



Dear North Beach families,

I'm very pleased to introduce myself as the new Chair of our School Board. I am grateful to have this opportunity to represent our wonderful school community and I look forward to working closely in partnership with Laura as we progress.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to acknowledge some of the challenges that we have had in the last few years at North Beach Primary, including the departure of well-loved staff due to promotions and retirement. We have also recently implemented a number of changes to our school programs and policies. I would like to say a very special thank you to our amazing teachers and staff for your ongoing dedication to our school and children, especially during this time of change. We really appreciate you all!

The Board is responsible for assisting the school in setting its long-term future and maintaining strategic oversight of operations. Many of the changes that we are making, for example - the introduction of explicit teaching and a whole school approach to writing, are required as they are mandated by the Department of Education. Although this change may be difficult, it is important that we recognise that it is essential for progress, to enable our school to be the best that it can be.

We are fortunate that we have a very unique spirit within our school community which has a strong focus on the emotional wellbeing of our children, staff and families. This will help us to move forward together during this time. As we progress, our Board is committed to ensuring that we maintain this caring environment, so our children are engaged and passionate about learning. We will continue to foster and develop our children's emotional intelligence as we know this is as important as academic achievement in helping them towards future success.

Meeting Update – Monday 21st May

Thank you to Wendy Criddle, Year 1 teacher and junior literacy leader, for providing the Board with a very informative presentation on the new Talk4Writing program. It was great to hear how this simple method, using drawings, storytelling and movement, has already been successful in helping the children to enhance their creative writing abilities.

This year we welcomed Natalie Stevens to our school and Board as a second Deputy Principal. This new position is in response to a long-term growing need for additional support to the wellbeing of our children. Natalie brings a wealth of experience to this role which we are very grateful for. As well as working directly with families, our school psychologist, chaplain and Kids Hope mentors, Natalie will be closely monitoring our children's academic, social and emotional needs to ensure we continue to provide high care and quality education.

Our annual School Board Open Meeting is coming soon. This is a great opportunity for you to find out more about the work of the Board and school. We'd love for as many people to attend as possible so please contact me if you have any ideas about a preferred format (day/time) or topics for discussion.

Thank you everyone for your support of our school. If you would like further information or have a concern, please don't hesitate to contact myself or Laura.

Kind regards,
Olivia House
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