



BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE MARCH 2021

Kia ora koutou,

What an awesome night the family fun night was. Thank you to the staff for organising this annual get together for parents, students and teachers to get to know each other a little better over some fun sports and a sausage sizzle. A relaxed and fun summer's night was had by everyone who came.

The pōwhiri held on 12 February was led by local Iwi Ngāti Maru. It was an excellent cultural and learning experience for the students. We were also honoured to have the Waikato's Ministry of Education Director, Shane Ngatai attend with his fellow colleagues. Principal David Brock and Board Chair Siobhan Flanigan said it was a significant and successful event that provided a fantastic opportunity to enhance our relationships with both Ngāti Maru and the Ministry of Education. Thank you to both Ngāti Maru and the Ministry of Education for taking the time out of your busy schedules to attend the pōwhiri.

The Board had its first meeting for the year on 23 February. We would like to thank and congratulate Siobhan Flanigan for accepting the nominations for Board Chair again this year. It is a huge role that requires educational sector knowledge, good relationships with staff, students, parents and other stakeholders plus a tremendous amount of personal time. Best wishes Siobhan for another successful year in the role as Board Chair.

Lisa Donaldson has been co-opted onto the Board. Lisa has shown an interest in becoming a board member for some time. She has 3 children in the school and has teaching experience so her knowledge and experience will be a welcome asset to the Board. Welcome Lisa.

Lisa joins existing Board members, Principal David Brock, Chair Siobhan Flanigan, Ross Ashby, Jaspreet Kaur, Lisa Dsouza, Charles Corry and staff representative Wayne Howes. A Deputy Chair is still to be nominated.

The Board approved its budget for 2021. This included the extra funding for the reading and writing programmes we approved in term 4 of 2020 which we updated you on in our final communications last year.

In other news:

Local Curriculum work continues to progress and there will be a hui between staff and the Board to present this work in more detail next term.

Communications – there are a number of ways the school is communicating with its school whānau now. These are:

- Taiari Times of Thames – Principal David Brock blogs at the start of term and throughout the term if there are important messages such as school closures etc.
- Skool Loop app – keep an eye on these for daily notices and weekly newsletters.
- Website – moana.school.nz - a fantastic new website that has up to date information. If there is anything you want to know about the school, use the easy navigational tool bars to find what you are looking for. If it's not there and you think it should be, just contact the school office.
- Moanataiari Sign Board – keep an eye on the sign for relevant messages for the day/week as you drop off/pick up children.
- Facebook and Instagram

- Parent Teacher Conferences – these are face to face meetings with the teacher so parents can find out how your child is doing and what support you can give at home. These will occur later in term 1 but in the meantime, if you have any concerns, just email your child's teacher. Email addresses are on the website at moana.school.nz.

Road safety – this continues to be a major concern for the Board. To keep our children safe, please follow the road rules by:

- Not stopping or parking on yellow lines. They are painted yellow for a reason which is to keep that area free of vehicles to allow for clear visibility for children crossing the road/walking into school.
- Not speeding around the perimeter of the school – it is not a race track.
- Not cutting corners – this is a real issue and has nearly resulted in a number of head on accidents.
- Being mindful that we have children crossing and running out in front of cars without sometimes stopping and looking first.
- Ensuring your child wears a helmet to and from school if they are riding a bike or a scooter.

Let's work together to keep our children safe.

Attendance – the more your children attend school, the more they learn which at this level provides the foundation for the future. Please avoid unjustified absences as this impacts their daily learning.

COVID-19 – we are now back in alert level 1. Parents and caregivers are welcome to come onto the school grounds in alert level 1. When entering the school, please sign in using the COVID tracer app at the school gate or office. Staff are prepared for any alert level changes. Please follow the government's rules for each alert level and keep our school whānau safe. Keep an eye out for important updates as alert levels change.

The Board wishes students and staff all the best for a productive learning / teaching year, hopefully with as minimal disruption as possible.

Kia kaha

Ngā mihi
Moanataiari Board of Trustees