



Banks Avenue School

Living And Learning With **HEART**

Te oranga me te ako ki te Ngākau

19 September: Newsletter update

Hello school whānau,

Yesterday we had our annual Whānau Hui with the members of our school community. Tamara Rochford-Kerr, on behalf of Ngāi Tahu, gave us a presentation on a Māori name which reflected the history and values of Banks Avenue School. The name, Pareawa, is a gift from Ngāi Tahu, and as a board we thank Ngāi Tahu for their generosity. It is now our job as a school community to see how we might incorporate this into the life of the school.

*I must be very clear that **Banks Avenue School has NOT changed its name.***

The Banks Avenue School BOT will undertake a consultation process with the school community to see how this name can be incorporated into the school name moving into the future. The Banks Avenue School name and brand is very strong in Christchurch and any future changes will seek to honour the historic school community, embrace the current one and inspire the students and families of the future.

We will not hurry this process or force something on the school community for the sake of it. We will take as long as we need to take to make sure we are happy with any course of action. The BOT and school leadership will prepare a shortlist of possible name options for the school community to provide feedback. These options have not yet been prepared and will be presented to you in due course.

There was an abbreviated Facebook announcement made on the Banks Avenue School Facebook page yesterday. The post was withdrawn late last night because some of the comments began breaching our school values and parent code of conduct. The Board and school leadership are comfortable with peoples' differing views but won't accept disrespectful behaviour either offline at the school or online on the school's Facebook page. It is not an example we want to set for our children.

The school encourages robust discussion and we want to hear your thoughts once the options have been distributed. Tamara will provide the school with presentation materials and we will make this available on our website, to assist us with our decision making process.

Kirk McKay

Banks Avenue School BOT Chairperson