



2 July 2015

Kia ora from the Sonrise Christian School Board of Trustees

Here's an update on some of the work of the Board. A vacancy occurred on the Board with Murray Wellington and family moving to Christchurch, this has been filled by Elwyn Morice; we welcome Elwyn as a parent representative.

The first job of the Board in 2015 was to get the air conditioning units in; they've made a big difference to classroom comfort.

We've had some wonderful comments about the landscaping and we're glad you're enjoying the work of Shelly Walker – Gisborne Landscapes. We believe our students benefit from a fresh and tidy environment where living plants are healthy and flourishing. Prior to this year, the Board has not had permission from the auditors to spend Board money on landscaping so we had some very tired looking gardens.

The schools front entrance has come to life with the main garden refreshed and the wooden planter box built in at the office entrance. The grass was worn away where students sit after school so we lengthened the concrete steps to accommodate the seating. The garden alongside the library has fresh plants and seating which is a concrete/timber mix and looks great, it will make a nice spot in the summer heat. The room 3 & 4 garden is about to undergo the same treatment. As part of our commitment to be good caretakers of the waterway the flax was transplanted to the creek area by Shelly, we would like to continue the restoration needed in that area (2015 landscaping spend \$20,000.00).

The footpath along the fence line towards the culvert has been improved for students, now they can walk there without getting shoes covered in mud. We have had the path widened, matting and two types of stone put down (\$900.00).

The building work taking place outside the administration block is the work of the Gisborne Christian Education Trust and will provide a pleasant outdoor spot for our staff and students. The board is not permitted to spend money on any permanent structures so we purchased the sail shades (\$7,000.00).

The Board would like to pay for a new sports turf area but this is considered by the Ministry of Education to be an expense belonging to the Gisborne Christian Education Trust and not the board. The Trust doesn't have \$33,000.00 for a new turf so the board and the Trust have written to the Ministry of Education asking if they would allow the board to pay for it. We pray they would look favourably on our request for the benefit of our students.

On 23 July we are continuing our work on the schools vision statement and values with Ian Hunter (a very experienced principal and passionate about this area) leading us through this process. At our last meeting we agreed with our vision statement but wanted to spend more time on the words "Thriving Community."

Regarding our school values, the Ministry of Education talk about what will be in our student's kete when they leave school? If we have been successful they will have the LIFE values instilled in them, are those values you want to see? When your child leaves Sonrise, would that be success to you if your child loves, has integrity, faithfulness and excellence? Are there other values that are more important to you? And is it working?

Please think about that over the school holidays and the board will be in touch for your feedback.

At our last meeting we looked at student data, comparing February and June results. To support students who are in need of this, the board made a decision to employ a maths specialist and we increased the hours of our literacy expert. The board believes this spends will help in three ways:

- 1) Help students who are struggling
- 2) Provide extra support to our hardworking teachers
- 3) Provide expert help in the classroom for all students.

The board is committed to put money into helping all students.

Enjoy your time over the holidays.

God Bless,

Sonrise Christian School Board of Trustees