

WHAT CAN A PTA DO FOR YOUR SCHOOL?

PTAs have been quietly helping the school community for at least 100 years in New Zealand, and will no doubt continue to do so for many more years yet.

PTA, Home and School, Friends of the School etc., are all voluntary, non-profit organisations.

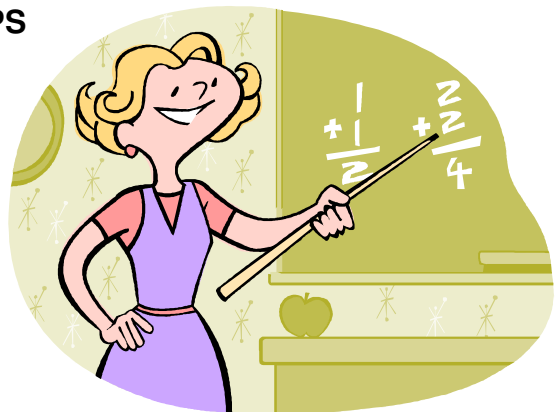
They are associations of parents and family based in the school, whose aim is to bring into closer relationship the home and the school for the benefit of the children. These groups form a link between the school and the wider community.

The child is at the centre of everything parents and teachers do.

THE PTA AND IN-SCHOOL RELATIONSHIPS

Many parents question the role of the two groups in the school, PTA and the Board of Trustees.

We all have to work together in the school for the good of the children and, as we teach our children, a little 'give and take' helps. PTA members are not here for a power play.



If PTAs want to raise funds for the extras that are felt necessary for school a 'wish list' of ideas from the Board/Principal/Staff at the start of the year is a great way of planning the fundraising. All groups within the school should be working towards common goals that are out-lined in the Strategic Plan.

The role of the **Board** is to **GOVERN** the school.

The role of the **Principal** is to **MANAGE** the school.

The role of the **PTA**, parents, family, and community is to **support these by being involved in the school.**

Most PTAs run their own accounts and are an autonomous body – even though they are, of course, looking to the welfare of the school.

In best practice, PTA, Board, and Staff communicate closely and regularly so that all sectors of the school community are working effectively towards achieving common goals. If everyone is pulling in the same direction, rather than being at odds with each other, a lot more can be achieved.

PTAs need to remember that Board approval is required for long-term items that are being purchased for the school.

Boards and Principals need to remember that they should include a figure for income from the PTA in the budget after it has been agreed to.

POSSIBLE ROLES OF THE PTA IN SCHOOLS

- To encourage all aspects of parental involvement
- To facilitate consultation on school policies
- To hold parent-based discussions on topics relevant to the school
- To carry out fundraising ventures
- To host social occasions
- To provide pastoral care to the school community
- To give parents/caregivers a voice within the school



WHY HAVE A PTA?

- To encourage fellowship among parents, teachers, children and the community
- To achieve a mutual understanding of goals and problems in educating children
- To ensure that our children receive the best education that we can possibly give them to foster the best physical, intellectual and mental health of the child
- To assist parents in being parents – the most important job in the world and the one for which you get no training
- To enable parents, teachers and community the opportunity to formally discuss areas of interest
- To assist the school with activities where parent involvement is required
- To support the school Board of Trustees in development, communication and action of policies, strategies and other activities
- To ensure that parents are receiving all the information they need regarding education in our school and in the wider community
- To provide a channel through which parents can voice their concerns
- To assist the school with fundraising via donations, funding of assets and/or services

