

BOT NEWSLETTER – MAY 2015

Welcome to Term 2! This is an update from our school's Board of Trustees.

MANSELL ON THE MOVE!...

You may have heard about or noticed many changes happening around the school. We are working hard to ensure that Mansell has a very bright and exciting future. All aspects of the school environment, learning spaces, classroom management and teaching practice are being reviewed to ensure that Mansell provides the best possible environment and opportunities for our students. If you have any queries or concerns or suggestions at any time, we would love to hear from you.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Mansell has robust and up-to-date Policies and Procedures on all aspects of school operational matters. If any parents/whanau/caregivers have any queries about policies or procedures, the Board encourages you to contact the school or drop in to the school office to inquire about the policy or procedure that concerns you. These are publicly available at the school office. We are always ensuring that Mansell Policies and Procedures are relevant and up-to-date.

FINANCIAL POSITION

With the student roll currently low, the forward budget is very tight. The Board has needed to take a very cautious and prudent approach going forward, however we are confident that the situation will improve in time, especially as Mansell seeks to be a preferred place of learning for discerning parents and students.

PROPOSAL TO EXPAND

The BOT thanks you for your recent input and feedback to our survey about the future direction of Mansell. As a result of your input, we are applying to the Ministry of Education to expand Mansell to include years 5 and 6 as well as years 7 and 8. We will keep you informed about progress on this.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GRADUATES OF THE 'COMPUTERS IN HOMES' PROGRAMME

The Board extends their congratulations to the graduates of our inaugural 'Computers in Homes' programme! Graduates have completed a course on computer use and get to take their computers home to help their children with their learning. This may also result in opportunities for parents/whanau to find or make business ventures.

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STRATEGIC PLAN AND ANNUAL PLAN

Mansell's Strategic Plan and Annual Plan have been recently reviewed and ratified by the Board. The 5 key focus areas of the plan are **Teaching and Learning, Curriculum, Whanau Partnership, Student Support,** and **School Culture**. For each of these themes there are specific aims and objectives to help us know why, what and when these goals are being met. Just like running a business or company, there are many facets that all come together to ensure that our school is successful. These facets include sound financial management, asset management, curriculum knowledge, teacher professional development, effective governance, strong leadership, community/whanau engagement, and effective teaching practice.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Three times each year, student achievement data is collected to help us determine if students are making progress in the three main areas of Reading, Writing and Mathematics. So far, this year, we have only the first set of data available. This information provides us with a 'baseline' snap-shot of where our students are at with their learning. The next set of data will help us determine the progress the students have made. Various tests, assessments and school work that students complete, enable the teacher to make an overall judgement about how your child is achieving in their learning, against National Standards. As caregivers, we cannot encourage you enough to engage in your child's learning. One important way to do this is to attend the 'student-led conferences' where your child will discuss their learning pathways, school work, and Report with you.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES?

If any parents/whanau/caregivers would like to serve the needs of the school by being on the Board of Trustees (BOT), contact our Principal, Ms Kaukau in the first instance. You are also welcome to attend any BOT meeting.

QUERIES?

You are welcome to contact the BOT if you have any queries or concerns or compliments about how Mansell Senior is being managed. Any queries about day-to-day school operations and programmes should be directed to the Principal however. We are always keen to hear the thoughts and opinions of parents/caregivers/whanau. The Board Chair (Tony Thompson) can be contacted on 021 2497400 or by e-mail at tony.t@mansell.school.nz. Alternatively you can phone the school secretary or drop a note in to the office.

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