

## Welcome

Welcome to the March 2016 edition of BOARDTalk.

It's finally time to farewell the great summer we've had - daylight savings is over and the mornings are definitely getting cooler.

This month was another big meeting, the highlight of which was a presentation on the approach being used to improve educational outcomes for about 30 of our children facing significant challenges to their learning. We are also sharing our draft Alcohol Policy with you for comment.



### March highlights:

- **A different approach to learning.** The Feuerstein programme is about the development of the whole child – academic, emotional and social development. Teachers work with students through a variety of tasks, focusing on cognitive skills. They then begin to modify what they have learnt and take these strategies into real life situations. Last year we trialed the Feuerstein programme with small groups of students with great success. This year we have trained more teachers and teacher aides to enable targeted small group teaching in the Feuerstein programme.
- **Draft Alcohol Policy:** A draft Alcohol Policy is [available here \( https://goo.gl/blEy55 \)](https://goo.gl/blEy55). It formalises the approval requirements for any consumption or sale of alcohol at school functions or activities. This is a new policy and the BoT considered it appropriate that feedback be sought from the school community. Please provide comments to Lisa via email [principal@maungarakischool.net](mailto:principal@maungarakischool.net) before the end of this term.
- **Health and Safety Policy:** The health and safety of our staff and students is always a high priority for the BoT. You will all have heard about the new legislation which came into force on 4 April and you can be assured that our policy is in line with this. We do not believe that we should be wrapping our kids in cotton wool, but we are working hard to ensure that we are doing everything reasonably practicable to ensure everyone who comes onto the school site can be safe while they are here.
- **BoT Elections:** Board of Trustee elections are coming up early in Term 2. We encourage all parents to consider giving back to the school community by standing for election as a BOT member. More information about the role of the BOT can be found at <http://www.trustee-election.co.nz/becoming-a-trustee> or by talking to one of our existing parent reps.

Nominations will be called on **6 May** and will close on **20 May**. On Friday the 27th of May a *Meet the Candidates* function will be held at the school from 6pm in the staff room (alongside the school disco - thanks to Home & School for hosting this). This is an opportunity to talk to those running for election to the BoT about their views and ideas as well as to farewell BoT members that are standing down. Come and find out more about who could lead the school on policy, strategic direction and the education of your children.



- **School Donations:** Your school donations are critical for us to be able to provide the facilities and quality teaching we all want for our children.

Our donation level has not increased since 2008. First child \$200, second child \$180, with a maximum amount payable of \$500 per family. This money helps provide many of the extra resources not allowed for in Ministry funding. So far this year we are approximately \$5,000.00 down on the same time last year.

A statement will be sent out from the school office later this week. Remember donations are tax deductible and the sooner you are able to make them, even if by instalment, the easier it is for the school to plan for the year ahead.

## Next meeting and BoT information

Our next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on 18 May at 7.00pm in the school staff room - there is no April meeting because of the school holidays. 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, Janine, Simon, Lisa, Janet, Phil, Kaylee, Greg, Kerry and Newton.*