

## **Paremata School Board of Trustees Update**

### **Term 3, 2017**

Kia ora tatou

The year is progressing very quickly and we thought it timely to provide an update on what the Board of Trustees is up to. We are keen to have Māori and Pacifica representation on our Board - read on for more details...

The Board meets twice a term, and you are welcome to attend our meetings to get a sense of who we are, what we discuss, and how a school Board operates. Attending may help you to determine if you'd like to stand at the next election in 2019, or where you feel we can improve and grow.

#### **Our goals**

Here is a recap on our school mission statement, values and strategic goals.

Our school mission statement summarises our aims for the school:

Mā te whai pānga mai a ngā mātua me te hāpori, e rite ai wā tātou tamariki mō te paeako tawhiti. Mā roto atu i ngā whakaakoranga hiranga me ngā tūhae wheiako whai kounga. Ka whai uara, ka whakautea te tuakiri me te mana o ia tamaiti.

With the involvement of parents and community our children will be prepared for life-long learning, through excellent teaching and a range of high quality learning experiences. The individuality and dignity of each child will be valued and respected.

Alongside our mission statement sit our seven core values, generated from the 2015 community feedback, which underpin the culture we promote at Paremata:

Tuakiri - Identity, Manahau - Resilience, Whakaute - Respect, Aroha - Empathy, Hapori - Community, Kia Ngangahau te Ako - Active Learning, Ngākau Mōhio ki te Ao Whānui - Global Awareness.

Our eight strategic goals for the next three years are:

- To ensure our school embodies its motto – Whakapono kia koe - Attitude determines Altitude. Students will be encouraged to have a positive attitude towards learning, be engaged in their school community, know and understand the school values, and strive to achieve their best.

- To enable all students to reach their full academic potential, the school community will guide and support all students to achieve at or above the National Standards. Students with identified barriers to learning will continue working towards achieving their goals in their individual education plan.
- To deliver an enriched curriculum and provide opportunities for all students to participate in a range of wider school activities, including extra-curricular activities.
- To provide a welcoming and inclusive environment in which all those at the school feel safe, respected and valued.
- To ensure Māori and Pacific cultures continue to thrive in the school.
- To raise awareness of Global Citizenship amongst all students by teaching children about other cultures and providing opportunities to participate in community focused activities.
- To enhance the school's utilisation of a range of learning tools to provide the best possible educational experience.
- To responsibly manage the school's assets and financial resources to ensure the school can provide the most effective resources for teaching and learning.

The BOT has a strong vision to govern the school in a collaborative and positive way, keeping the school moving through the ever-changing educational landscape. Having positive and successful engagement with our school whānau is paramount, so we would appreciate your feedback to help us keep the school improving and progressing in the right way.

### **Matariki Evening and Maori Community Hui**

It was great to see the children in our junior and senior Kapa Haka groups put on a fantastic performance to celebrate the start of Matariki in late June. Our thanks to our Kaiako (teachers) for all their dedication and hard work with the children each week.

The hui following the performance gave people an opportunity to provide feedback about the school's Te Reo and Tikanga programme and following this we set up a survey monkey for whanau who couldn't make the hui.

There were a number of common themes running through the feedback which have been summarised as follows:

### **Things the school is strong in:**

- The staff is very willing to embrace Te Reo Maori and Tikanga Maori. They are positive and encouraging and willing to improve their capabilities.

- Maori language is evident in classroom instruction and is used regularly everyday throughout the school.
- Language, Culture and Identity is evident in the school and Kapa Haka is constantly improving.
- The school values are underscored for Maori children and children feel their culture is valued.
- The use of tuakana teina (our buddy system) throughout the school is evident and valued.

**Things the school needs to improve on:**

- Using the Maori community more to support what the school is doing with curriculum and school events.
- Sharing all the great things the school is accomplishing with the school community in regards to the school's Maori immersion programme.
- Building on staff capabilities working towards consistency across the school with spoken language and pronunciation.
- More opportunities to reintroduce Maori activities such as weaving, Marae visits and other cultural activities.
- Further develop the children's understanding by encouraging the application of a Maori lens to routine school activities and individual curriculum studies and extending the recognition of Maori values in the classroom.
- Maori and Pacific representation on the Board of Trustees.

**Aims for the future**

- Continuing on this path of inclusiveness and pride in Maori Culture and language.
- Continuing to develop a Maori world view in the school and Maori leadership in Kapa Haka.
- Develop an understanding of the Treaty of Waitangi across all year levels.
- Regular Pacific and Maori hui / fono
- Having appropriate cultural representation on the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees welcomes all this feedback and thanks everyone for their input. Bryce Coleman, our Principal, is working with staff on further developing capabilities and understanding and together with the staff will incorporate this feedback into the school programmes.

As a Board, we are well aware of the lack of cultural representation, and we would like to take steps immediately to rectify this.

We will be holding a hui in term 4 to gather nominations from both our Maori and Pacific Communities to join the board. If you are interested in knowing more about these roles, please contact Bryce at school or the BOT chair Russell Cooke via e-mail [russell.cooke@xtra.co.nz](mailto:russell.cooke@xtra.co.nz)

More information about the hui will follow at the beginning of term 4.

### **Curriculum development news...**

In 2016 the school joined the Deeper Learning Research project with the team at Core Education in Christchurch. Deeper Learning explores the links between teaching and learning pedagogies, school environment, collaborative partnerships and digital technologies. Interwoven with these four areas are six competencies: Collaboration, Creativity, Critical Thinking, Citizenship, Communication and Character which are all key to successful learning. Paremata are working in a cluster with twenty eight other NZ schools as well as liaising with schools in Uruguay, Australia, USA, Australia, Holland and Great Britain.

The management team (Bryce Coleman, Christine Lock, Sally Ratchford, Jo Milne, Ursula Leggett, Caroline Lockyer and Trish Tennant) attended the Deeper Learning conference in July 2017 and presented a summary of the work that was on show at our learning celebrations afternoon at the end of Term 2.

### **Finances**

The school has a challenging year ahead with very tight finances to manage, as our operational funding does not adequately cover all that we aim to provide for the children. Appropriately, we have been focusing on every dollar to ensure the best possible outcomes for the children within the constraints we have. As a consequence we are extremely grateful for the excellent work the PTA does to raise funds for the extra things the school would otherwise not have. Please get involved with supporting the fundraising efforts of the PTA. In particular, please support this year's gala - it's a great community event and really helps the school.

School donations are another way you can help the school provide extra programmes for our children and these are tax deductible.

### **Sports**

Our sporting teams have had another successful winter and many thanks to all the teachers and parents who gave up their time to coach a team this year. We appreciate your commitment to the children, getting up early on those soggy cold wet Saturday mornings and running regular practices.

### **Buildings and redevelopment**

The upgrade of the school boiler and central heating system, library toilets and rooms 5 and 6, is nearing completion. This work has taken a lot longer than expected but the end result is worth waiting for.

Thank you all for your ongoing positive support. If there is anything you'd like to discuss or know more about, please talk to any of the Board members listed below.

Ngā mihi

Russell Cooke (BoT chairperson), Brendan Nally, Julie Morris, Kate Calvert, Stephanie Maclean, Bryce Coleman (Principal) and Christine Lock (Staff rep).