

May 2011

Dear Parent/Caregiver

School donations

It is wonderful to see how well Governors Bay children are settling back into school life for Term Two after the disruption of Term One. The tragic February 22 earthquake affected our children, our families and our community to varying degrees. The BOT greatly appreciated the effort our staff put into making our school one of the first to re-open after the earthquake. It helped provide our children with a sense of routine and normality as we all come to terms with the new "normal" way of life in Christchurch and the Harbour Basin.

The Board of Trustees writes to its families each year to ask for a school donation. Whilst we appreciate that such donations are voluntary, and we understand that after February your circumstances may have changed, we hope that this letter will help you understand why the Board makes this request.

Our school receives an annual operations grant that pays for the teaching resources and school administration that are fundamental to our purpose. This grant is also required to cover the longer term maintenance of the school buildings and grounds and so each year we have to set aside part of the grant to pay for these significant non-annual costs

We are a decile 10 school, meaning our school community is in the highest socio-economic bracket measured in NZ, and we have a fantastic location here in the Bay. Unfortunately these factors also count against us in the funding game. The Ministry of Education pays us less funding per child than a lower decile school, and we do not receive any extra compensation for the high transport costs incurred in taking our children to educational opportunities over the hill.

Our teachers' salaries and payments for any capital improvements to classrooms are paid separately by the Ministry of Education and as such cannot be used to pay for any operational costs.

In recent years we have faced an operational deficit as the costs of operating the school have continued to rise and there has been no comparable increase in our operations grant.

For these reasons fundraising and school donations make a huge and vital contribution to our school budget, enabling us to continue to provide high quality teaching resources for our children. We greatly appreciate the involvement of our families and our school community in PTA fundraising activities but realise such events may be more difficult this year as a result of the earthquake

We aim to raise about \$8,000 from your school donations - money that is used to fund teaching resources such as junior readers, mathematics books, science equipment and PE and sports gear.

For 2011 we are asking our families to pay a donation of \$120 per child (\$240 for 2 children, capped at \$280 for 3 or more children). This is unchanged from 2008 and is just \$3/school week. The earlier that your donations are received the earlier we can begin purchasing resources for our children to use **this** year.

You are welcome to pay by cheque or cash at the school office. You can also direct credit our Westpac bank account 03-1596-0014554-00 showing your family name and "donations" as references. Receipts are issued for all donations and you can claim one third of your donation back from the IRD at the tax year end.

Please do talk to Warren Hawke if alternative arrangements such as partial donations or payment by instalments may be helpful.

Thank you for your support of our school.

Board of Trustees - Governors Bay School