

Kia ora e te whānau

The Board of Trustees met on Thursday 21 February for our first Board meeting of the year. The Board would like to send a huge welcome to all the new families who are joining the MNS whānau this year. One of the things that makes MNS so special is its community, and the beautiful people that make it up. We all look forward to connecting with you and hearing from you and working together to support the amazing teachers who do such an incredible job caring for and developing our children into capable, curious, creative and critical young people.

Home and School

As always, the first 15 minutes of our meeting is open for you to come along and share what is on your mind. At this first meeting, it was fantastic to have Mel Thorpe, from the Home and School, with us to set the scene for what is being planned for the year. The Home and School is a dedicated group of parents who work hard to nurture whanaungatanga and community building in the school, and also assist the school hugely through its fundraising efforts. The school really relies on this extra assistance to help it deliver the wonderful education it does, so we are keen to support it in any way we can. We'd like to echo the call out to anyone who could join the Home and School, or contribute ideas or time to fundraising activities. We know there are some extraordinary creative peeps out there and budding entrepreneurs, so let the Home and School know if you have a brilliant idea or can participate in any way. We have it on good authority that the Home and School "meetings" are not your conventional sit-round-a-table-debating-points-of-order affairs! They are lots of fun and a fabulous way to meet other parents. The Home and School have lots of plans already, with a school picnic, an Inspiring Women evening, Bogan Bingo (I LOVE that one!) and a fair in the works, as well as the usual discos and sausage sizzles!

ERO

You heard in Joyce's February newsletter a brief summary of the Education Review Office (ERO) visit from the first week of term (yes, there *may* have been the odd expletive when we learned the date!). The Board of Trustees would like to take this opportunity to formally thank Joyce and the senior team, Michelle Barnes, Vidisha Ishver and Sarah Mackintosh for all the extra work they put in to get us ready for the ERO visit on day one, and their interactions with the ERO panel. And also the entire MNS teaching and admin team for all the support and extra effort they provided! This was a big effort in making sure that the excellent work the school does was clearly documented and communicated to the visiting panel. The Board would like to commend the professionalism of everyone involved in this important evaluation, especially as it landed smack bang on the first day of term 1! Well done and huge thanks!!! We look forward to seeing the written report very soon and will share that with you when we do.

Beginning of year business

We took a look at the year ahead, at our workplan and budget. It was the usual salutary lesson in just how tight the finances are. We rely on fundraising (including school donations, pool donations, -athons, Home and School donations etc) to provide approximately 20% of our operating budget that includes property and maintenance, teacher aides and relievers,

staff development, admin, teaching resources, ICT and much more. Thanks so much in advance for paying your donations—it really helps!!!

Board of Trustees Elections

As we noted in the last newsletter of 2018, this year is a Board of Trustees election year. So please consider whether you would be interested in being on the MNS Board. We have a couple of Board members who are not standing for re-election (our wonderful Board chair, Nicola, whose children have both left the MNS nest now, and our comms crafter, Rebecca), and we are always looking for new members with skills and enthusiasm to offer. We are very keen to ensure that the Board reflects the MNS community, so please do consider putting yourself forward if this sounds like you. We will be holding an information evening for prospective Board members later in the term (nominations are called in May), so keep your eyes and ears peeled for that. There is also a public information evening on 1 April at Wellington High School, which will provide an excellent overview on what it means to be a trustee on a school board (see the end of this newsletter for more information). It's a really great opportunity to be deeply involved in the school, and contribute to the community, and it is an incredibly rewarding experience.

Yippee for the wonderful Scorching Bay Picnic! So glad the weather played ball and the kids had a blast in the sun, sand and sea. Thanks so much to those of you who helped out with all the wrangling!

Board of Trustees

Nicola Pauling (Board Chair) — nicola@pauling.net.nz

Janine Chung (Treasurer) — janinetchung@gmail.com

Amanda Hood (Home and School – Liaison & Support) — amandahood007@yahoo.co.nz

Rebecca Sinclair (Communications and Website) — r.sinclair@massey.ac.nz

Jason Stein (Property and Health & Safety) — Jason.Stein@MeridianEnergy.co.nz

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

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

Our next meeting will be **Thursday 4 April 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.

Noho ora mai,

MNS Board of Trustees



Have you thought about becoming a board member for your school?

Come along to NZSTA's Kōrari Programme to find out about becoming a school trustee on a school board!

We are holding a community hui at Wellington High School on 1 April 2019 at 6.00 pm in the lead up to this year's board of trustees' elections.

At the hui you'll hear about:

- What is a school board of trustees
- What do trustees do
- What skills do trustees need
- Who can become a trustee
- How do I become a trustee
- Who is on a board of trustees
- How is a board elected
- What help do school trustees get
- How does the board of trustees work

We look forward to seeing you and helping your school's succession planning!

 nzsta.org.nz
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Kōrari – a programme that provides you with governance training to help you understand the role of school boards of trustees