

Board Chair Report

Hi Everyone

Sorry it has been so long since I last touched base. The year is going by fast and I find myself struggling to believe that Term two is all but over. With so much going on, I will try not to miss anything out.

Firstly, I would like to welcome all our new families to our area and their children to our school. We started the year on 44 students, and on the 1st of July this year we will be at 56 students which means that we have surpassed the magic number of 52 students required to qualify for a third full time teacher. We have received confirmation from the Ministry of Education regarding the funding and our principal, Mr McHutchon has now started the process required to fill this position.

I would also like to take this opportunity to update you on the planning progress for the Fundraising Auction Gala Day on the 9th of September. Although it now looks like we won't have to fund a third teacher ourselves, we are still hovering around a vulnerable number and we believe it is important to replenish our resources for what the future may bring. It will also be a great way to "Meet and Greet" all the new families to the community. More information will be made available shortly.

Recent changes to the Board have seen Melissa Ellison move from the secretary role to being an elected parent trustee on the Board and Teressa Young appointed as secretary.

It is great to see all the things the children have accomplished already this year. There have been numerous sporting achievements by some of our pupils. One of the most exciting things I have been witnessing at the moment is how well all the pupils have been working together with Mrs Kinaston and staff to put together this year's production. I am sure you are all like me and can't wait to see our performing stars on stage.

The main thing we focus on and set goals for throughout the year is having an environment and programs in place at Heriot School to allow all students opportunities to progress their learning. We as a Board, analyse the student achievement information that is provided to us and we regularly check that we are progressing as planned. We measure this against the targets we set at the start of the year and against our strategic plans.

The Board is always looking at ways to further develop their skills which sees them attending numerous Ministry of Education courses throughout the year which gives us the knowledge and confidence to operate and handle all the tasks required.

I recently had the opportunity to attend a two-day seminar for new Board Chairs from around the country which made me realise how lucky we are with what we are able to offer our children. Their potential to develop, in learning and as people, is unrestricted. We live in a great community and your involvement is important to us.

In saying this, as your Board Chair I am open to any suggestions, queries etc. that you may have and am happy at any time for you to contact me.

Andrew Herriott

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Or evenings 2042315