

Maungaraki School Board of Trustees

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER March 2009

We have now been your Board for almost two years and you will be pleased to know that thanks to a good dose of teamwork, and some excellent support from the office staff and from the Principal we are getting our heads around the intricacies of the Ministry of Education and their various processes and how these fit in with the workings of the school.

There is a lot on and challenges aplenty including an ERO Review, but more about that another day...

School Roll Growth

You would have seen in the first newsletter of the year our school has a full roll at 255, higher than we had anticipated for the beginning of the year. We didn't get the drop that most schools do at the beginning of the year. All this growth is coming from new families moving into the area. This is a great story about the reputation of our school but it does come at some cost. It does mean the school now has to adhere to its Zoning Rules very strictly.

As the Junior School parents will be aware the class sizes are large. In order to alleviate some of this pressure Janet Evans, our new Deputy Principal, will be taking groups of students out of Rooms 4 & 10 to her classroom. Janet will take up a full time classroom position in Term 2. The Board is working with Ministry of Education (MoE) to enable us to build another classroom, (hopefully two) to allow for the growth we know is coming. All three local MP's are aware of the situation and willing to help if needed. We will keep you all informed of our progress. If we do not get any traction on this we will be enlisting the assistance of our parent community to help provide support around this issue.

Money, Money, Money

And that leads us nicely into money and the importance of donations in the School income. As you have heard many times before, these are the critical to our ability to deliver what we as the school community demand of our school. The Board looks forward to a whole-hearted support from the school community in 2009.

Also a reminder that for the tax year ending 31 March 2009, you can claim a maximum of 33.33% of the total donation you have made, so please get in those donations before the end of March and hang on to those receipts to claim the rebate from IRD.

Vision, Mission, Values

While we have yet to officially launch our new vision, mission and values the students are already becoming familiar with them. Teachers have begun the year by discussing, with their classes, what it is that we value at Maungaraki School. These discussions are an important part of writing a behaviour contract with a class at the beginning of each year. The feedback from the students has already identified many components of our new vision, mission and values - a sign that these are recognized as important to the students of Maungaraki School. Soon the school will have a graphic representation of these to display in all classrooms, and this will help to further embed our new vision, mission and values across all levels of the school, and it will become familiar to the community too.

Property News

There was quite a flurry of activity over the holidays as the contractors got Rooms 4 & 5 revitalised to the same standard as Rooms 1, 2 & 3.

The staff had made plans to relocate those classes into the library for the expected two weeks of overlap into term, but we had not allowed for quite so many new starters! The roll continues to grow, and this emphasises how

helpful it is for parents and caregivers to advise us in advance of a child about to start school.

The staff and pupils coped admirably with this little inconvenience, as always, and now we are well back to normal.

As you saw earlier, we are awaiting a decision from the Ministry of Education head office about our next new classroom. It was a need your Board had foreseen many months back but it has taken quite a while to get the MoE cogs in motion!

As part of the ongoing development of the school and its environment we are looking to form a team of school and community representatives (including senior students) to identify needs that can, with the help of a designer (do you know anyone who might be interested/good?), be put into a plan that we can all work to over a number of years. We need to be careful we don't extend into city council space, but it would be good to have a long term goal in mind.

No doubt you will have heard about the additional \$140,000 we have been advised we have to spend on non-teaching spaces. We have yet to get the details but we already have our thinking caps on...

Information Technology Roadshow

Every now and then the Ministry of Education hosts road shows to inform school communities of the latest technologies available to schools. This year's road show will focus on the Managed Learning Environment. It will look at data sharing between student management systems and learning management systems; moving student records between schools; how electronic systems can assist in managing the attendance of students; and anywhere, anytime access to school-held information about your child; and security in an online world. If you have an interest in this area the dates and locations can be found on the MoE website www.minedu.govt.nz/goto/smsroadshows

And Finally . . .

Next year is Board election year. If you think you might be interested in putting your name forward and want to see what it is all about, you

are welcome to attend a meeting or at least talk to a Board member about the role. We would be keen to hear from you.

Our contact details are on the Maungaraki School website and at the foot of this newsletter. There have been one or two issues with the schools e-mail so if you haven't had a reply when you think you should have, please try an alternative method of contact.

Let us know if you have any concerns, praise or questions. We appreciate the time of those of you who have been in contact. Your feedback helps with the ongoing improvement of Maungaraki School and ultimately the children in it.

And just a reminder in case you missed them in the last newsletter...

Our Vision:

United through our passion for learning we aspire to excellence

Our Mission:

Maungaraki School provides a quality learning experience for each individual enabling them to seize life's opportunities and meet future challenges with confidence.

Our Values:

- Integrity
- Persistence
- Independence
- Creativity
- Cooperation
- Respect

Our Strategic Goals to the end of 2012:

1. All students to have numeracy level at or above chronological age for Decile 10.
2. All students to have literacy level at or above chronological age for Decile 10.
3. All students to have skills to enable a healthy lifestyle.

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BoT Chair

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Maungaraki School Board of Trustees

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