

10 December 2015

Dear Parents

The end of the year is upon us and amidst all the busyness, we would ask you to take a few minutes to read this letter. Regular newsletters from the Board of Trustees have been a new initiative over the last eighteen months in response to feedback from the parent community, and we hope that you find them useful and informative.

Construction work has begun

As of Monday this week, our selected contractor Field & Hall Ltd has been on site to begin the building modernisation work. Many of you took the time to attend Toby's information sessions in November about the redevelopment of the buildings and are therefore well informed about the work that will be done.

Safety considerations are paramount during the construction period. Pre-construction meetings between the school and the contractors have been held and we are confident that all necessary safety provisions have been made. If you have any questions or concerns about how the school will operate during the construction period, please contact Toby. All going well, we hope to see the work completed by early April next year.

Parent survey results

Thank you to the parents who completed the Board's annual online survey earlier this term. The response rate was considerably higher than last year which is pleasing. Attached, as an appendix to this letter, are graphs showing the responses received.

Overall, the Board has been pleased with the results. Key features of the results are:

- The majority of respondents expressed positive views about the physical, emotional and learning environment at the school.
- Responses about your willingness to pay higher fees for learning resources or for the repair of the hall were extremely mixed and your comments have been carefully noted by the Board.
- Concerns that were expressed a year ago around communication have not be reiterated this year and appear to have been alleviated by changes made by Toby and the Board.

A very small number of unidentified respondents expressed a high degree of unhappiness with the school. I would encourage those individuals to identify themselves to Toby so that conversations can take place to address their concerns.

My resignation from the Board

At our Board meeting this week, I handed in my resignation as Chairperson and as a Board member. After four years on the Board (two as secretary and two as Chairperson), and having decided not to re-stand at the June 2016 elections, I decided that now is the right time to stand down. Please see below for further details on the membership of the Board in the New Year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parent community for its on-going support of the Board, our actions and decisions. I know at times that not everyone agrees with the decisions made, but please be assured that as your elected representatives, Board members work hard to ensure that all decisions made are the best for the school as a whole and for all the children who attend our wonderful school.

Board leadership and membership in 2016

My resignation takes effect in January. Robyn McInnes will take over the role of Chairperson of the Board. Robyn has been a Board member since 2013 and secretary of the Board for the last two years. She has been heavily involved in key projects that the Board has been working on and we are confident that there will be a smooth transition in leadership.

With Board elections due in June 2016, and a sizeable workload to handle, the Board has decided to invite Jo Holland to fill my vacancy for the remaining five months of the electoral term. Jo has skills and experience that will be a valuable complement to those of existing Board members. Her appointment will be done using the selection process.

“Selection” is a legislated process available to all school boards. The Board will publically notify the use of the selection process in the Independent Herald on 20 January 2016. A four week period then follows during which objections to the use of this process can be lodged. Should 10% of our electoral roll object to the selection process being used, a by-election would need to be held or the vacancy held open until the main election round in June. If you wish to lodge an objection during the public notification period, please contact Robyn before 17 February 2016.

Please note that in June 2016, three Board positions will be up for election. You will receive detailed information about the election process early next year.

Our thanks to Robyn Redhill and Kirsty Ferguson

The Board wishes to acknowledge and thank Robyn Redhill and Kirsty Ferguson for their fantastic work in the school over the last three years. We were sorry to receive their joint resignation from their team teaching position in the Senior Pod. Both Robyn and Kirsty have been greatly appreciated by students, parents and staff during their time at CPDS.



Goodbye to our Year 6 students and their families

With the end of the year comes the need to also say goodbye to the Year 6 students and those families who are finishing their time at Crofton Downs Primary School. The Board wishes the students well for their next stage of schooling and we thank their parents for the support that they have given CDPS during their years here.

Finally ... to our staff

To all of our staff, the Board extends a huge thank you for their work in the school this year. As a group of professionals the staff go above and beyond their job descriptions to ensure CDPS is a well-run, friendly place that enables all of our children to perform to the best of their ability. As the year ends, please join us by taking the time to thank Toby, the classroom teachers and the support staff for all their hard work during the year.

It remains only for me to wish you all a Merry Christmas and the very best for the school holidays.

Yours sincerely

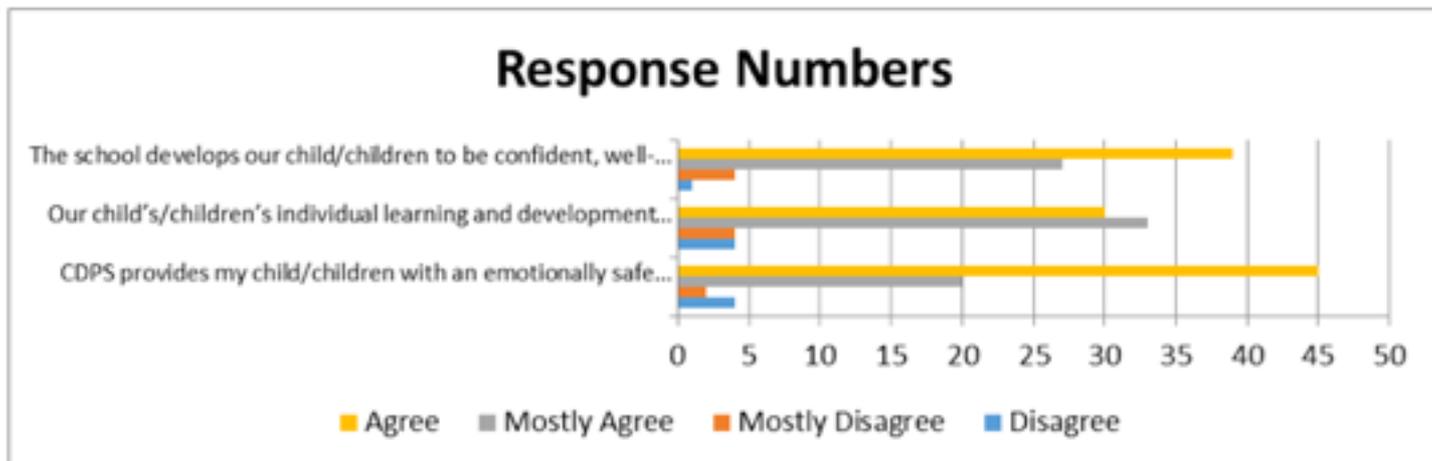


Tracy Woods
Chairperson
CDPS Board of Trustees

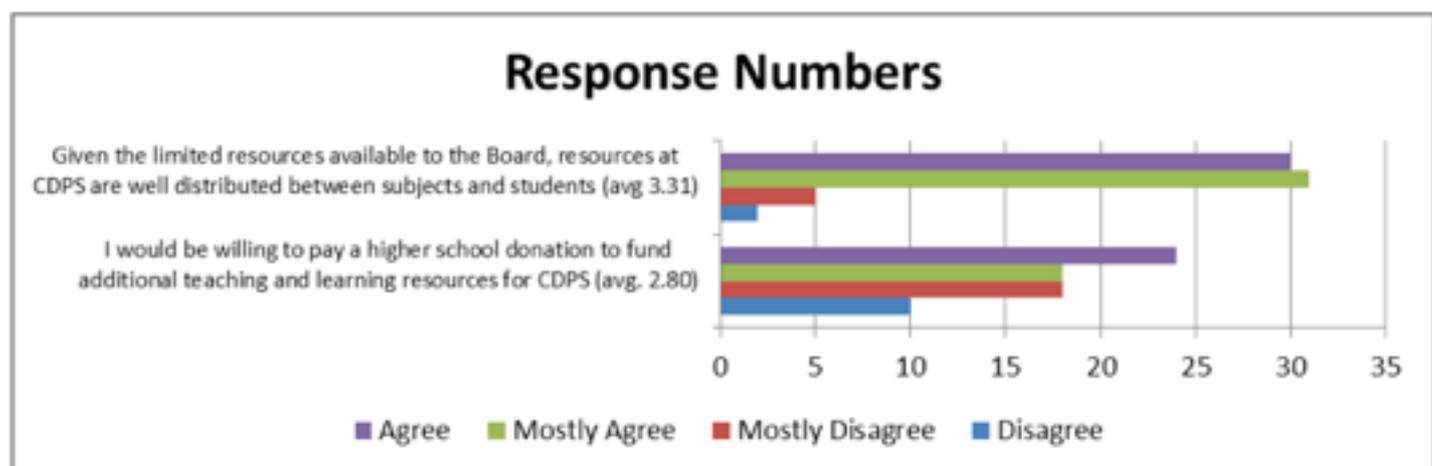


BOARD OF TRUSTEES ANNUAL SURVEY RESULTS - 2016

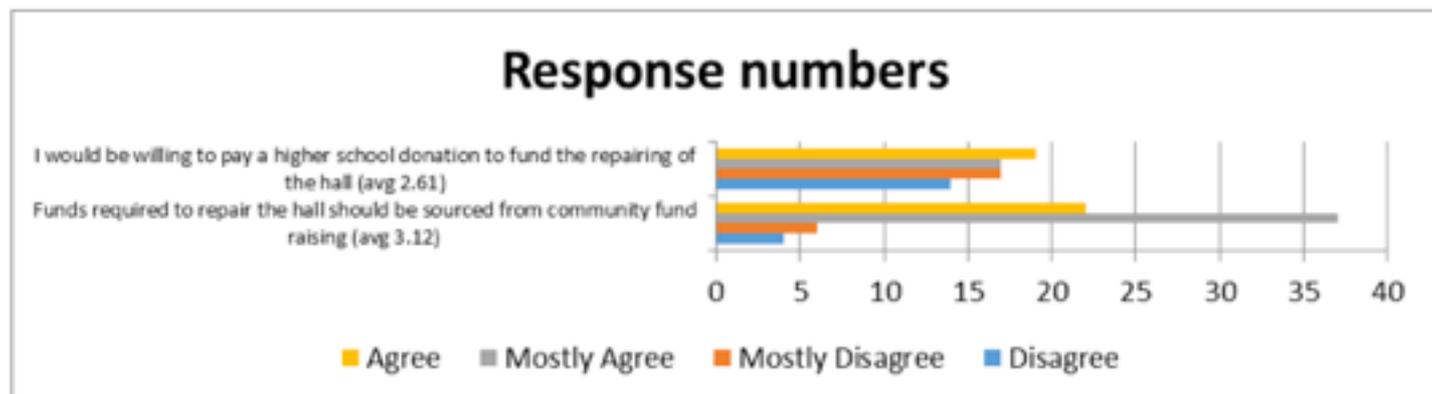
Student Achievement:



Use of school resources:



Repairing the hall:



Physical school environment:

