

BOT NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the final board newsletter for 2016, it is hard to believe that the end of the year is upon us.

Student Achievement

The board has reviewed our student achievement information at the recent November meeting. It is very pleasing to see how hard our children have worked, alongside their teachers.

Our final National Standard achievements were 90% reading within or above, 83% writing within or above and 76% within or above in Maths.

We have been working on our strategic goals, using student achievement and our community consultation to guide us. This will be completed over the coming months and a charter that is meaningful to our community will be available to view at the beginning of March 2017. Our staff have been working on some very exciting curriculum ideas going forward that will bring positive learning outcomes across ALL curriculum areas, not just the core curriculum; reading, writing and maths.

2017 Staffing

We had originally projected that we would be starting 2017 with 38 children. With the arrival of new families we will begin the year with 42 students. This, together with an influx of new entrants into the school throughout the year, means our roll is projected to get to 49. This puts pressure on the Junior Room with a projected roll of 26 children ranging in age and ability from Year 0 through to Year 3. We need 52 children on our roll to receive MOE funding for a third teacher. While we would dearly love to be able to fund a third teacher full time it is not financially viable. The board has decided to fund a part time teacher. We want to allow more time for teacher/student engagement, which in turn will lead to more successful learners.

The board will be fundraising \$24,000 to cover this and hope that you will be able to help towards achieving this goal. We understand that everyone may not agree with this decision, but we've made it with your children's best interests at heart.

Camp

All the best to year 5 & 6 children who are heading off on camp. The Bannockburn timetable looks like a very fun and challenging 4 days and we hope that you enjoy the experience. Let's hope the weather plays its part for you all. Thank you to our school community for all of your support with fundraising, carpooling kids, parent help, working bees etc throughout the school year. It is very much appreciated. We are all lucky that our children get to experience the kindness and generosity that comes with living in our small rural community. On behalf of the board we wish you all a Merry Christmas and safe and happy holidays.

Kind regards

Ange McHutchon
Heriot School Chairperson