



MENPS MATTERS

SCHOOL BOARD
NEWSLETTER
MAY 2023



*Our next meeting is on
Wednesday, 15 June at
6pm in the Staff Room.
All are welcome!*

In Appreciation of Our Staff...

Kia ora koutou katoa,

Following Principal Alan Jackson's recent newsletter highlighting the importance of making time to look for the good around us and show appreciation where deserved, the MENPS Board would like to acknowledge our teaching and support staff, the Senior Leadership Team, and Alan himself, for their incredible work leading, teaching and supporting our students.

In the shadow of a looming election and with political parties employing achievement standards alarm and curriculum debate to capture voters, our media often seeks to paint a bleak picture of primary school education in New Zealand.

While it is true that achievement standards have declined over the past 30 years, it is necessary to consider that curriculum is just one aspect of a set of complex social and environmental factors contributing to this deterioration.

At MENPS, we are fortunate to take pride in a considered, quality curriculum that not only supports and commits daily time to the learning of 'the basics,' but additionally provides learning to extend our children's minds through exploration and inquiry, encouraging critical thinking, problem-solving and creativity.

This curriculum is largely localised to our school and is in no small part due to the efforts and time given by our staff, who aim to provide our students with the best learning experiences to meet their needs now and prepare them as they progress through their schooling.

Teachers play a vital role in shaping the futures of our children and it is important to understand and appreciate how the expectations and realities of their role have greatly evolved and expanded over time.

Teaching these days goes far beyond simply delivering a set curriculum. Greater recognition and understanding of children's varied learning needs, as well as mental health and well-being and cultural diversities, has meant teachers now require a broadened set of skills and sensibilities that demand a considerable commitment of time and care.

Our passionate and dedicated teachers' efforts in and out of the classroom make all the difference to student learning and development at MENPS. Class time means constant activity and attention from our teachers, devoted to meeting pupils' needs and potential. The hours beyond can see anything from planning and resource creation, professional development and managing extracurricular activities, to emotional support and more.

Not only do our staff work hard for their students, but also for each other through leadership, team collaboration and mentoring programmes to develop strong support networks and professional growth.

As most will know, principals and teachers across New Zealand are currently seeking greater validation and resourcing from our government through industrial action. As a Board, we would like to voice our support for our principal, SLT and teaching staff and acknowledge the difference they make in the lives of our children, despite these challenges.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for the hard work and depth of commitment given by all our staff, every day. The MENPS learning environment and community thrive from your efforts.

**Ngā mihi maioha,
Annette, Alan, Richard, Mei, Brad, Fleur,
Mike, Anna, Nigel & Virginia**