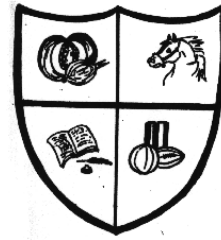


BOT NEWS



Term 4
2015

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR...

"Take a deep breath, we're almost there"

You know it's dangerously close to Christmas when you start to think about what you are going to do with your children for those days when you are still at work and school has finished.

I don't know about you, but I love the holidays as a time to reconnect with the family and press the reset button. It is also a good time to reflect on the year we have had: what has been achieved, what has been great, what we need to pursue, and what we need to let go of.

We have come to the end of another eventful year at Buckland School. We have continued to see great results in educational achievement and growth across the wide range of curricular activities we offer, both inside and outside the classroom. I am impressed at the level of energy that goes into ensuring our children are able to achieve their best at school, and the support offered to support all students to participate in their education and the life of the school. I was fortunate to be part of the camp at Chosen Valley in November that reminded me of how amazing and dedicated and inclusive our teachers, parents and children are.

We had another amazing Ag Day this year where the incredible hard work of the PTA and school community showcased the rural and community heart of our school. Big thanks must go out to the PTA committee for a very successful day. We are all (sadly) aware that the current committee has decided to step aside leaving space for new opportunities and new people to pick up the reins of this vital role. The PTA is a valuable aspect of our school life with fund-raising to support the activities of our students and wider life of the school. Please step up to this opportunity if you would like to be part of the strong PTA legacy of Buckland.

The school held a fine farewell for Mr Gardner who has retired this year after 18 years of valuable contribution to the life of our school. Thankfully Mr Gardner will continue to be part of our school life from time to time to support us as a relieving teacher.

We wish Miss Armstrong and Mrs Reddish all the best for their maternity leave. We are currently finalising the appointment of new staff to ensure our school remains fully staffed and able to provide great education.

Well, I'm getting tired just thinking about all we have done this year. I'm sure I am almost as keen as our teachers to see the end of the year and enjoy a well deserved break. So, take a deep breath, we're almost there.

The Board would like to wish all of our staff and families a very Merry Christmas, and a safe and fun holiday.



BOT NEWS



Term 4
2015

COMMUNITY SURVEY...

It was an excellent survey outcome overall which recognised the outstanding job that our amazing team do here at Buckland.

There were such a high number of great results in each category (over 90% agree/strongly agree!) that in order to focus on the *amazing* results, we've identified here the **Standouts!** that achieved over 95% agree/strongly agree. And although the numbers are small, we've identified any questions that received more than 10% disagree/strongly disagree as **Work on's**, so we can consider how to improve these areas over time.

There were also some great quality, considerate comments made with lots of positive reinforcement and constructive ideas.

We identified that many respondent's answered "don't know" or commented they weren't aware what happened in a particular area. So we can do some work on improving our communication and information availability in the future.

Standouts! (more than 95% agree/strongly agree)

- 👍 Student effort/achievement well recognised
- 👍 Teachers are approachable/willing to discuss child's needs
- 👍 EOTC is important
- 👍 We feel welcome at school
- 👍 Parents/whanau encouraged to attend school events/activities
- 👍 Mathletics useful tool (94%)
- 👍 Our child feels safe at school
- 👍 Clear safety expectations
- 👍 Programmes develop positive social skills
- 👍 H&S programmes adequate and effective
- 👍 Traffic addressed proactively

Work-on's (more than 10% disagree/strongly disagree)

- 'Bible in Schools' (24%)
- Good variety music/art opportunities (14%)
- Te Reo/Tikanga successfully integrated (13%)
- Reports give clear picture re generally; behaviourally/socially (17%)
- Homework basics at satisfactory level (16%)
- Class blogs would be useful (15%)
- We feel comfortable raising issues (12%)
- Reports give clear indication how we can help at home (11%)
- Reports give clear picture re National Stds (10%)
- Conflict/tensions dealt with effectively (15%)
- Bullying/violence dealt with effectively (12%)

Your valuable feedback has already being worked on this term with the Bible in Schools survey conducted, and homework policies have been reviewed by staff. We've also got some exciting initiatives in place for improving our Te Reo and Tikanga at Buckland next year. We will continue to refer to your responses from the survey throughout next year, and particularly when we review our schools Strategic Plan early in the new year.

PROPERTY UPDATE

Great news! Our new classroom block has been scheduled to start near the end of January. This will mean some disruption for the beginning of the school year but plans are in place to keep this to a minimum.

We would like to thank the PTA for donations towards a number of items including more shade gazebos, a drinking fountain and as the junior play ground will need to be relocated due to the new build they have donated towards upgrading from bark to a soft landing product. This will be a great addition to the school.

We have just completed some new concrete paths across the school and new fencing to the Buckland road boundary.

We will see some exciting and interesting developments so bring on 2016!!

BIBLE IN SCHOOLS SURVEY...

Thank you to all of those families who responded to the follow-up Bible in Schools survey.

We received a very pleasing **61%** response rate. Of those that responded, **78%** were in support of retaining Bible in Schools, with **22%** not supporting the continuation of this programme.

As indicated within the survey newsletter, with more than 60% of the votes being in favour of keeping the programme, we will continue with this and consult with the community again in three years' time.