

**MANUREWA CENTRAL SCHOOL  
2007 PARENT SURVEY**

Community Report.

In term 3 this year a comprehensive parent survey was undertaken. This was a follow up to similar surveys conducted in 2003 and 2005.

The survey consisted of two sections. Section 1 asked a number of closed and open ended questions regarding school systems and curriculum. Section 2 contained questions specifically on health education and was designed to provide up to date feedback on the health syllabus as currently taught. The inclusion of this section also met the school's obligation to consult with the community regarding health education.

A questionnaire form was given to each family connected with the school and returns were collected by classroom teachers. Results were collated by office staff and senior management staff.

The questionnaire was colour coded to allow a separate analysis to be made of the returns from Maori. This enabled particular consideration to be given to the needs or concerns of Maori as required by legislation.

Separate analysis of Maori and non-Maori returns were conducted and the results attached. The following comments however apply to both Maori and non-Maori responses as the results for the two groups are very similar. Please note; not all questions were answered on a number of the returns.

1. Survey response.

Number distributed to Maori	98	Return	70	71%
Number distributed to non Maori	<u>335</u>	Return	<u>211</u>	<u>63%</u>
	433		281	65%
2. Approximately 71% of Maori respondents live outside the school zone and 65% of non Maori. These figures are lower than the 2005 survey (84% overall) however 13% of the combined respondents were not sure as to the school zone. As the survey forms were unnamed it was impossible to check the returns as was done in 2005.
3. Families' choice of school was based on a variety of reasons. The most popular reason was the quality of teaching (77%). This was followed by the quality of school facilities (43.5%) and the school's academic focus (42%).
4. Parents believe the school runs a balanced teaching programme with 98.5% answering yes to this question.
5. Parents were asked what they considered were the three most important subjects. English (including reading, writing and associated skills) and mathematics were overwhelmingly considered to be the most important. Physical Education and sports along with science and social studies received a small number of mentions. No other subject other than Art received more than one mention.
6. Parents were asked if they considered their children to be successful learners in reading, writing and mathematics. 94.5% said yes for reading, 91.5% said yes for writing and 86% said yes for mathematics.
7. Parents had positive comments about school staff indicating that staff are professional (99%), helpful (99%), approachable (98%) and respected by children (100%).
8. Parents were particularly positive about the way their children are cared for at school. An average of 99% of parents thought their children are happy, well taught, safe and able to learn at school.

9. Parents also made very positive responses when asked about the facilities at Manurewa Central School. An average of 98% thought the facilities at our school are child friendly, well maintained and constantly improving.
10. Parents were asked about their satisfaction with four aspects of the curriculum outside of literacy and numeracy. Those satisfied with these aspects of the programme were
 

Cultural understanding	87.5%	the Arts	98.5%
Computer learning	98%	Phys.Ed & Sports	98%
11. Home/school communication.  
 The school newsletter is read regularly by 88.5% of parents. Telephone messages are used often (15%) or sometimes (51%).  
 Noticeboards are read often (29%) or sometimes (37%). The school website is the least useful means of communication among school parents with 68% of respondents seldom if ever visiting the site.  
 The most effective way of communicating with most parents is via the school newsletter and the use of the telephone.
12. Parents considered they are well informed about children's progress (93.5%). 94% also thought that pupil reports are informative.
13. When questioned about homework 79% of respondents were happy with current arrangements. 15% indicated they would like more homework, while 6% would prefer their children to have less.
14. Parents were asked about the possible introduction of a school uniform. Overall 46.5% said the Board of Trustees should definitely consider introducing a uniform. 24.5% said the Board should definitely not and 29% didn't really mind either way.
15. Parents were asked if they wished to make a general comment about the school. Overall 14.5% made a positive comment about the school while many people (71%) made no comment. 14.5% of respondents made suggestions that were largely "one off" with no obvious issue or concern.
16. Overall the responses from both Maori and non-Maori are extremely positive and endorse the work done by the school and the current priorities in place. These include an emphasis on literacy and numeracy programmes. Parents and caregivers also appreciate the professionalism of staff, the high level of pastoral care and the quality of school facilities. Pleasingly children are seen as safe at school and able to learn while communication to parents on student progress and school events is highly regarded.

Of particular note is the very high return rate for the survey (65%) which gives confidence in the results and is a further reflection of community support for the school.

17. Actions to be taken
  - a) The results have been discussed by senior staff and teachers in general.
  - b) The principal will continue to keep parents informed via newsletters and teacher/parent meetings.
  - c) The matters raised by parents, although small in number, will be addressed in school newsletters over time.
  - d) This report has been presented to the Board of Trustees for consideration and adoption. The report will also be placed on the school website.

Thank you

L Thew  
 Principal  
 November 2007