School 101 evening
- Improved school app postings
- Regular Rakaia news insert
- Published calendar of events and contact details

You can see the ‘word cloud’ above demonstrates that the larger the text, the greater the number of people who had similar thoughts. A lot of the survey could be processed this way and the following areas stood out:

- More notice period of sporting fixtures and events
- The Board of Trustees need to report their activities to the wider school community
- Getting a consistent experience every time you engage with the school
- Providing caregivers with the opportunity to learn how the children are being taught.

The school is committed to making sure you get the right information, on time and you have pleasant experience when you have question or require information. If this is not the case Mr Ellis is the first place to start. If you have a greater concern that cannot be handled by school staff, then a BOT member is always available. We will be introducing the BOT members over a number of newsletters, and the school office staff can direct you to one without any questions.