

Welcome

Welcome to the December 2016 edition of BOARDTalk.

A busy end to a very busy year for the Board of Trustees, and this final meeting was no exception. The meeting was split between reviewing results from 2016, and formulating, debating and approving plans for 2017.



Highlights of the meeting include:

➤ **2016 National Standards results**

The Board also considered the National Standards data from 2016. As with previous years, Maungaraki School is tracking significantly higher than the average for both New Zealand and the Wellington region in all areas:

- In Reading, **86.5%** of Maungaraki children are at or above the National Standard (NZ average: 78%, Wellington region: 81.6%)*
- In Writing, **85%** of Maungaraki children are at or above the National Standard (NZ average: 71.4%, Wellington region: 73.5%)
- In Maths, **82.7%** of Maungaraki children are at or above the National Standard (NZ average: 75.5%, Wellington region: 77.7%)

While still very strong, the Maths results are a slight drop from 2015 and the school will be addressing this next year. As always, we'll also continue to provide focused programmes for those children who need additional support, while stretching those who excel.

** Note that the NZ and Wellington averages are taken from the prior year as 2016 comparative figures aren't available yet. They are likely to be very similar.*

➤ **Approved Annual Plan and budget with focus on team development**

A large part of the meeting was spent reviewing the Annual Plan and corresponding budget for 2017. With a number of new staff and a new Principal starting next year, the Board has agreed to invest heavily in team and professional development for our staff, making a modest call on reserves in 2017 to support this.

The primary focus for next year will be consolidating and strengthening our teaching team while focusing on great results as always.

➤ **2017 Jubilee**

Our 50th Jubilee is happening early September 2017.

Great work has already been done, but we need more people to help organise and run this amazing event. We are putting the call out to people who can be part of the committee through to the end of the Jubilee celebrations. It is time to spread the load these amazing people are carrying for us.

If you think that you can help, please get in touch via
http://www.maungaraki.school.nz/Site/Jubilee_2017.ashx

More info: <https://www.facebook.com/maungarakischooljubilee/>

2016: That's a wrap!

Well, what a tumultuous year. As well as global and national political and other turmoil thrust upon us, within the school we've seen a number of staff finish up at Maungaraki over the last 12 months, not least of which being Principal Lisa Cavanagh moving on mid-year.



We've also had earthquakes, we've had flooding, we've had Corrections-related issues that have challenged our community. Within the Board, we've had a new Chair at the start of the year, and a Board of Trustees election ushering in several new BoT members.

But through all of this upheaval, Maungaraki School has continued to shine and our great Maungaraki children have maintained their thirst for knowledge and achieved truly great results in the process.

Leavers Dinner

Some of our Board had the great pleasure of attending the Leavers Dinner last night, and got to see first-hand the product of Maungaraki School in our Year 8 cohort. What we saw was a group of smart, happy, respectful, enthusiastic and well educated kids on the path to becoming great young adults. The confidence and spirit of this group made every parent and teacher in the room proud, and that pride in both Maungaraki School and our children was well deserved.

This hasn't happened by accident. Maungaraki's vision is *Passion for Learning: Excellence in Life!* and this is brought to life by our excellent staff, who work hard every day to help our kids discover their passion for learning, and setting them up for excellence in whatever lives they choose to lead. So, a huge thanks to our teachers, leaders and other staff past and present. You've done us proud.

However it takes a village to raise a child. Whether it's supporting our teachers as they inspire our kids to learn, serving on the Board or Home and School, helping with the Jubilee, assisting with fundraising or anything else, our school will only succeed with the support of our community. Over the break, do think about how *you* can help your school in 2017 and be part of something special.

And lastly, the Board would especially like to thank Janet Evans, who as Acting Principal has done an outstanding job of leading our school in Term 4 through some really tough times. Janet is a great asset to our school and an integral part of our leadership team.

Have a very merry Christmas and catch you in 2017!

From the Maungaraki School Board of Trustees:

- *Paul Matthews (Chair)*
- *Phil Belcher*
- *Kaylee Gibbs*
- *Newton King*
- *Sam Dungey*
- *Janet Evans (Acting principal)*
- *Jackie Sutherland (Staff rep)*

Next meeting and BoT information

Our next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on the 15 February 2017. 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.