



Hello,

In last weeks newsletter I wrote about the importance of regular attendance at school and about the increase in unjustified absences in our school. I wrote about how being absent from school affects children's learning and wellbeing and how it also affects the things that make our school the special place that it is for the children and for our community.

Last week, the Te Tai Tokerau Principals Association launched a campaign called 'Let's Get to School Tai Tokerau' which centres on the same things. Of course, we fully support this initiative. You will see that our school Facebook page has a 'Let's Get to School Tai Tokerau' banner. Signs about this work are up around the school. This newsletter is also under this banner.

So what needs to occur to lift attendance rates and reduce unjustified absences at Kaeo School and across Te Tai Tokerau?

Most are simple things, but they require everyone to make a strong commitment to children's education and their future –

- Make a commitment that every day at school is important and share this commitment with children.
- Ensure that children are up and ready for school so that they don't miss the school bus – better to have breakfast at school rather than miss school for breakfast.
- Make sure that your child's justified absences are minimised by returning promptly from family events.
- Leave for weekend events after school on Friday rather than taking Friday off school, and come home on Sunday rather than taking Monday off to return.
- Take holidays in the term breaks rather than during term time.
- Celebrate children's birthdays on the weekend before or after their big day rather than taking them (and sometimes their friends) from school.

- Haircuts and shopping are things for the weekend or after school.
- Doctors and dental appointments don't normally require a whole day off school.
- Trust that we will care for a child that starts the day reluctant to come to school or that has a 'sore tummy' brought on by nervousness or a desire to stay home with mum or dad.
- Look across the community to assist and encourage others to get their children to school.

And, finally if you need help to get your child to school then please let me, or your child's teacher, know we will be only too pleased to help where we can.

Kind regards,  
Paul Barker

#### Board of Trustees

Congratulations and thanks to Marco Van Den Broek, Glenys Grace, and Wiki Todd who have been re-elected to our Board of Trustees. No voting was required because the number of nominations did not exceed the number of positions on the Board. However we would like to add a further parent representative to the Board and so, if you are interested, please get in touch with Mr Barker.

Thank you too to Stephanie Campbell who has been elected as the staff representative. Mr Barker is a Board member as principal.

#### Building work and an early heads-up

The building of our new classrooms is soon to go out to tender and it is expected that Room 5 will be removed early in the summer holiday and that work on the new classrooms will begin in early January with a view to the rooms being occupied in Term 3 next year.

To maximise the time for building work whilst school is closed we are planning to begin next year at the last allowable date which is Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of February.

*"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little." - Franklin D. Roosevelt.*