

# BoT News

August 2015

## A message from the Chair.....

### *'A little attention to the people that help to make it all work'*

I have come to appreciate how much work goes into running a school, and I think I don't know the half of it! And Buckland is a very good school. So I thought I would give a quick mention to four particular groups of people who help to make it all work.

We have a dedicated and very effective Board of Trustees who meets regularly to plan, review, and make sure we are on track as a school. I can assure you that you have elected well as there is a broad range of experience and skills for this vital job. I appreciate the vitality and dedication of our team.

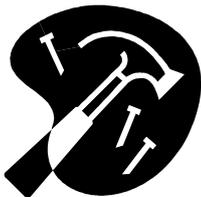
We have a strong and focussed Principal and an experienced, enthusiastic teaching staff. This includes our Teacher Aides, admin, and other support staff. Our school has a focus of ensuring all students achieve well in their learning and wider curricular activities. All the results we have reviewed would indicate that we are achieving this goal. Thank you to our Principal and staff for your focus and excellence in your work.

Our PTA continues to provide a huge level of support to our school under the new direction of Sharyn, Mal, and Angie. We are always grateful and amazed at the amount of work that goes in to fundraising. Our annual Ag Day is the largest fundraising event each year. Thank you to our PTA for your organisation and hours of work to make this happen. Please support our PTA and Ag Day in every way you can.

Finally, our parents and caregivers are an amazing group that support a range of school activities, camps, sports, EOTC activities, assisting with fundraising events, and our wonderful school musical.

We all make it happen for the children we love and care for. Let's keep doing it. Thank you.

Shane



## PROPERTY UPDATE

You may be aware that in the last few months there have been a number of schools reported in the media that are needing major work done to keep them operating. This has caused the Ministry to reassess all of their current projects because they are overcommitted for this financial year. Unfortunately for us this has meant that our new two classroom block has been pushed out a full year. While this is a great disappointment for the school there is nothing we can do but wait.

As we have been putting off a number of projects while this was to be completed, we are now looking to pull a few forward ASAP. The tractor through the front fence wasn't one of them!

We have just had a number of heat pumps installed and replaced the fence along the Buckland Road boundary. We are shortly having some concrete work done and installing a school wide Wifi network.

A few have asked about the Multipurpose Centre we have been planning for. This is still a priority for the school but at this stage the MoE are not allowing any funding to be allocated towards those types of projects. We are still working behind the scenes to get this project off the ground.

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## COMMUNITY SURVEY 2015 - The community has spoken!

Thank you – more than half, 87 of our 168 school families, found the time and energy to answer our Survey! We really appreciate your effort - we all know how crazy life can be!

Optimistically... we *could* conclude that the other 81 school families are happy with the status quo!?!

**Congratulations** to the Steenson and Hiestand-Hutt families on winning the movie vouchers drawn at the 30 June assembly. We'll organise an iceblock for all school kids later this term.

### **What will we do with the information...?**

**Analyse It:** We're currently collating and analysing the data so we can present it in an easy-to-read way.

**Review with Staff:** We'll discuss the findings with staff to get their input.

**Action Plan:** We'll develop this based on "things that can be tackled now" and "things that require a longer-term approach".

**Report Back to Community:** We'll do this both via another newsletter and make it available on our BoT webpage.

### *A wee sneak preview...*

Overwhelmingly the majority of you think Buckland School is doing a great job in most of the areas we surveyed! Some of the strongest feedback was about the 'Bible in Schools' programme - 20 families (24% of respondents) either 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree'. We will be considering whether to hold a specific 'referendum' on this as a result. Don't worry it won't cost us \$26m!

Homework, especially Mathletics – whilst the vast majority (94% of respondents) 'agree' or 'strongly agree' with Mathletics, there were some very interesting comments about the ad hoc-ness of tasks on Mathletics and requests for more visible math's homework, and other valid comments about homework in general.

There were some fantastic positive comments, and some very well-considered ideas where you see room for improvement. We look forward to working hard on these and sharing more about our survey this term.

We look forward to seeing you all at Ag Day and we're sure that it will be a fantastic day for all. Please don't forget to put your names down on the rosters, your support is invaluable and like they say....many hands make light work!

From your Board,

Shane Harris (Chair), Darryl Goldsack, Liz Roozendaal, Matt Hull, Kelly Deihl, Angela Lindgreen and  
Mavis Glasgow (Principal)