

Maungaraki School Board of Trustees

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER February 2010

Education has had a lot of publicity in 2010 particularly with the arrival of National Standards. As a Board we are confident that our goals far exceed those required by the national standards. You will see in the Strategic Plan that we are particularly interested that our children get an excellent education in the numeracy and literacy areas, but also that they get exposure to a wide range to experiences and learning activities.

Read on as there are some very important things here for those involved with the school and interested in how it is running to their children's benefit ...

Strategic Plan

The staff and Board at Maungaraki School have been working together over the past twelve months on a new strategic plan. The *Maungaraki School Charter (including Strategic Plan to 2012)* has now been released and is available through the school website. It gives us a strategic direction for the next three years. We see this plan as a living document which is based on the feedback we have received via the school survey and other forms of input from our parents, children, teachers and community.

The Strategic Plan includes our three strategic goals which focus around Literacy, Numeracy and Children's Wellbeing. We hope you will take the time to have a look at this document and understand our approach to the coming years. If you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to let us know.

Triennial Trustee Elections 2010

It is just about time to elect a new Board of Trustees. Each school Board must have 5 elected parent representatives and the elections for these positions are being held on the May 7. We know that two of our existing trustees (Hugh and Raji) will not be restanding.

Being a trustee is interesting and rewarding with an opportunity to work with teachers to provide and evaluate the high quality of education that we all demand for our children.

Process details will be publicised soon, but we can say now that nominations will be called for on Thursday 15 March with the closing date for nominations being Friday 23 April.

For those of you who would like to know more about being a trustee we invite you to attend an information evening on **Wednesday 3 March, 7.00p.m.** in the school library.

And of course we are happy to answer any questions you have at any time. Individual Board members can be contacted as follows:

Raji Divekar at home on 586-8433 or by e-mail at divekars@xtra.co.nz

Janet Evans (Staff Representative) at school on 569-7205 or by e-mail at jevans@maungaraki.school.nz

Janine Foster (Chair) at home on 586-1311, by mobile on 027 290-1617 or by e-mail at janine.foster@police.govt.nz

Tim Fox by e-mail at timandlauren@paradise.net.nz

Kaye Francis by mobile on 027 227-4216 or by e-mail at kaye.francis@nbnz.co.nz

Hugh Frostick at home on 586-1491, by mobile on 027 429-1918 or by e-mail at hugh@frostick.net

Carmen Jennings (Principal) at school on 569-7205 or by e-mail at cjennings@maungaraki.school.nz

You are also more than welcome to come to a Board meeting. The dates through to the election are:

- 17 March
- 21 April

Meetings are in the staff room usually starting at 7.15p.m.

We aspire to excellence!

Finance Stuff

We have had a satisfactory year in terms of the school finances for 2009 and hope to keep up the good work in 2010. Towards this goal, the Board has met and approved the budget for the financial year ending December 2010.

The importance of your donations cannot be stressed enough. Thanks to all those members of the school community who contributed in that way last year. The Board looks forward to your continued support in 2010.

Also a reminder that for the tax year ending 31 March 2010, you can claim a maximum of 33.33% of the total donation you have made, so please hang on to your receipts to claim the rebate from IRD for all donations made before the end of March 2010.

Given Raji our current financial portfolio holder will not be restanding at Trustee election time, we are particularly keen for people with financial and accounting backgrounds to consider putting their name forward.

ERO '09

In June last year the Education Review Office (ERO) team of 3 people spent a week in our school. For the school it was a great experience with an excellent team of people from ERO involved. This is a standard part of the regular review cycle. We have now received the confirmed report from ERO and it makes good reading from our perspective. We are really pleased with the outcome of our review and we remain on the 3 year review cycle.

We have attached the community page for your information. If you are interested you can read the full ERO report by going to www.ero.govt.nz, reports, then searching for Maungaraki School. Alternatively ask at the school office where a loan copy will be available.

Property News

What a marvelous sight we now enjoy every morning! The new mural, which gives a striking welcome to regulars and visitors alike, is by all accounts a great success. We had been concerned for some time by the first impression served up by that tired old end wall, and the opportunity to fix it was a great boon. Many thanks to Jackie Sutherland for successfully

applying for this, and to local artist Dan Mills and our budding artists for their fantastic work.

Excitement builds in the school grounds as we near completion of Block D, the new classroom and staffroom. We had been a bit unlucky with the weather over the holidays - it was so wet that, although the builders made great headway and even did extra work to get ahead, the framing was then too damp for the building inspector to allow the gibbing to go up, so we lost time whilst it dried out. Once again, the staff have been innovative and accommodating with the space issues and have moved around somewhat for this first term. We are very grateful to the Ministry of Education for providing the additional funding for the new staffroom. We already have the new style furniture, currently in room 4, and that is proving to be very popular.

We are about to embark on our next phase of property planning, an update and improvement of the Admin block, and we have budgeted for some work on this in the current year.

Finally on property, the Home & School have kindly arranged a **Working Bee on Sunday 14 March** so it would be great for as many of the community as possible to come down and make it a fun and social occasion and get some tasks "off the list".

And Finally ...

It has been great to add two brand new teachers to our staff this year. Welcome to Krista Matich and Micheline Evans.

The Board would like to publicly say farewell to our departing Board members Raji and Hugh, and to thank them both for the contribution they have made in their time on the Board of Trustees. We are keen to see as many of you who are interested in the Board of Trustees as possible on the 3rd – the Board plays an important role in the school. Knowledge of the education environment is not important, it is about wanting to contribute to school decision-making processes and having a keen interest in the education of your child and the others in our school.

Janine Foster
BoT Chair

Home 586-1311
Mobile 027 290-1617

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