

Hi all,

What a great day we had hosting the Bush Road Race here at school last Friday. There was a lot of positive feedback from the schools attending about how well the day was run, and thankfully Eketahuna turned on the weather to make our lives easier. Thank you to all in the school community who helped out on the day. It wouldn't have been such a successful event without your help.

Last Friday also marked the closing day for nominations for the BOT elections. We have had three nominations so I can confirm that Megan Governor, Skye White and myself have been declared trustees. Warren Chase had chosen to retire so we have one vacancy to fill on the BOT. We are able to function with the three parent representatives and our staff representative Roseanne Sayles but we will be looking to fill this parent vacancy in the near future. If you would like to become actively involved in representing and serving your school and helping us to achieve the goals of our charter by monitoring student learning, well being, achievement and progress then please talk to one of your board trustees or Denise at the office, or come along to our next meeting on the 26th June. Our meetings are open to anyone in the school community and it will give you an idea of the work the board is involved with. This is your chance to have a say in your schools strategic direction and create a vision for the future.

Yesterday you will have been entertaining your children at home as our teachers took part in the nationwide strike action. While this is sometimes inconvenient, it is important that we support our teachers in their pursuit of improved work conditions and increased funding for students with special needs. Happy teachers mean a better environment for our children to be in and overall an improvement in our education system. We all stand to gain from this – we just need to look beyond the day to day disruption and focus on the longer term goals.

At our meeting last Thursday Melinda provided us with a comprehensive report on our progress to date. Our teachers continue to trial the Evaluating and Activating Learners template to assess what is and isn't working for students and to make changes accordingly. This becomes part of the staff appraisal system in terms of improving/refining teaching practice and the impact on students.

Also as part of staff appraisal Melinda has been conducting classroom observations and having previously met with teachers to establish the focus of their individual teaching observations. Now these observations are completed she will be providing feedback focussed on next steps.

Melinda's own appraisal performance agreement has been set up for the year and focuses on two performance goals.

1. To move the appraisal system from 'prove' to 'improve'. That is a shift from basic compliance to developing teacher capability and capacity
2. Developing a new reporting system including written reports and teacher/parent meetings

And thirdly, a developmental goal to continue developing leadership skills by investigating and trialling ways to encourage teacher voice and self development by empowering staff.

The teaching team and Melinda have also begun work on reviewing our curriculum by attending a workshop focussing on designing a local curriculum with meaningful learning experiences. There is

also a change in the digital curriculum to ensure all learners have the opportunity to become digitally capable individuals.

As part of our self review last term a survey was conducted where students from Years 1-8 were asked questions relating to their perceptions of good learning. The findings will be valuable, going forward as we create our school vision about how we ensure our children get purposeful learning that builds knowledge and skills.

Our classroom modifications have been all but completed and the children should be in their refurbished room this week. The hall painting has been completed and we are sourcing quotes for blinds and a heat pump, pin boards to display art and a PA system. Our school finances are tracking well within the budget.

In the interests of health and safety you may hear your children start to talk about Circle Time. This is a programme that links to our charter goal of having a positive, collaborative, inclusive and culturally responsive school culture that develops active learners. It is a structured framework for group interaction and our staff recently attended a workshop outlining this programme to give them guidance in how to deliver the programme.

Also we were presented with data on student attendance including justified and unjustified absences which shows we are only just meeting the ministry requirements.

As you can see there is a lot going on behind the scenes at our school. We are very lucky to have such a motivated team of teachers and an extremely capable school leader.

Our next meeting is Wednesday 26th June at 6pm in the staff room. All welcome.

Maree Redington

BOT Chairperson