

11.05.2017

Waiau Pa Board of Trustees Term 1 Newsletter

Every year, the terms seem to go by much faster....and this year is no exception

In the first term, the Boards main priorities are setting and approving the Annual Plan and budgets, which needs to be submitted to the Ministry for approval, planning the scheduled maintenance as per our 5 and 10-year action plans, and discussing with the school their ideas and plans for EOTC and other extra-curricular activities the staff may wish to undertake during the year.

As Mr Williams pointed out at the end of last year, the staff are being given the opportunity this year to take small groups in their own “Spark programmes”, where they can indulge the children in their own passions, which in turn we hope will “spark” an interest in these passions. From all accounts, the children are really on board with this, with many of the sessions being oversubscribed. The Board will be assessing the outcomes from these with the aim of being able to fund some of the more popular sessions going forward.

The staff have also just completed another group Professional Development course as it relates to the Science Module being introduced this year. The new way of teaching science is certainly seeming to inspire the teachers and pupils.

As we come into the “winter” terms, the Board has asked Mr Williams to ensure that students comply with the options for winter uniforms as per the school policy which has been set by the Board. We have had people in our community mention that they had noticed a drop in the standard of uniform dress, with many and varied non uniform items being worn. I think it is important to reiterate at this time, that it is the Board of Trustees who set the uniform requirements, not the principal or the teachers.

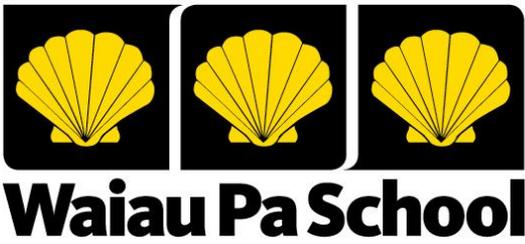
While Mr Williams has been tasked by the Board to ensure compliance via the teaching staff, we would encourage parents not to take their complaints up with the teachers, but refer it directly to the Board. We understand that in some situations there may be very legitimate reasons for non-compliance with the uniform, but that needs to be discussed with the Board. We will also be discussing better ways of communicating with families when breaches of compliance are noted. Rather than having teachers take it up with the student, we will be looking at ways of discussing this directly with parents or caregivers.

We understand that this has become quite a topic on social media and would like the community to realise that social media comments will not directly bring change.

Until now, since I have been on the Board, no one from the community has raised the subject with us at all. All school policies are reviewed on a cycle, and the uniform policy was reviewed late last year, and as

Principal - Simon Williams

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we had received no comments on it, it was again approved.

However, since the start of the term, we have met with a family who have asked us to look at changes, and we are awaiting the formal request which we will discuss and decide upon at our next meeting.

Until this has been done, we will continue to ask families to comply with the uniform requirements as per the policy which can be accessed through the school website. If you cannot locate this policy, please see the staff in the office who can provide you with a hard copy.

Regards

Roger Hargraves
Waiau Pa Board of Trustees

Principal - Simon Williams

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