

Kia ora e te whānau

The Board of Trustees met on Thursday 4th April for our second Board meeting of the year. We had a big agenda in front of us, and the pleasure of several guests in our community slot at the beginning of the meeting. We relish seeing parents in these sessions, so please do feel free to pop along when you have something you'd like to discuss.

Christchurch vigil

We would like to thank Joyce and the teachers for the wonderful way they handled the MNS response to the Christchurch mosque attacks. It was incredibly reassuring for us to see the school working with us to look after our children at such an emotional and crucial time, and for the love that was shown to our Muslim community. The vigil was beautiful and pitched at the level appropriate to our young people. Thank you Joyce and everyone. It felt like a very lovely reflective space, and I know I needed it too.

Board elections

We were delighted to be joined at our meeting by some interested parents who came along to learn all about the mystery and magic of being a Board member, with a view to standing for election this coming June. We had a great conversation about the skills you need (all the ones you already have!) and the work you do (from meetings to specific portfolio responsibilities) as a Board member. They asked us some curly questions about what we saw as the challenges in the role ("limited budget" was the overwhelming answer to that one!) and we are pretty sure we didn't put them off. Nominations will be called in early May, so if anyone else is interested, please contact Joyce or one of us to discuss further. It is a really important role and it is vital we get a broad representation from our school community so that we truly represent you.

Home and School

We then had a presentation from Alison Herft from the Home and School about their draft overall workplan for the year. It is really wonderful to hear that we now have a good sized team on the Home and School, who are planning a range of exciting events, from fundraising to whanaungatanga. Many of you will have already seen them in action at the fabulous picnic! So keep your eyes peeled for upcoming events and support support support!!!

Driveway project update

Well, I know it feels like a continuing saga, and that we've been teasing you for ages, but the driveway project is now tantalisingly close! We received the excellent news that in addition to the driveway itself, we are going to also have the main crib wall at the front of the school replaced as well—a double whammy! Getting both of these over the line has involved a huge amount of effort (and quite frankly, magic) from the amazing Jason Stein and his Ministry-of-Education whispering ability, and Joyce. Well done you two!

The project is E-NOR-MOUS and we're now going into planning phase, thinking about how to best accommodate it so it has the *least* impact on us. But, we're going to be honest with you, it will cause massive disruption because it will require us to use alternatives to the main entrance for quite some time and will also take out parking spaces on Weka St (which lets face it, is not exactly abundant with parking spaces as it is). But we'll do our best to work out a least-worst option timing-wise (hopefully term 4), and just think how fabulous it will be when it is done!

Board secretary role

As you may have seen in Joyce's newsletter, our wonderful board secretary is leaving us, and this opens up a great opportunity for a parent who is interested in being involved in the Board, but doesn't necessarily want to be an elected member. It involves: agendas, minutes, meeting logistics, document management, organising policy reviews, liaising with the Ministry when needed, other Board-related admin, and potentially even some newsletter writing if you were so inclined. We'd love to have an enthusiastic parent who might be interested in a bit of extra paid work! If anyone is interested in taking up the role, please see Joyce or Nicola for more information.

School fees

It's that time of year where I go *ahem* SCHOOL DONATIONS *cough cough*. *So far we have only received donations from 67 children out of the entire school.* I know it is just one more thing on top of already stretched budgets, but we really do need these to keep us afloat (quite literally in the case of pool donations!). If you are struggling to pay up front, please contact Belinda in the office, or Joyce. We have lots of ways we can help with payment plans or part payments. We do understand that it can be a lot at the beginning of the year, especially if you have children at several schools. If it has just slipped your mind, totally understand that too (coming from the mother who has many times had to be reminded by the office that I haven't done something I'm supposed to do!). So put an alert on your phone, or tie some string around your finger, or ask your child to remind you...whatever you need! Remember:

SCHOOL AND POOL
DONATIONS ARE COOL.

Ok, so I won't win any poetry prizes!

Hope you all have a lovely Easter break with just the right amount of chocolatey goodness, and lots of rest and whānau time.

Board of Trustees

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Jane Bell (Teacher Representative) — janeb@mns.school.nz

Joyce Adam (Principal) — joycea@mns.school.nz

Our next meeting will be **Thursday 16 May 2019** at 6.30pm in the MNS staffroom. The first 15 minutes is when we'd love to see you if you've got something to bring to the Board. We are really keen to listen to your perspectives and have a conversation. This will be the final meeting for the existing Board before our shiny new one comes in!

Noho ora mai,

MNS Board of Trustees