

**MANUREWA CENTRAL SCHOOL
PARENT SURVEY JUNE 2003
MAORI PARENT RETURNS**

Total number of forms distributed 100
Total number of forms returned 73 73%

RESULTS

1. 13 families live in zone, 60 families out of zone.
82% live out of zone.

2.

Reason for sending children to Manurewa Central School			
	Nos.	Percentage	
Reputation as a good school	29	40%	nb comments were grouped - more than one reason may have been given per form. - reasons < 5% not listed
Quality of education	21	29%	
Staff care about children's learning	8	11%	
Close to home	4	5%	
No response	1		

No other reason reached 5%. Things mentioned included the high standard of teaching, good organisation, school safe and clean, meets children needs, school homework programme, appearance of school.

3.

Things Manurewa Central School Does well			
	Nos.	Percentage	
Emphasis on providing support for children's learning	15	20%	nb comments grouped - more than one thing per form possible
Extra curricular activities e.g. school trips, camps, cultural groups, assemblies	11	15%	
Sports programme	7	9%	
Homework programme	6	8%	
Parent communication	6	8%	
Academic achievement	5	7%	
Pupil/teacher relationships	4	5%	
No response	15	20%	

No other comment reach 5%. Things mentioned included resources, playground, maths and English, safe and happy environment, fund raising, emphasis on good behaviour and respect.

4.

Things parents/caregivers would like the school to do better			
	Nos.	Percentage	
Information parents about pupil progress	5	7%	
No comment put in this section	46	63%	

Nothing else was mentioned more than once. Other points mentioned included: medical attention, after school programme, Maori culture, discussion on health needs, teach about bullies, playground observation at breaks, more cultural activities, provide more nutritious lunches, more shade areas, sports teams in local competitions, deal with problems faster, less school work in lunch break, monitor crossing lights before school, have a Kapa haka group, full time dental care, sexuality education, more focus on spelling, emphasis on crossing road at the lights, implement the Treaty of Waitangi, interschool sports, one on one teaching, more rewards e.g. certificates review homework sheets, separate classes for talented children.

5.

The most important school subjects		
	Nos.	Percentage
English (including reading, writing, spelling and language)	61	83%
Maths	56	77%
Physical Education and Sport	14	19%
Social Studies	5	7%
Computer Studies	5	7%

Three forms had no response.

English and maths are clearly seen as priority subjects. Other subjects receiving one or two mentions included: geography (2), science (2), social skills (2), music, cooking, health, Bible in School, kapa haka, self confidence, art, history, sexuality education, Maori language.

6. Parents were asked if they considered their children were learning successfully in the following areas.

	Successfully		Unsuccessfully	
	Nos.	Percentage	Nos.	Percentage
Reading	64	89%	4	5%
Writing	62	85%	7	9%
Maths	62	85%	5	7%

A number of people did not complete this section.

7. Parents were asked about their perceptions of school staff.

	YES		NO	
	Nos.	Percentage	Nos.	Percentage
Professional	68	93%	0	
Helpful	69	95%	2	3%
Approachable	64	88%	3	4%
Respected by children	64	88%	1	1%

A number of people did not complete this section.

8. Parents were asked about their children at school.

	YES		NO	
	Nos.	Percentage	Nos.	Percentage
Happy at School	69	95%	1	1%
Well taught	67	92%	0	
Safe	70	96%	2	3%
Able to learn	73	100%	0	
Liked by other children	70	96%	1	1%
Respected by teachers	64	88%	0	

Not all questions were completed.

9. Parents were asked about the facilities at school

Facilities are	YES		NO	
	Nos.	Percentage	Nos.	Percentages
Very good	67		0	
Child friendly	67		1	
Well maintained	69		0	
Constantly improving	60		0	

Not all questions were completed.

10 Parents were asked what aspect of school life they would like to know more about.

No response 55 75%

Comments received included: more teacher feedback(7), interschool sports (4), school facilities (2), phys ed curriculum (2) how children are placed in classes, school library, Maori culture, parent involvement, lunchtime activities, extension activities for able children, cultural component of curriculum, major projects planned, information about Board members.

11. Parents were given the opportunity to make a general comment.

No response 44 60%
Positive comment about school 14 22%

Other general comments included school uniform (3), community activity (2), school rubbish system, playground supervision, sports evenings, smaller classes, a grandparents day and traffic around the school.

Comments on survey results.

1. These results are collated from the returns from Maori families. 100 forms were distributed and 73 returned. The return rate of 73% is extremely high.
2. 82% of Maori families live out of the school zone and attend Manurewa Central School through choice.
3. Families' choice of school is based on a number of reasons but overwhelmingly that choice is based on the reputation of the school, the quality of the education offered by the school and the pastoral care of students undertaken by staff.
4. There is a spread in the number of things parents and caregivers believe the school does well. However, it is clear that the support for children's learning and the extra curricular opportunities offered by the school are at the top of the list.
5. When asked what the school could do better 63% of the respondent made no comment. One suggestion, made by 7% is about better information on pupil progress. All other suggestions were mentioned only once. These points will be considered by senior staff.
6. The most important school subjects are clearly English (literacy) and mathematics. Other subjects receiving recognition from parents include physical education and sport, social studies and science. These three however lag far behind the first two. It is interesting that Maori families expectations match the Government's priority regarding literacy and numeracy.
7. It is pleasing that the vast majority of parents responding to this survey see their children as successful learners who are happy at school, well taught and both liked by their peers and respected by their teachers. It is particularly pleasing that parents consider their children to be safe at school and able to take full advantage of the learning opportunities presented to

them. Parents also see school staff as professional in their work and helpful and approachable.

8. School facilities are highly regarded by parents and seen as child friendly. Many positive comments were received regarding the quality of the school environment.
9. When asked what aspects of school life they would like to know more about the majority (75%) had no response. There was no clear issue from those who did respond although 7 people mentioned more teacher feedback on student progress. This is relatively minor but will be considered by teaching staff.
10. Parents were given the opportunity to make a general comment to conclude this part of the survey. Most did not (66%) while 14 (22%) made a positive general comment about the school. Of those who had suggestions or questions three mentioned school uniforms. There were also a number of 'one off' comments.
11. Overall the response from Maori families endorses the work done by the school. Where suggestions are made for something extra, or questions are asked, these are usually a 'one off'.
12. **Actions to be taken.**
 - (a) The results will be considered by senior staff and teachers in general.
 - (b) The principal will cover general information in school newsletters e.g. rationale for class placement, sports opportunities, information re school facilities and cultural activities.
 - (c) The number of parents who have concerns is extremely small. However it is timely for the principal to stress the need for parents to ask if they have a concern or a questions about school systems or policies. While it is not possible to do what every individual may want it is always possible to explain why we do what we do.
 - (d) Staff will consider the quality of feedback on student progress. While the school has numerous systems for giving feedback it is crucial to remember how important this is for parents.
 - (e) This report will be represent to the Board of Trustees for their comment and adoption. Summaries of this report will ultimately be given to the families involved.

**L Thew
Principal**

September 2003