

Wainui Beach School – Donations and Funding Explained January 2012

There have been a lot of questions from parents recently about the school donation and funding so the BoT have put together this note to explain the current system of school funding, grants, donations and basically why we need to raise more money.

Schools receive financial resources from the Ministry of Education ("MoE") in four distinct areas: staffing, operational funding (that's the day to day school expenses), school property and maintenance and lastly, transport assistance. MoE funds are specific to each of the above categories and non-transferable. The MoE control of funding allocation has a significant influence on how the school delivers its service to the community.

All schools get a base level of MoE operational funding with top-up funding based on the "decile" rating of the school. Top-up funding is allocated on a per-child basis. WBS is a decile 7 school ("decile" is based on the last census report of the socio-economic status of the school's catchment area) and in 2011 got \$68.93 per child. By comparison, a decile 1 school got \$871.49 per child.

The MoE estimates that only 76% of resources will be met from their funding for a decile 7 school such as WBS. Therefore additional funds are needed for the day to day running of the school (things like medical supplies, the school web-site, cleaning, running of the pool and lawn mowing). This money must be raised by the school themselves either through fundraising, applying for grants or the school donation.

We do an enormous amount of fundraising for special projects (the new deck, the i-Pads etc) through Friends of Wainui events and from applications by management for grants from Trusts. The Friends of Wainui have worked hard in 2011 and raised \$20,000 and management secured \$45,000 from applications to Trusts. However, the day to day running of the school relies on the donation. The donation 'tops up' the shortfall for operating costs and services for specialist teaching. The school has done really well in managing the costs on the back of reducing income, but our income has fallen short, by around \$17,000 in 2011. What this means in reality is that we will unlikely be able to provide the 'extras' to support identified needs such as Reading Recovery, Schoolblox and Extension programmes in 2012 for those that need that extra assistance.

As such, it is now necessary to increase the level of the donation to \$150 for 2012 to support your child with the tools necessary for them going forward. This will ensure we are not in a deficit by year-end 2012 and endure more significant cut backs in 2013. To make payment of the \$150 annual donation easier we are going to start a monthly automatic payment option of \$12.50 per child for a maximum of two children. **That's \$2.90 a week to support your child's learning.** In addition to this, the pack of school books (\$29) and photocopying fee (\$15) need to be paid up front at the start of term.

We have also received parent feedback that in general they would rather pay a one-off "activity fee" at the start of the year for all shows rather than \$5 here and there. So we have made this fee \$30 to cover entry into 4 shows each year (last year these were Class Act Opera, Strike Percussion and Firewise) plus transport to events such as the Turanganui Festival. We believe

these events are important for the children's development and understanding of culture, arts and safety.

This is a total yearly amount of \$225. For those families that pay in the first term, this amount will be reduced to \$204.

If every family made this commitment then we would be able to concentrate on our key role in supporting the children's learning experience at WBS. We would also like to note that our school donation has not been increased since 2003.

The BoT and Principal will also continue with other forms of traditional fundraising and seek opportunities to apply for one-off grants for big ticket items such as the new i-pad computers, new gym kit etc. This money can only be used for the specific items applied for so if we don't get the grant, we don't get the item.

We are very aware that this is a financial burden at a difficult time, but hope that all parents appreciate we want to deliver the best that we can for the children in their formative school years.

If any financial issues exist which means that paying the donation becomes burdensome then we would like to work together to help families establish a system of payment that suits their monthly income.

Kind regards, Your BoT