

FROM THE BOARD TABLE

As 2011 draws to an end, it is time to reflect a little on the year past before we focus on the year ahead – 2012. Last year my communiqué focussed on Matamata Intermediate from the Board's perspective. I also covered the worth and dedication of our teachers and also the value that I believe our community should place on both them and Management. I would like it known that this year, the Board places an even greater worth on these people as we move further into the 21st Century.

This year the school has had some very valid and interesting themes to continue to help prepare our students for their lives ahead. The Term 1 theme was "I am a Citizen of the World" which covered goal-setting and personal achievement, the responsible use of digital technologies, and the positive contributions that should be made to the family, school, and both the local and global community. For Term 2 the global topic changed slightly to "Caring for our World". This meant that the students had to picture the world that they would like to see, and come up with a determination to look after the world that they would become a bigger part of one day. This obviously included learning to adapt their behaviour to survive in this world. "The Spotlight is on Us" was the motif for Term 3 and required students to have a look inwards at themselves, and at how they interact with others. Term 4's theme was "Money Makes the World Go Round" and encased the integrity that should be applied when managing money. This same integrity was shown to be very important to enable the students to relate in a positive manner to both their peers and elders.

These themes are so relevant and I believe that the school should be congratulated for having the foresight to incorporate these very valid appendages, as well as many we do not see for ourselves. As a Board, we have the unique advantage of seeing the school from the outside looking in, whilst being a part of the within. The school never fails to impress us with the initiative shown by Management and Staff.

2011 was the time for the 50th Reunion and I could not even begin to guess the hours put in by the Organising Committee to make the weekend the success that it was. Personally, I did not attend Matamata Intermediate as a student (my hometown is Tawa) but I did very much enjoy the friendship and memories that I witnessed upon attending the opening night. Once again, I applaud the effort made to not only run the weekend's events, but also for the presentation of the school and its surrounds.

On a fiscal note, we once again find ourselves in the midst of the latest round of funding. Matamata Intermediate continues to employ what the Board believes is a very wise financial strategy and this is supported by the review of the Education Review Office. There has been some impact because of funding for the Christchurch area, and also due to a slight easing of the school roll, but we believe that our budgets are solid and workable, and therefore our development and upgrade tactics will continue unabated. The short term right through to the long term plan covers classroom upgrades and also a revamp of the Administration area.

Sporting achievements continued to make headlines throughout the year with too many individual successes to mention without risking the omission of others. In larger events too, Matamata Intermediate continues to show its' sporting prowess and our students gave an extremely good account of themselves at the recent national NZAIMS tournament. In fact, Matamata Intermediate won the Team Mates Cup – for competition, participation, high level of performance, and sportsmanship. This in itself was a huge endorsement for the school. As is always the case at events such as this outside the school, it is not only the student's participation that makes the event a success, but also the support shown by teachers and parents that contributes to the same success.

Academically too, the school is known and respected in scholastic circles for its' academic results. Following on from this, the Board is confident in the processes used to monitor and observe the progress of each and every student. These processes are robust and very transparently reported to the Board of Trustees and also the Ministry of Education. It is vitally important to both the Board and senior Management that the integrity of these systems remains in place going forward. These processes and systems are reviewed regularly and parents and caregivers can be assured that the students are given the best grounding possible as they head towards their secondary and tertiary years.

As always, a notice about the school would never be complete without a word for the teachers and staff. As I have touched on earlier, the Board is well sited to view the on-going running of the school, and we interact freely with the teachers. This view enables us to observe firsthand the dedication and depth of caring continually displayed by Management and teachers. The support teachers cannot be excluded from these sentiments either. The patience that they display, which I have seen for myself, is close to infinite. Nor are administration staff and the caretaker exempt

from my praise – I truly believe that our school is a credit to all within, and without also.

As Trustees we are committed to our responsibility to “provide a physically and emotionally safe and caring environment” within the school. Our character virtues that we promote as part of the school culture is the foundation of this safe environment and is focused on showing the students the right way to behave and the correct choices they need to be making. Students today are faced with many of the same temptations, choices and peer pressures as those of us who were schooled in the 20th Century, but with digital communications and instant access to the internet, where there is no censorship, students face additional situations where they need to make wise choices. Our school will continue to uphold the 3Cs and associated virtues, and continue to focus on empowering students to make these wise choices. At times it may be necessary for the Board to implement consequences that ensure the student body is continuing to learn in a safe and caring environment. I would like to remind all parents and caregivers that the example begins at home and upholding our expectation that all students show courtesy, common sense, and consideration will strengthen your child’s ability to make the correct choices at school. While our children have to take responsibility for the choices that they make, we must not underestimate the impact that we at home can have in showing them the right choice, and how to go about making it.

To the students of Matamata Intermediate, thank you for being with us this year – without you we have no school. For those of you that are leaving us to commence Year 9 in 2012, we wish you all the very best wherever you may go. For our Year 7 students who will become our senior students next year, we look forward to welcoming you back to Matamata Intermediate in 2012.

Yours sincerely,

Mark W. Pike

CHAIRMAN

Board of Trustees