



M.E.N.P.S. Matters

School Board Newsletter

MARCH 2018



2018's first term is here

Our first school term is well underway. Welcome to new teachers, new students and our returning student body.

It's Fair Time! In keeping with an exciting start to the year, our largest fund raising event - the MENPS Food and Fun Fair is about to proceed. For new parents that may not have experienced a MENPS Fair yet, it's a day of frenzied fun, entertainment, great food and bargains.

It's an enjoyable way to experience the fun and friendship of our school, to lend a hand and meet other parents and staff. Arguably it is the number one student highlight of the year, with its almost carnival atmosphere. Well done to Sarah Vokes for heading the Fair Team and a huge thank you to everyone that has assisted. It's no small feat to organise and co-ordinate such an event.

Alan's First Term The Board are very happy to have our new principal Alan Jackson in the driving seat. A smooth integration into the school has seen Alan quickly pick up the reigns and acquire an understanding of our processes, character, culture and aspirations.

One of Alan's first initiatives was to reinvigorate the MENPS website. He has given it a fresh, new approach with new information. The weekly newsletter has also benefited from his input and is a recommended channel of information for all MENPS parents. One great feature is that you can select your preferred language to read it in. His crisp, clean presentation of key facts including PTA news makes for an easy read.

The Board of Trustees and Alan have been working together to finalise the school's Strategic Plan. This is a document required by the Ministry of Education. It sets out our school's aspirations, directions, goals, and student achievements. A blue print for our schools development, it has six Strategic goals that we would like to share with you:

1. *A rich, safe diverse and rewarding learning culture*
2. *Innovation and effective teaching and learning*
3. *A culture of achievement and recognition*
4. *Positive collaborative relationships*
5. *A modern, safe and effective learning environment*
6. *Sustainable, strategic financial planning*

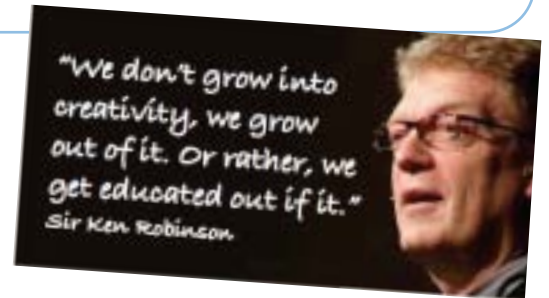
Our School Strategic Plan can be viewed at

<https://www.mteden.school.nz/strategicplan>

International Creativity Expert

Next week our Leadership team will be attending a seminar presented by Sir Ken Robinson, one of the World's leading authorities and speakers in creativity and innovation.

Sir Ken Robinson's career has been dedicated to transforming perceptions of creativity and how we cultivate this in our schools, businesses and other organisations. He is very thought provoking. This recent interview on National radio is certainly worth a listen. <https://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/sunday/audio/2018634594/sir-ken-robinson-creative-thought-leader-in-education>



School Donation Thank you to those of you that have already paid their school donation for 2018. While this donation is voluntary it is also essential to the smooth running of our school. Due to increasing costs across many activities, the Board has reluctantly adjusted the level of donation for 2018 by a minimal amount to \$480 per student, this is discounted for families with three or more children attending the school.

MENPS is a Decile 10 school and as such receives a lot less assistance from the government than lower decile schools. We are reliant upon fund raising and the generosity of the school community to ensure we can maintain our school's high standards.

Our Board meetings are typically held on the second Wednesday of every month at 6pm in the staffroom. The parent community is very welcome to attend. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 14th of March. If there is any feedback or information you would like from the Board please contact: Ginny Parsons (Chairperson) on admin@mteden.school.nz