

## Welcome

Welcome to the February 2016 edition of BOARDTalk.

Firstly, we'd like to extend a warm "welcome back" to all students, parents, caregivers and staff and wish you all well for another fantastic school year. We hope you had an excellent summer and were able to make good use of it being the warmest on record!

And what a great start to the year! Let us also begin by extending a huge thanks, on behalf of the school, to everyone who helped make the school's first **Twilight Gala** so excellent last Friday. We don't know how much was raised yet, but with thousands of people through the gate and a great time had by all, the evening was a huge success. An extra special thanks to our outstanding Home and School folks, some of whom put in hundreds of hours over the last few months. With lots of helpers on the day and so many attending, this event really saw our great community come together.

The highlights from this month's Board of Trustees meeting are the Home & School project to upgrade the hard surface areas of the school, feedback from the parent survey (you mostly love your school, but with some good focus areas identified for 2016), the 1-1 device success measures report and portfolio changes on the Board of Trustees.

### February meeting highlights:

- **Hard surfaces project:** Preliminary work has commenced on this project including the procurement of a landscape architect to assist us in our thinking to ensure we adopt a future focused and practical approach to this project. We have also had two different surface providers undertake site visits and subsequently provide us with ball-park quotes. The BoT will continue to support this project with a project team to be formed from the Home & School committee to oversee in conjunction with the school. The gala was a fantastic way to kick off fundraising efforts - thanks again to everyone who contributed.
- **Parent Survey:** We were pleased to receive a significantly higher number of responses to this years Parent Survey (previously the leavers survey) compared to last year, with seventy completed surveys.

85-90% of parents felt the school was average or better, with above average and excellent responses ranged from 65% to 70%, across the following aspects of the school:

- the quality of learning;
- communication from the school;
- the classroom environment; and
- the overall school tone

There were a couple of areas identified from the survey for improvement, and this feedback has been absolutely taken on board. We acknowledge, for example, that we still have some work to do in our consultation processes and in upgrading hard surfaces around the school. Both are areas we are committed to improving and have included actions in this years Annual Plan to address these across the school.

Overall a very pleasing result and one which, when correlated with the recent ERO report, further endorses the management and teaching within our school. **A one page summary of the survey results can be found on our website or at: <https://goo.gl/C1Xxh1>**

- **1-1 Device Success Measures Report:** At the commencement of the 1-1 device implementation the BoT undertook to provide six-monthly reviews (over a period of 18 months) of student achievement data to specifically consider the impact of 1-1 devices on student learning outcomes within digital classrooms.

We are pleased to report that student achievement data for students in years 5-8 has shown a greater percentage of improvement over the last 12 months than for year groups 1-4 (who have also improved). This cannot be directly attributable to the implementation of 1-1 devices as these year groups have also experienced significant change with the development of open learning environments and a greater emphasis on pathways teaching approaches. What we have observed though is that with this 'package' of initiatives the achievement of these year groups has, overall, accelerated.

Now that this is fully embedded within the senior school, the BoT will continue to monitor 1-1 alongside all factors contributing to learning outcomes, as part of the existing comprehensive learning assessment and reporting mechanisms within the school. The 18 month success measures report can be found on our website or at <https://goo.gl/MwfUTw>

- **Changes to the BoT portfolios and committee arrangements:** Most BoT members take on one or more portfolios on the Board, ensuring good governance practices and coverage. With the recent change of chair and some changes to our operating environment, a few small changes have occurred. **Janine Foster** has taken on the new Health and Safety portfolio, to help ensure the Board and school meets all requirements of the new H&S legislation coming into force soon. **Kaylee Gibbs, Kerry Ryan** and **Lisa Cavanagh** will form the Board's new Finance Committee, and congrats to **Phil Belcher** who was re-elected as Deputy Chair.
- **BoT Elections:** Yes it really has been three years since the election of your current board. BoT elections are set for 3 June this year with all nominations called for from 6 May (closing on 20 May). If you are interested in standing or finding out what its all about feel free to talk with one of our existing BoT members or visit the New Zealand Trustee Elections Homepage: <http://www.trustee-election.co.nz/>

## Next meeting and BoT information

Our next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on 23 March at 7.00pm 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.

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