



BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE MARCH 2022

Kia ora koutou,

Term 1 is well underway and the Board of Trustees (the Board) hope staff and students have settled into their new class routines after a fantastic summer away.

The Board had its first meeting on Monday, 21st February and elected Lisa Donaldson as its new Board Chair. Lisa has a teaching background and brings a wealth of educational experience to the role. Congratulations Lisa – you will make an awesome Board Chair.

Siobhan Flanagan will remain on the Board until May. She will help Lisa transition into her new Board Chair role. We thank Siobhan for her outstanding mahi as Board Chair and prior to that as a Board member. Siobhan's contribution to Moanataiari School has been huge. During her many years on the Board, she has been dedicated and committed giving up hours and hours of her personal time. Best wishes Siobhan for your next ventures – whatever it will be, you will be amazing at it.

For your information, the Board elections have been deferred from May until September by the Ministry of Education. If you are interested in getting involved in the Board or PTA (Parents Teacher Association), then please contact the school office via the Moanataiari website.

Principal, David Brock provided the Board with the Strategic and Annual Plan (Charter) for 2022-2024 which was reviewed and signed off. The Board also received a work plan for February – December 2022 which aligns with the Charter. There are three strategic goals to focus on for 2022 as follows:

1. Student engagement;
2. Giving effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi; and
3. To raise writing levels of achievement.

Students are now using and are engaged with the Writers Toolbox. Ms Trenwith wrote an interesting article on how the Writers Toolbox works which was included in the newsletter a couple of weeks ago. Students are excited to be getting detailed feedback instantly so that they can modify and enhance their writing immediately. If you missed the article and would like to know more, this is available on the Moanataiari school website or contact the school office.

Reading and maths also continue to be key focuses. The Board invested in reading in last year's budget and have a number of programmes to support readers at all different levels. One of the best ways to improve a child's reading is for parents to read to them each night from an early age and then later, let them read to you. It nurtures a love of books and reading early on. It's awesome when a child decides for themselves to take a moment out of a busy day to sit quietly for a while and read a book that interests them.

There is a fantastic music programme being run after school hours by Jessica Paton for anyone interested in learning a musical instrument. Contact the school for more information or keep an eye out in the newsletter.

Our school has spaces for students of all ages. If you know of anyone interested in attending Moanataiari School, then please let them know to contact the school office.

As you know, we now have COVID-19 community transmission in Thames and on the Coromandel so like everywhere in New Zealand, it will be a challenging term for us all. As per the communications issued on Sunday, one of our students has contracted COVID-19. We wish them a speedy recovery and look forward to their return when they are well enough to do so. School will remain open and we will follow the Ministry of Health guidelines for keeping everyone as safe as possible.

Students and teachers are adapting well to wearing masks to keep themselves and others around them safe. We all look forward to the day when they will not be required but for now, we will follow the requirements and guidelines of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education.

Parents are welcome to come onto school grounds if they need to but are asked to contact the office staff first before doing so.

If children are sick, please keep them at home to recover before sending them back to school.

We want to keep everyone at school as safe as possible.

We will leave it there for now. Have a wonderful term 1.

Kia kaha.

Ngā mihi
Moanataiari Board of Trustees