

MANUREWA CENTRAL SCHOOL 2011 PARENT SURVEY

In term 3 this year a comprehensive parent survey was undertaken. This was a follow up to similar surveys conducted in 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2009.

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.

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	102	Return	56	55%
Number distributed to non-Maori	<u>308</u>	Return	<u>181</u>	59%
	410		237	58%
2. Approximately 79% of Maori respondents live outside the school zone and 57% of non-Maori. These figures are lower than the 2007 survey 64% overall) however, 4% 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.
3. Families' choice of school was based on a variety of reasons. The most popular reason was the quality of teaching (67%). This was followed by the quality of school facilities (43%), the school's academic focus (37%) and the standard of student behaviour (36%).
4. Parents believe the school runs a balanced teaching programme with 98% answering yes to this question.
5. There was general agreement on the values listed.
6. Parents were asked if they considered their children to be successful learners in reading, writing and mathematics. 92% said yes for reading, 91% said yes for writing and 90% said yes for mathematics.
7. Parents were asked about computer access at home. 87% said yes with 81% having internet access.

8. Overall parents were very positive about their children at school. They considered their children to be happy, safe, well taught and able to learn.
9. Parent satisfaction was also high in specific areas concerned with cultural understanding, the Arts, computer learning and physical education and sport.
10. Home/school communication.
The school newsletter is read regularly by 86% of parents. Telephone messages are used often (19%) and sometimes (56%).
Noticeboards are read often (32%) or sometimes (38%). The school website is the least useful means of communication among school parents with 49% 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.
11. Parents considered they are well informed about children's progress (89%). 92% thought that pupil reports are easily understood.
12. When questioned about homework 80% of respondents were happy with current arrangements. 24% indicated they would like more homework, while 4% would prefer their children to have less or none.
13. Parents were asked about the possible introduction of a school uniform. Overall 42% said the Board of Trustees should definitely consider introducing a uniform. 23% said the Board should definitely not and 35% didn't really mind either way.
14. 54% of parents responding had attended a parent meeting at school.
15. 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 high return rate of the survey which gives confidence in the results and is a further reflection of community support for the school.

16. Actions to be taken
 - a) The results will be 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 will be presented to the Board of Trustees for consideration and adoption. A summary of the report will be given to parents via a newsletter. The report will also be placed on the school website.
 - e) The Board of Trustees will consider what further action to take (if any) re the results of this survey.

Thank you
L Thew
Principal

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