



BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE DECEMBER 2020

Kia ora koutou,

Well it just seems like yesterday that the Board of Trustees (BoT) welcomed everyone back to the start of term 4. It sure was a very busy term indeed.

While the Board's focus is on student achievement and health and wellbeing, we along with staff are also focussed on creating as many opportunities as possible for students to partake in.

Students from Moanataiari School this term alone participated in a huge number of sporting activities and events as well as participating in the end of year Thames schools drama production.

It's fantastic to see so many students taking part, trying new activities, learning new skills, making new friends and having fun.

There were also lots of fun school trips organised by teachers that created new learning experiences for students.

Thank you to the teachers that have been involved to make these extra curriculum activities happen for students.

The BoT aim to continue increasing the opportunities in 2021 and hope to introduce music lessons. If you haven't expressed an interest to learn an instrument yet, then please contact the office staff.

Student Achievement

The BoT received from Principal David Brock, comprehensive reports on reading and writing with recommendations in both for 2021 and beyond to increase students' achievement in these two key curriculum areas.

Learning to read is arguably the most important skill any child can gain at primary skill. Reading is the foundation for learning and for future employment. Being able to read for enjoyment is one of life's pleasures and provides time out assisting with our daily wellness.

The BoT acknowledged the importance of reading and agreed to provide funding in 2021 to upgrade instructional reading materials and resources for a number of reading programmes.

Writing is just as important and naturally aligns with reading skills. The BoT agreed to purchasing writing resources for all teachers in 2021 that will standardise the curriculum being taught and to explore writing programmes for the future.

There is plenty of opportunity for parents to become involved with their children's reading and writing progress in 2021 so please keep in touch with teachers and look out for updates on how you can become more involved.

If you have any concerns with your child's learning, please do not hesitate to contact the school to discuss.

In the meantime, we encourage children to read over the holidays and even write a story about what they have been doing so they don't have to start over when they return to school.

Communications

As a result of a lot of hard work and effort throughout 2020, we have a new website which is the main communication tool that will promote our school and provide current and accurate information for whānau.

Well done to Julie White who project managed the new website project and staff who assisted with content. Check it out at moana.school.nz. There are still a few tweaks being made but it is live and operational.

We are loving all the photos of students and the many activities that they are doing in a school year which will continue to feature on Facebook, our electronic sign and now on our new website.

Property

You have heard a lot about the property plans throughout the year.

We now have the go ahead for the much needed drainage work from the Ministry of Education. We are still working on trying to make this happen with local drainage companies for January.

More will follow in the New Year on this work and other property plans.

Fund Raising Projects

We flagged in our last update that in 2021, the BoT wants to get off the ground some fundraising projects that will help raise some serious cash. This will be in addition to the awesome fundraising the PTA does throughout the year.

Fundraising projects will benefit the students directly.

So if you are interested in being on the Committee and have ideas, then please let the BoT or office staff know.

Happy Holidays

On behalf of the Board, we wish staff and students safe and happy holidays.

Enjoy your break, don't forget to slip, slop and slap while in the sun and keep up the awesome reading you have been doing this year over the holidays.

We look forward to seeing you all back refreshed and ready to learn by attending school every day in 2021 for another year of learning, growing and making a difference together.

Ngā mihi

Moanataiari School Board of Trustees