

Heriot School Board of Trustees Newsletter

Welcome to the Heriot School Board of Trustees September newsletter. It is hoped that we can provide a monthly newsletter keeping you informed about what the Board has been busy at.

At the beginning of each school year student achievement targets are set and included in our school charter. A copy of the charter is put on our website at the start of the year for everyone to read.

Our learning targets for 2016 are:

Writing: Year 4 students that are below the national standard will have made at least one year's progress with the intention of working within or above the national standard by the end of 2016.

Reading: Year 5 students that are below the national standard will have made at least one year's progress with the intention of working within or above the national standard in reading by the end of 2016

Mathematics: Year 4-6 students that are below the national standard will be working within or above the national standard in Mathematics by the end of 2016.

A whole school progress report was presented at our Board meeting in July, it is very pleasing to see steady increases in achievement due to the hard work that both our Staff and students are putting in.

Reading Achievement - 87% above or within the National Standard

Writing Achievement – 89% above or within the National Standard

Mathematics Achievement – 70% above or within the National Standard. (Viv Thompson from the University of Otago- has been working with staff and students to help lift achievement in mathematics this year.)

Community Consultation

At the end of term three the Board will be conducting a community consultation survey. The information gathered helps us to identify our strengths and weaknesses. Being a small rural school we believe it is extremely important to know what parents/caregivers thoughts are towards; how effective the board and staff have been at providing educational success for our children. I encourage you to take the time to complete the survey when it is sent out.

Working Bee Term 4

Summer is just around the corner and the Board would like to have a working bee early in term 4. We will be contacting parents with a date in the near future. Many hands make light work and we hope you can spare us an hour or two to paint the basketball back boards, re-mark the lines on the court, mark out some running tracks, paint the picnic tables and have a general tidy up.

School App

The school app is up and running, and you will now be receiving notifications in regards to upcoming events, newsletters etc, you can also quickly log an absentee if your child is away from school. A huge thank you to Mrs Cormack for the time she has put in to getting this app working.

Te Reo Māori

You have probably heard your children practising for their cultural performance at the end of the term, it is great to see everyone enjoying learning Te Reo, we hope to be able to continue to develop and grow the cultural program at school.

Ka Hikitia – Accelerating Success 2013-2017

Ka Hikitia is a ministry strategy to “rapidly change how the education system performs so that all Māori students gain the skills, qualifications and knowledge they need to enjoy and achieve education success as Māori”

As a board we have a responsibility to:

- Set future directions for successful learning of Māori students
- Be accountable for the performance of Māori Student achievement
- Ensure Māori stakeholders in our community and represented in governance, planning and decision making.
- Ensure that we are a good employer by supporting school staff to teach and support Māori students effectively.

The board has been using Hautū as a self-assessment tool to ensure that we meet our accountabilities by reviewing cultural responsiveness in our school. Hautū aligns with the four key areas of governance that we adhere to; Leadership, representation, accountability and employer roles.

Sun Smart Policy

Heriot School is a sunsmart school and we have recently reviewed our sunsmart policy. There will be sunblock available in term 4 & term 1 for your children to use during the day, as well as wide brimmed hats. Our school also has plenty of outdoor areas with shade for children to safely play under.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Cultural Performance on the 22nd September at 1.30pm in the Community Centre.

Kind Regards
Angela McHutchon

Chairperson