



BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2021

Kia ora koutou,

In this update, Moanataiari School Board of Trustees (BoT) would like to thank:

- Mrs Saunders and Mrs Kruger for taking on the Acting Principal co-role and additional work this term. You have done a fantastic job in Mr Brock's absence. We greatly appreciate the extra effort and excellent communications especially during the COVID lockdown.
- All staff for doing an outstanding job to ensure Moanataiari students could continue their learning from home via online programmes, zoom meetings and making learning packs available during the recent level 3 and 4 lockdown. Our school library was even open for online orders and deliveries once we got to level 3. Students and whānau felt well supported by staff. Thank you for being prepared and able to hand out learning packs shortly after the level 4 lockdown announcement. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.
- Students and whānau for following the COVID alert level changes and doing what you can at home to continue learning and supporting each other.
- Mrs Leach for teaching Mrs Saunder's class in room 7 three days a week and Mrs Donaldson for teaching Mrs Kruger's class in room 2 this term enabling them to undertake the joint Acting Principal role.
- Mrs Good and Mrs Edlin for co-teaching in Room 9 in Mr Howes absence this term.

Our Garden

At Moanataiari School, we are extremely fortunate to have an awesome school garden and 'garden to plate' programme that the students are actively involved in. The BoT received a healthy living report from Claire Nankivell which reported on what generally happens in the garden on a weekly basis and what specific projects have been happening this year.

Our school garden is built around connection. Our garden provides real experiences helping children to connect and engage with the garden environment and each other. The children harvest, plan menus and cook together. You may have been lucky enough to have sampled some of their awesome cooking from time to time or home grown produce. Thank you Claire for the awesome work you do both in the garden and kitchen with the students. We, along with the students, love our environment friendly garden.

Science

With thanks to Mr Brock, the school has also obtained a new PocketLab Air. This is an all in one science lab for investigating climate change and air pollution in our environment. The senior students are learning about science in a real context so a fantastic learning device to have on hand.

Parent Curriculum Evenings

Back in July, a parent curriculum evening on reading was held for parents to attend. This was organised as a result of parents requesting an information evening at the last whānau meeting. The staff put a lot of work and effort in to make this evening successful but unfortunately the turnout was low. The junior school focussed on reading as it is now and the change to reading with the introduction of decodable texts and the senior school focused on reading at home and school. An informative evening that may have been missed for a number of reasons. If you want to know more, then please do not hesitate to ask at the upcoming parent teacher conferences or you can email the teacher or contact the school office. Keep an eye out in the newsletter and social media for future parent curriculum evenings that you can attend to support both students and teachers.

Junior Student Wellbeing Survey Results 2021

In term 2, a simple pictorial survey was designed to try and capture student wellbeing in years 1-3 because the children were too young to complete the NZCER survey. The survey was done orally with the children. There were ten questions and responses required were 'very happy', 'okay' and 'very unhappy'. The BoT received and discussed the results from the survey. The overall response was that students are very happy. Recommendations were made to monitor other observations which the BoT supported.

Property

During the school holidays, some of our classrooms are having a new roof put on which is great news. This has been in the pipeline for a while and we thank the Ministry of Education for making this happen these holidays. Please be mindful that part of the school will be a construction site and not safe for children to be playing at.

In other property news, we have a few jobs that we need doing that we would welcome some whānau support with e.g. adding bark to the junior playground and painting the bench seats in the courtyard. We hope to hold a working bee sometime in the coming months. More to come on this. Please do contact the school office if you are available to assist.

We are also looking at replacing our drinking fountains hopefully in the near future. While we are in alert level 2, students need to continue to bring their own drink bottles.

Grant Funding Applications

The BoT would like to acknowledge the work Julie White has done in applying for a number of grant funding applications, many of which have been successful. Since February 2019, Moanataiari School has successfully been granted a total of \$152,785.02 from various funding organisations such as NZCT, Milestone Foundation, Harcourts Foundation, Grassroots, Sustainability Contestable Fund (MoE), Maxe Grants and more recently, Thames Community Board. Each funding application requires a lot of work to complete each application with supporting documentation required. Julie's efforts and success rate are greatly appreciated and benefit everyone at Moanataiari School. We also thank the funding organisations for their continued support.

In addition to this, our funding application for the new writing programme to be implemented in 2022 was also successful with 80 hours professional development being granted. Awesome work! We can't wait to the roll out of this new writing programme that students will embrace.

Moanataiari School's 50th Reunion,

Planning for our 50th reunion which will be held in March 2022 is well underway. The BoT received an update at its August meeting from the Committee tasked to make this fantastic event a huge success. If you would like to know more, please contact the school office.

Parking

Just a reminder please – we ask all parents and caregivers to **not park on the yellow lines outside school**. By parking on these lines, you are impacting students' visibility when crossing the road and we wouldn't want anyone getting hurt unnecessarily.

Last Day of School 2021

As already highlighted by staff, because the mid-term break which included a teacher only day did not proceed due to the COVID alert level 4 lockdown, school will now close for the year on 14 December 2021. The newsletter will advertise this and start dates for 2022.

The BoT warmly welcomes back Mr Brock and Mr Howes in term 4. We look forward to seeing them both and hearing how their respective sabbatical research projects went.

Spring school holidays are almost upon us and we wish everyone safe and happy school holidays.

Ngā mihi, Moanataiari Board of Trustees