



Board of Trustees Survey Results Nov 2010

Te Kowhai School
To Be Our Very Best

All returned surveys will go in the draw to win a \$75 Cash & Bull Meat/Drink Voucher!

Te Kowhai School's
Board of Trustees
Presents the...

**Annual
Community
Survey**

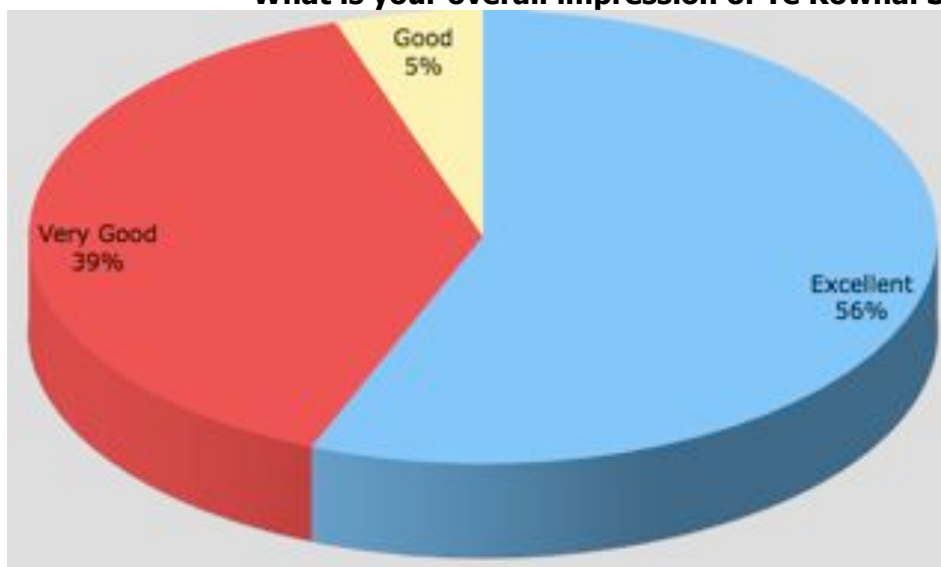
The school belongs to you!
Have your say and help us to
help your children.

Introduction

Annually, the Board of Trustees surveys the School community to seek community input, feedback and ideas in connection with matters relating to school organisation and administration. Thank you to the 50+ respondents. We value your positive input, as well as any expressions of concern or constructive criticism. Whilst a reasonable sample, this only represents less than 30% of potential respondents, which is disappointing. The Board will consider an online survey in 2011 and also the timing of the survey.

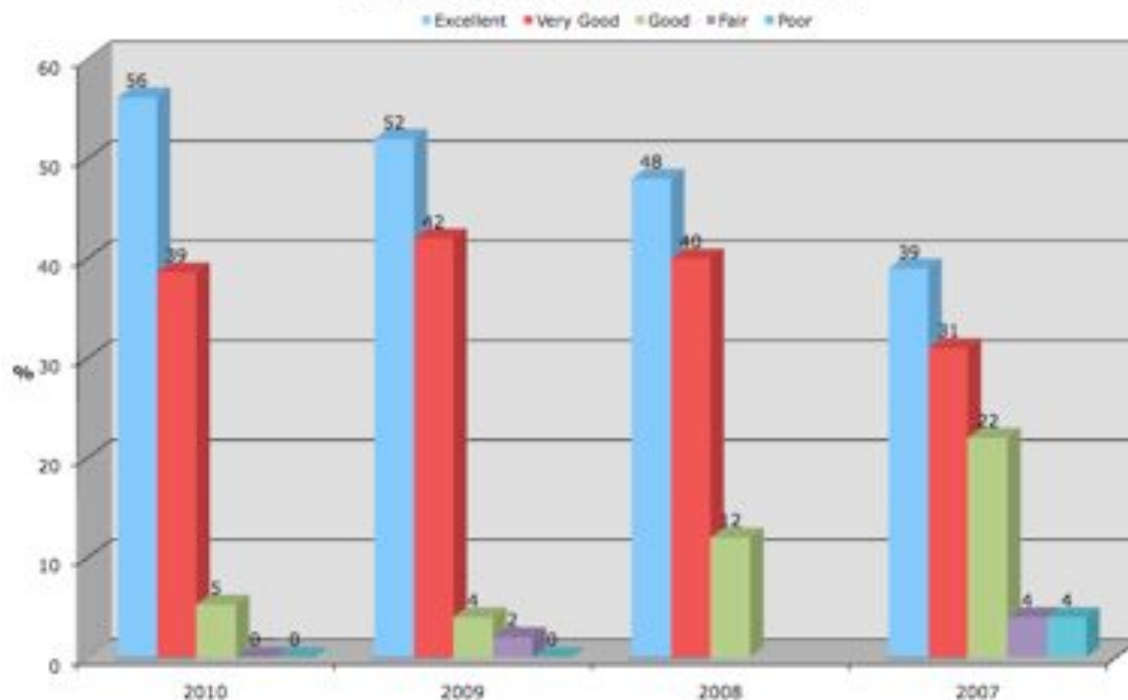
Annual Quality Assurance Audit

What is your overall impression of Te Kowhai School?



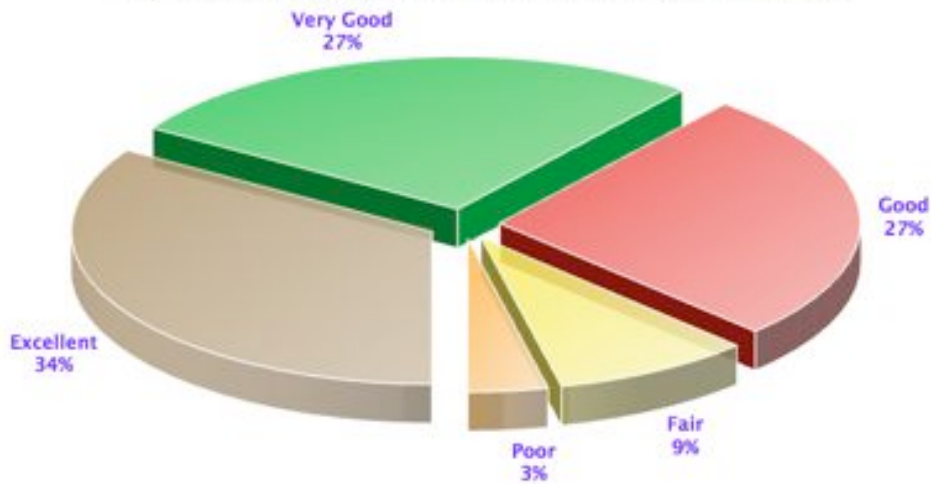
The overall impression our community has of the school is extremely positive with 100% of parents rating the school as good, very good or excellent (there were no ratings of fair or poor)

Overall Impression of the School 2007-2010



The Board was pleased to see that 95% of 2010 respondents had either an excellent/very good overall impression of the school. This % is similar to 2009, but has increased 88% in 2008 & 70% in 2007. We believe that this is a positive endorsement of the many changes that have occurred over this period, with a large number of developments, new staff members and schoolwide events/initiatives.

Are you satisfied with the School's Student-Led Conferences & Portfolios?



The Board was pleased to see a continued high level of support for Student-Led Conferences (88% responded excellent/very good/good), following their introduction in 2008.

A number of parents still wanted the older "traditional" model of 1:1 teacher/parent interview (without child) *This format was reviewed in 2007, with over 35% of parents saying they did not like the model of reporting which involved written report/formal parent/teacher interviews.*

The Board also reminds parents that we have an 'open door' policy, which enables parents to meet with teachers any time they wish (1:1 parent/teacher interviews can be scheduled. Additionally, teachers will contact parents if they have any concerns). Effectively, this means that Parent:Teacher interviews are available throughout the year, and don't necessarily have to be on a formalised, structured evening such as the current student-led conferences. Many parents do make times to meet with teachers or email/ring them too.

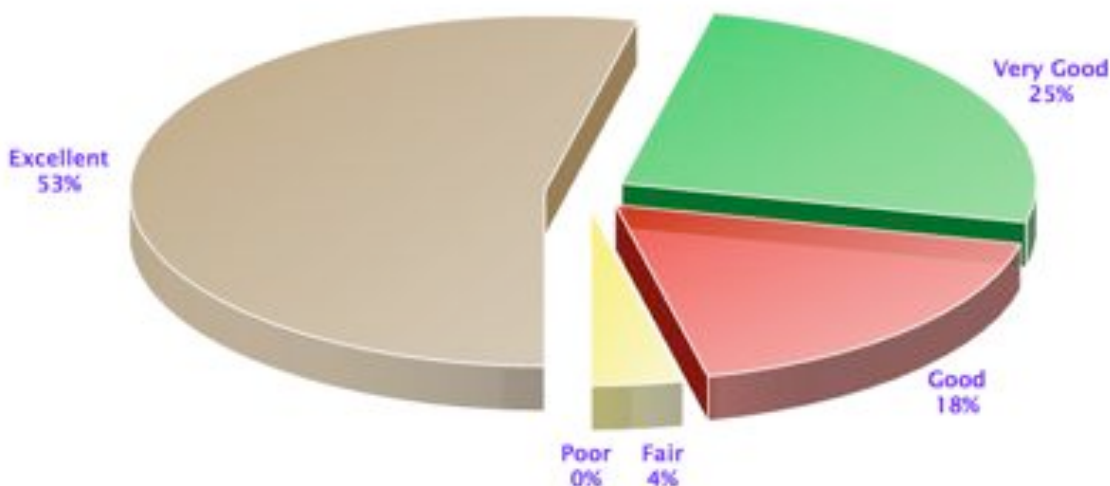
The future of education and the revised curriculum focus on students having greater awareness of their own learning, what they are learning, how they learn and also how they are achieving. Student-led conferences focus on the child and put the responsibility on each student.

This was reflected in the findings of the ERO team.

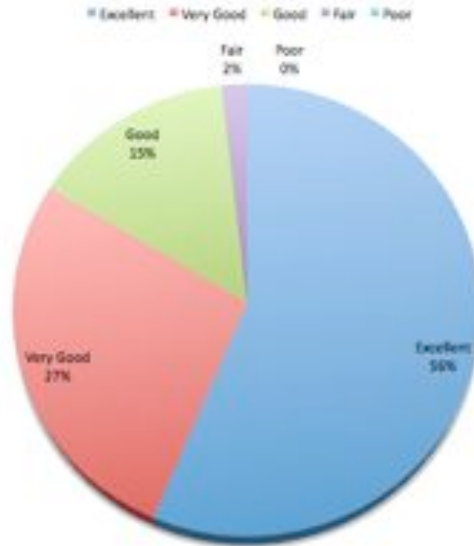
Formative assessment strategies such as student goal setting and self-evaluation are consistently implemented throughout the school. Students have ownership of their learning and can articulate how well they are achieving against expectations set. Parents are involved as partners in the learning process through being active participants in activities such as goal setting and student-led conferences. Detailed overall student achievement information is regularly reported to the board and community. Students are benefiting from high quality assessment practices that are enabling them to take more responsibility for their own learning. ERO Review June 2008

The staff also review the student-led conference approach and are constantly refining the reporting process in terms of portfolios, range of assessment data, reporting in a parent-friendly manner and the conferences themselves. **The introduction of National Standards also saw the introduction of a mid-year report & changes to the end of year report form.**

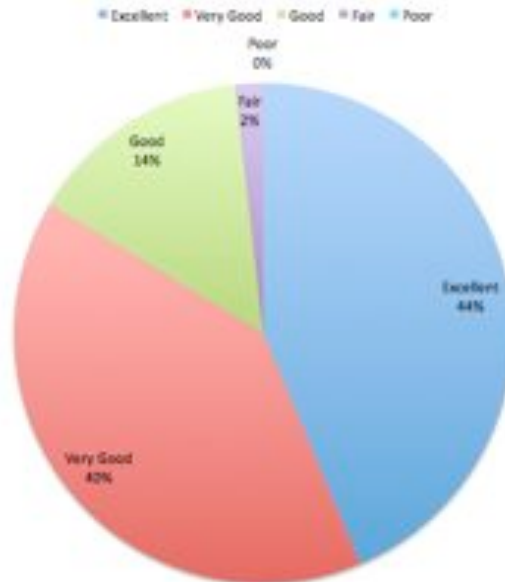
Do you find the school willing and available to meet with you on matters concerning your child/ren?



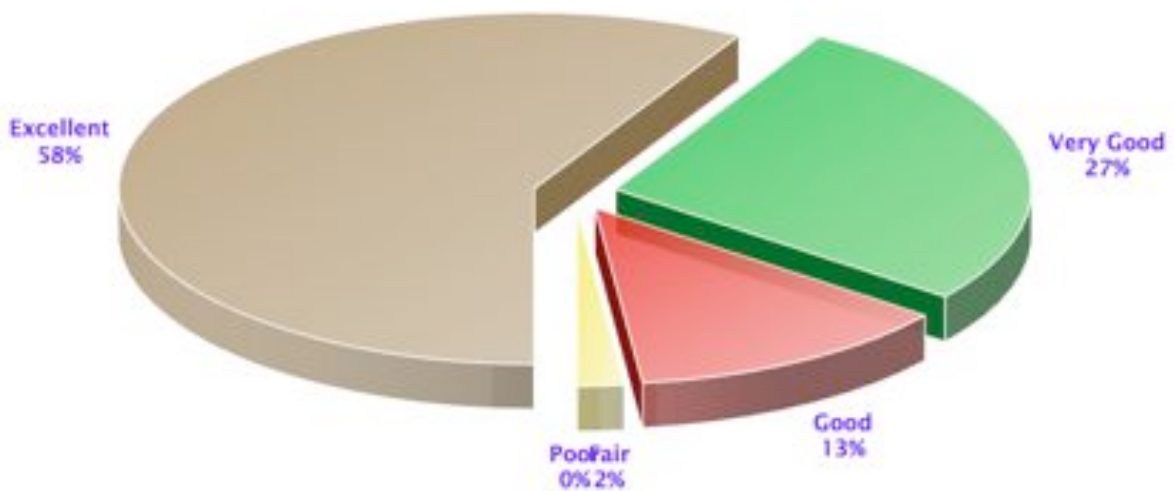
Do you feel comfortable and welcomed coming into the school?



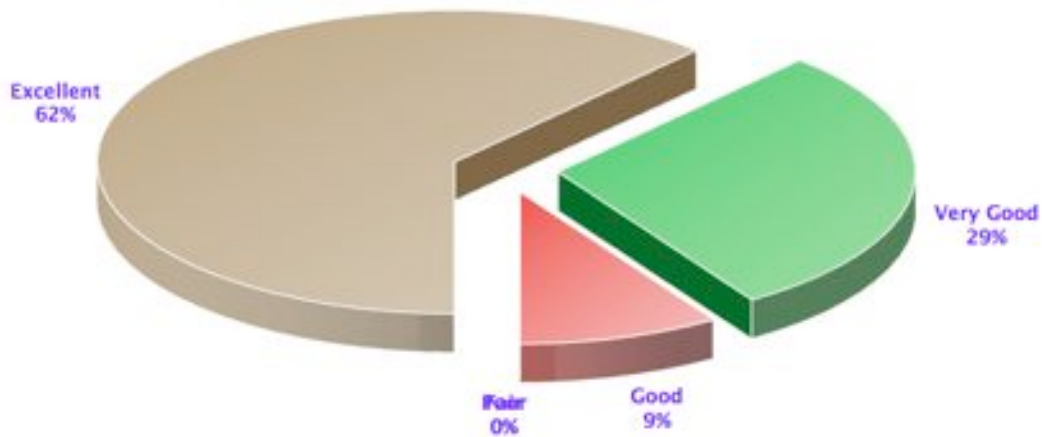
Is the school meeting your expectations?



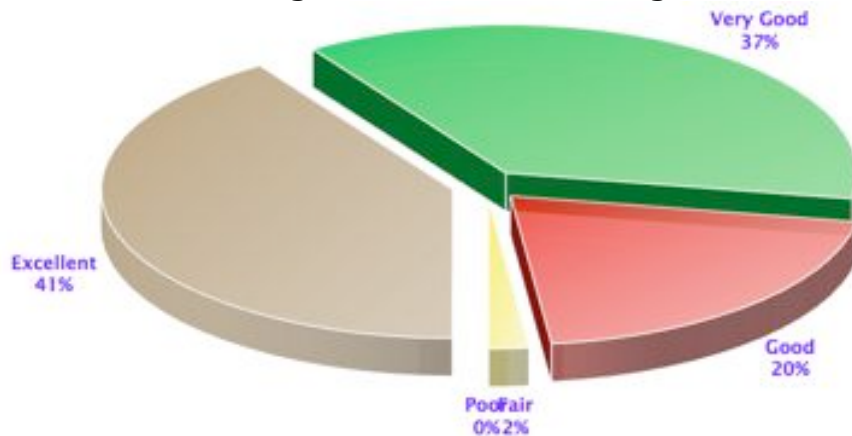
In your opinion, does Te Kowhai School provide a safe and secure environment for children?



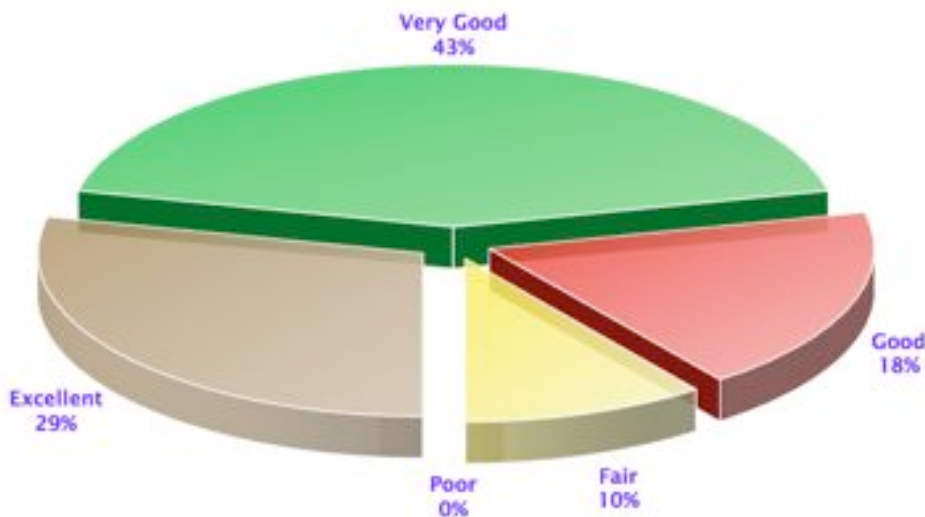
Do you think there are sufficient opportunities for parental involvement in the school?



Do you think the school encourages children to have a high standard of behaviour?

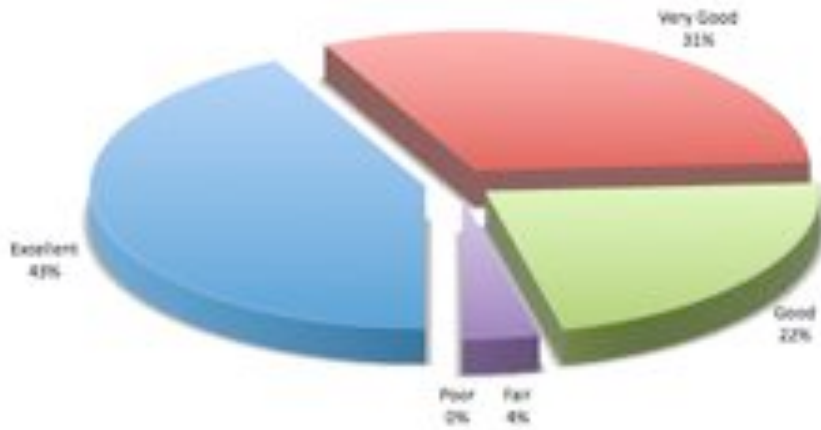


Do you think there are sufficient opportunities for helping students with learning needs?

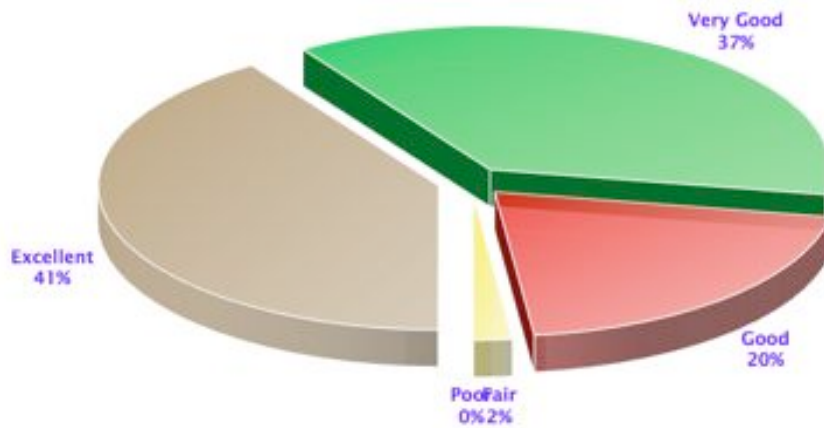


The Board were reasonably pleased to see the results of this question, with 70% responding excellent/very good. This area is always difficult to provide in a decile 10 school, due to decile-related funding. A key part of a school's funding is a component called "Targeted funding for educational achievement", as a decile 10 school we receive \$0 per pupil. If we were a decile 1 school we would receive \$260,000 for this area. Despite not receiving targeted funding, the board budgets significant amounts of money related to teacher aides helping **all** classes and students, specialist teacher support and resources. 2009 also saw the introduction of SuccessMaker, which has involved many students this year, with some very promising results. SuccessMaker is a programme that caters for *all students*, not just remedial. During 2010 the Board has budgeted approximately **4 times** the actual funds we receive that are directly "tagged" towards raising student achievement.

Are you happy with the way the Board of Trustees keeps you informed?

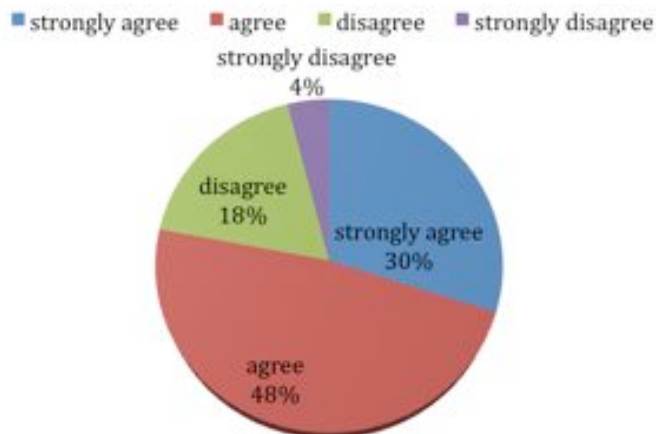


Does the school provide sufficient leadership opportunities for children?

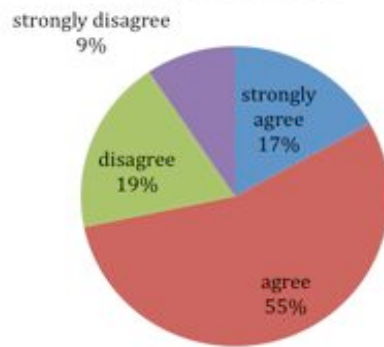


Camps

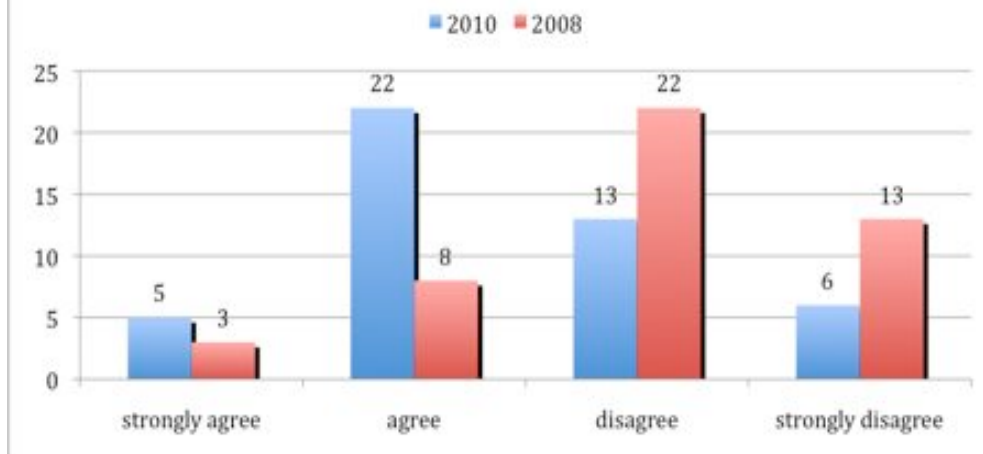
Overnight camps should be held every year for Yr 4-8 students



Overnight camps should alternate between city & outdoor education experiences



Overnight camps should be alternated with short day/one night trips in alternate years



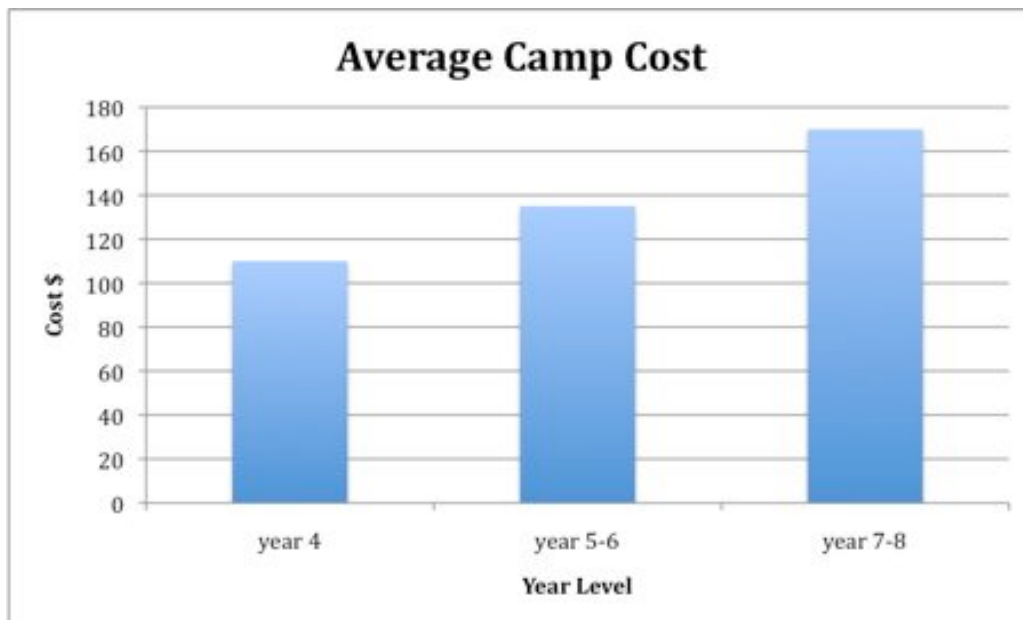
Board of Trustees Response The 3 questions above were previously asked in the 2008 Survey. The survey results indicate the community's continued strong backing of the annual overnight Camp experiences for all year 4-8 students. Comments related to the special character it adds to Te Kowhai School, the memories for life camps provide, class bonding, partnership between school and parents etc.

There is also clear support (72%) for a continuation of alternating city and outdoor based experiences to ensure balance and coverage of different curriculum areas. Some comments said to keep it based on outdoor skills experiences and adventures, whereas many others said a range of venues, destinations is important to ensure that students receive a wide range of experiences over the 5 years.

The question regarding alternate years being shorter one-night/day trip experiences was the main survey question that showed a significant change in parent views, with 59% preferring shorter one night/day trips each alternate year, up from only 24% in 2008.

The BOT will now develop an updated formal framework for Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC) that reflects the survey results and ensures a planned approach to delivering excellent experiences for all students during their time at TK school.

There was a wide range of parent comments related to camps, with many conflicting views regarding venues, frequency, cost, types of experiences etc. Many raised the fair comment regarding the cost/charge for parents to attend. In many schools, parents attend for free (with the cost of their attendance being spread across the camp fee for students). At Te Kowhai we have always been fortunate to have adequate numbers of parents keen to attend, and in many cases **more** than the required ratio. Rather than restricting parent attendance, parents have traditionally been prepared to pay, rather than seeing the base cost to students rise. As outlined earlier, Te Kowhai School receives \$0 per pupil for targeted funding (decile-based). In many schools, decile funding is used to subsidise camp costs. Unfortunately we are not in a position to offer this.

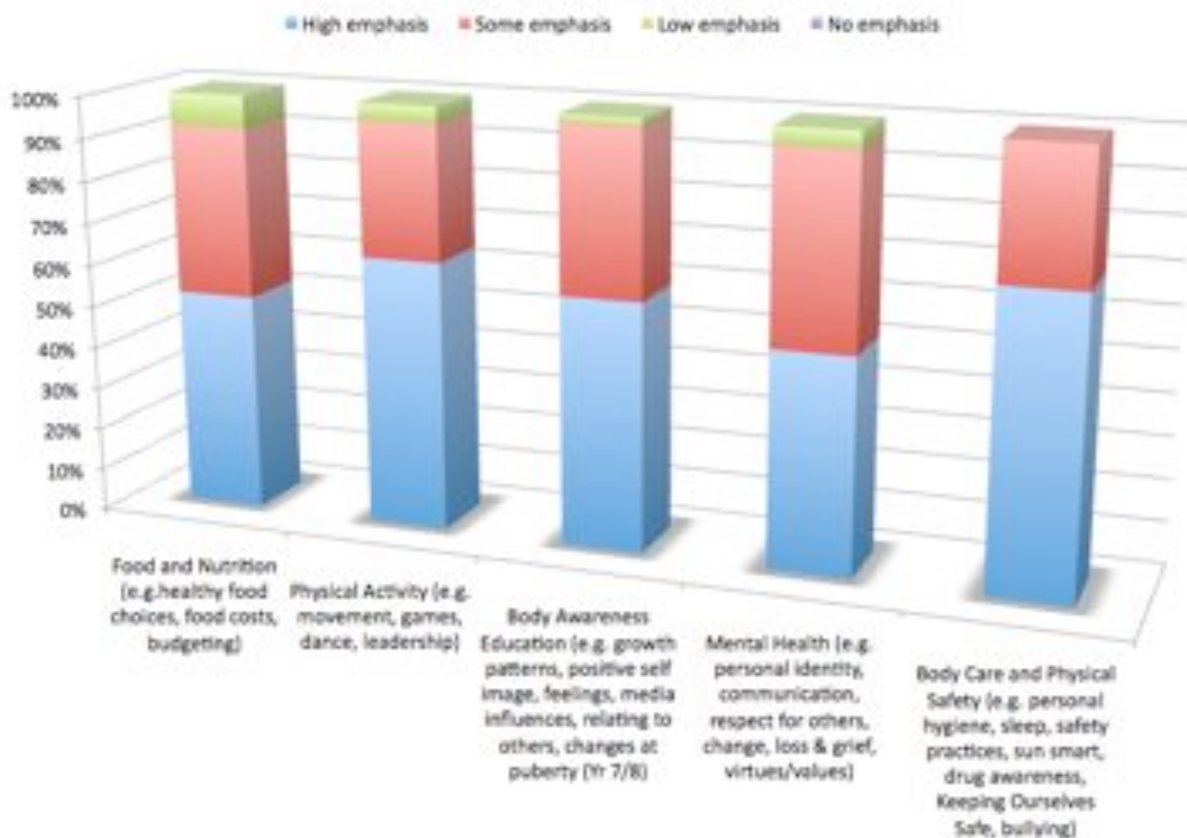


The Board of Trustees is acutely aware of the issues related to camp costs etc. The graph above indicates the “average” price that parents felt was fair and reasonable for camps at various year levels. This will be considered when camps are planned, with activities/duration/fundraising being factored in also.

Health Curriculum

The Education Act states that it is a legal requirement for schools to consult its parent community on the scope and emphasis of Health Education.

Health Areas to Focus on



Board of Trustees Response

Parents indicated that all Health areas required at least some emphasis, with the areas Body Awareness and Body Care/Physical Safety being most favoured. These areas of emphasis will be taken into account when decisions are made when planning health programmes in 2011 and beyond.

What does our school do really well in helping our students maintain or improve their well-being?

Areas mentioned 20+ times – sporting opportunities & promotion of physical activity, healthy eating including healthy snack break for junior students

Areas mentioned 10-19 times – T.K PRIDE values

Areas mentioned 5-9 times – healthy tuck shop, sunsmart, Project Energise,

Are there any other health related issues you think we should address?

There were a wide range of areas mentioned related to each of the 5 core health areas (in graph above), but not necessarily a “common thread” to any of the ideas/issues. Many, however, are things that are currently being addressed through health curriculum programmes, specialist support, schoolwide behaviour plan, property development etc

Uniform

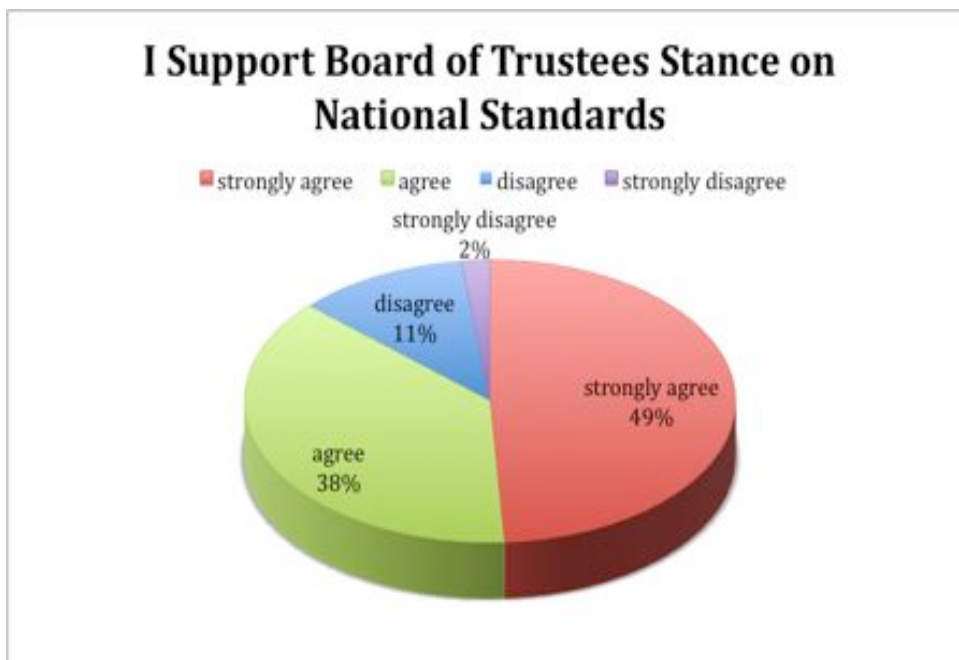
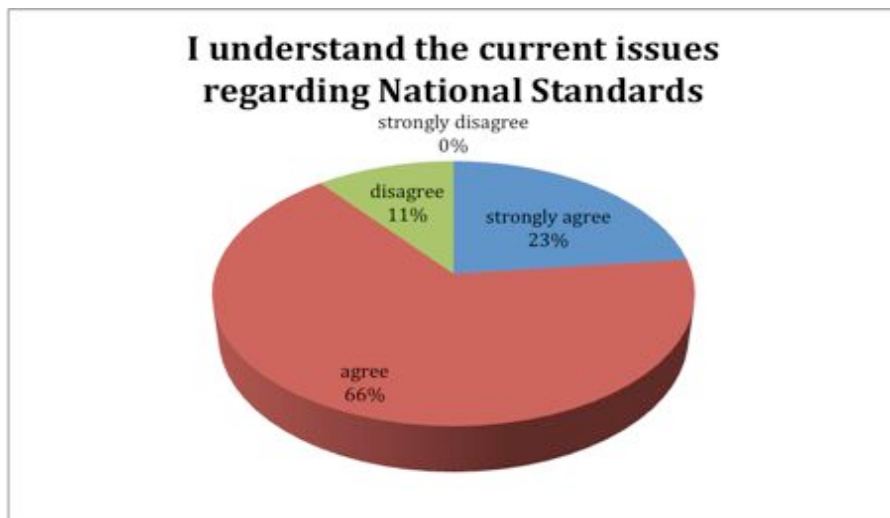


Board of Trustees Response

The poll was close to being a 50/50 poll, similar to the poll in 2008. The Board was interested to see the response, but unless there was a large majority in favour of uniforms, then we wouldn't look at this option further.

The 52% of parents who agreed with the concept of uniforms will of course be able to purchase the “optional” polo shirts and jackets available at present, if they so choose.

National Standards



Board of Trustees Response

The Board was delighted to see a very strong backing of their opposition to National Standards (in their current form) with an overwhelming 87% of responses in support of the Board's motion of No Confidence.

The Te Kowhai School Board of Trustees would like to thank you for taking the time to fill in this survey.

Kind Regards, Te Kowhai School Board of Trustees

*Peter Kelly, Chairman
Michelle Johnstone
Mandi Rathbone*

*Tony Grey
Andrea McDuff*

*Garth Mihaka
Trevor Hickmott*

