

Welcome

Welcome to the November 2015 edition of BOARDTalk.



So little time ... so much to do. This is the penultimate edition of BOARDTalk for this year. The end of term is about three weeks away, the ERO review team have been and gone, Years 5 and 6 are back from camp at El Rancho... but the most anticipated highlight of the month is that **the big slide is open for business** - and the kids love it!

Among the usual business items of finance, policy and self review, at this meeting we saw the raw national standards student achievement data and it looks really good! We are looking forward to detailed analysis next month, but the raw figures show overall improvement across the board. Among the less usual things covered off at the meeting was early ERO feedback and staff changes.

November meeting highlights:

- **Student Achievement Data:** The latest National Standards data shows further improvement on previous results, with more students achieving at or above the standard across the three main competencies of writing, reading and mathematics. The accelerated progress is consistent among both girls and boys, and across the school. This is continuing our trend over the past 5 years, and it's great to see that many of the initiatives the school has undertaken to improve educational outcomes are translating to excellent results for our Maungaraki kids.
- **Preliminary ERO Feedback:** Most of the board of trustees and school leaders met with the ERO review team on Thursday afternoon to hear their informal feedback on how the review went, and how the school is functioning and performing relative to other schools.

It wouldn't be overstating things to say that the results were glowing for Maungaraki School. A quick summary from their written notes/conclusions include:

- Achievement information is very well used to promote student engagement, progress and achievement, and data is well analysed to support learning needs of individuals.
- Most students achieve at or above the relevant national standard. Māori achievement has increased and there has been significant growth in boys achievement.
- The curriculum effectively supports/promotes student learning, and there are a wide range of opportunities to succeed in academic, sporting, cultural, arts and leadership.
- Our school provides attractive learning and other environments and our students are positively engaged with positive and respectful relationships focused on learning.
- There is a raised profile of Te Ao Māori school-wide, contributing to greater awareness and celebration of tangata whenua. The school's Board of Trustees is actively committed to the school's performance in this area including ongoing self-review.
- The school has sound, well informed governance focused on student achievement and well being, and enthusiastic well supported staff. There are many opportunities to consult, inform and engage with parents, families and the wider community.

It goes without saying that we can all be very proud of this preliminary result, and of our school's leadership, teachers and of course our kids. We expect to see the draft written report around Christmas time but it won't be available to the public until after it has been through all the review processes (so likely to be February/March next year).



- **Farewells:** We are sad to see both Darrel Greaney and Rebecca Perkins leave us at the end of this year. They have been a great asset to the school over a number of years, particularly Rebecca's contribution to Ngā Kākanō Puawai and Māori growth in the school and Darrel's work with the bands and music generally. Darrel and Rebecca both have an infectious passion for teaching and we are sure the children they have taught across the school will hold fond memories of these two with them for a long time. We wish them well on their respective journeys to other schools.
- **Reminder of school concerns/complaints procedure:** Some parents have recently raised school-related concerns directly with individual board members. We take any concerns from the school's wider community very seriously, but would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the school's *concerns and complaints guidelines* to ensure any concerns are dealt with in the best way possible. These have been carefully designed to ensure optimal outcomes for everyone, and to give the school the chance to deal with any issues first.

The process for both minor concerns and serious complaints is to:

1. Raise your concern with the relevant teacher. If not resolved to your satisfaction,
2. Raise it with the team leader. If your concern is still not resolved,
3. Raise it with the principal. If your concern is still not resolved,
4. Write to the Board of Trustees via the Chairperson.
5. Following this, if you continue to have a concern and don't believe it has been adequately addressed via the above, you can write to the Ministry of Education.

The full guidelines are published on our school website (<http://tinyurl.com/MaungComplaints>). We strongly encourage the use of this process - it's important that the school is aware of any concerns so they can be discussed and dealt with. Feel free to bring a support person with you for any of the above discussions.

We strongly believe that this process leads to the best outcomes for everyone. Interestingly, the Ministry of Education is now using Maungaraki School's Concern and Complaints Guidelines (above) as a best-practice example in some of their publications.

Next meeting and BoT information

Our next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on 9 December at 5.00pm in the school staff room. Remember that a full copy of monthly BoT meeting minutes are available on the school website or by request from the school office.

If you would like to raise a matter with the BoT or to attend a meeting please see the school website or contact us for details.

Janine, Simon, Lisa, Janet, Phil, Kaylee, Greg, Kerry, Paul and Newton.