



STANMORE BAY
SCHOOL



2019 Term 1 Board of Trustees Whānau Newsletter

Tēnā koutou Stanmore Bay Primary School whānau,

We hope you all had a great summer and managed to keep out of the constant sun, we haven't had a summer like that for some time. A big welcome to all our new families as well as those of you who are back with us for another year.

The school feels like a really happy place when I wander through at drop off or pickup – everyone is positive, and I have seen a renewed vigour and excitement from our children and teachers (both returning and new). The excitement that our children are also finally back at school hasn't worn off yet.

Mr Sides keeps you all up to date on all the key dates for the term, staff updates and exciting results for the students with the revamped newsletter. This newsletter is focused around information sharing of what our role is as a board and to re-cap on a few highlights from the last 6 months. We hope this helps you feel more engaged with what is happening around the school in the less visible “behind the scenes” activities.

The role of the Board is to make the strategic decisions necessary for the school to achieve the goals set out in the school charter. The Charter is created annually with the Principal and senior staff based on their goals and those of the school. It is formed in association with the planning goals for the next three years and a copy is available at the office if you would like to review them. The Board is also responsible for putting in place and monitoring policies to make sure that the goals are, or can be, achieved. Board members have and will continue to attend evening training courses to best support the school in achieving these goals. Each board meeting, we look at a subsection of the National Administrative Guidelines (NAG) and are updated by relevant staff as to how the school and our learners are progressing against our schools self-set targets (no longer National Standards). The Board is not about operations or day-to day management but about governance.

Our Board of Trustees includes up to five trustees, elected by our school community every three years, as well as the Principal and a Staff Representative (elected by the staff). Meetings are held monthly (excluding school holidays) and all parents and caregivers are welcome to attend. It is a good way to find out more about the school. Minutes and reports of these meetings are available at the office for review at any time.

This year is election year. We want your representation on the board – diverse thinking and skills make all the difference. Practical skills like property and health and safety, relationships with our Maori and Pacific Island communities, knowledge of legal ins and outs of education are all beneficial. We seek people who are fair minded, have an opinion and are willing to express it but can listen to others and agree on a majority.

The board's number one objective – the education of our Tamariki. We are not there to change the world, or the rules, or fight society. We wish to ensure the money is spent correctly, the children are cared for and looked after and able to achieve to the fullest potential we can offer.

A big focus and spend has gone on security this summer, we have additional cameras, alterations in alarms, mirrored film in the Admin space, reviewed policy and process and are considering further actions. The protection of staff and children remains paramount.

So I seem to keep saying in every newsletter we are in the last stages of updating our property plan – I can say it is now signed and locked in for 10 years and includes activities such as repairing building foundations, decking replacements, sewage management, landscaping and site contours, roof replacements, fencing replacement and the ongoing internal upgrades of our rooms. We also have an additional boost that will be put towards the Junior school.

What we hadn't budgeted for, nor did we expect to need a large budget for, was the pool. Whilst we were excited it was "back" and hosted a fantastic day to enjoy the pool with the families of SBS we have since discovered there is still a rather large leak...somewhere.....plus the salt solenoids have reached the end of their lives. It was a hard and sad decision to leave it closed over this amazing summer. As a result of the cooler weather looming we will now focus some money into a full repair and aim for it to be ready for Term 4 and the end of year break. A community asset we wish to have fully working. We do however have a great new security system on the pool that tags who is coming and going – all these positive steps in the right direction 😊

On the bright side we did get the field drainage all ploughed in, the true test will be winter, but we believe the work done over summer is money well spent to maintain some use over winter.



To re-cap the Board members:

Matt Sides – Principal

Leigh Faulkner – Staff Representative

Sam Ereckson – Chairperson

Mike Cope

Claire Ellison

Sophia Manga (Seconded)

Loyal Moore – Board Secretary

2019 PTA

The PTA, our dedicated volunteer parent helpers, tirelessly work to host activities and events that enrich the lives of our children. You create awesome events and I look forward to a few this year. You raise money for the school. Thanks the PTA for their constant effort to continually imagine and run energising and fun events to bring our children and the community together. Join them and help where you can.

Dojo and Kindo and Electronic Media

We urge everyone to please use Kindo as we drive for a cashless school. The office staff are very happy to assist in showing you how to use Kindo. Kindo has significant benefits to the school and the parents of the school as it simplifies our operational ability to know what has been paid and to seek approval for some activities. Along with making multiple payments in one transaction and it can save you a trip into the office as purchase items can be sent to your child's class.



Dojo is being used increasingly throughout the school and it a great way of staying up to date on what's going on (trips/swimming sports/meetings etc) and being able to message your child's teacher should you need to. I have found Dojo has been great at keeping me up to date on my two girl's activities at school and gives me more to discuss with them – it's great to see this being embraced further.

Will Stanmore Bay School return to Facebook this year? We will look at further ways to interact.

School Donations

Thank you to those parents who have already paid their school donation in full, and a special thank you to those parents who made an additional donation. Your financial support of our School is greatly appreciated. This allows us to invest in further activities and non-curricular items to benefit our tamariki. There is an early bird payment discount available for payment in Term 1 only for the full year – please see Kindo for details.

A reminder that the donation is tax deductible and the rebate can be claimed this tax year if the donation is paid by 31 March.

Our next Board meeting will be next Wednesday 8th May 2019 at 7.00pm in the school staffroom. We would love to see you if you've got an interest on serving on the Board, come along, talk to us and understand what we do, or feel free to email Sam at sbschoolbot@gmail.com and I will get back to you with answers to your questions.

Noho ora mai,

Sam Ereckson

Board Chairperson

"Empowering our community of learners to strive for excellence through effort and achievement."

