



# Trustee News

## July 2016

Tēnā koutou katoa

This is the first Trustee News written on behalf of your newly elected Board of Trustees.

Thanks to all of you who voted. We represent you, the whanau of our students, and our role is to both set the direction for the school, and ensure that right checks are in place so that all of our tamariki have the best chance of success.

Our first Board meeting was held on 20 June, and we spent part of the meeting discussing how we want to operate as a group and going through the Governance manual. I was re-elected as Chair and given the responsibility for property, and we allocated other areas of responsibility as follows: Derek Blair, Finance; Tamsin Wilkins, Personnel; Jane Lamb, Policy; John Denton, Education. We also decided to ask Lucy Corry if she was interested in being co-opted to the board with for her specific expertise in Communications, and she has agreed to do this.

### **Thank yous**

Board meetings usually start with acknowledgements, and there were many at this meeting.

We thanked the outgoing board members, Tom Haig, Jake Yokum and Leigh-Anne Wiig. They have all put in an incredible amount of work over the past three years, and were great colleagues to work with. Specific mention was also given to Derek Blair who recently spent a lot of time preparing annual accounts.

As the meeting was held directly after the very successful Matariki event in the school day and evening, we acknowledged staff and whanau of the school for organising and running activities during the day for matariki, and Parentlink for organising evening matariki event. Specific mention was given to Jake Yokum for the work that he did in transferring the children's designs onto wood to build on the stories for our waharoa.

In recognition of the schol-wide focus on pre-European history this term, thanks was given to staff for organising the whole school trip to Te Papa and Wharewaka (getting all children out of the school in the course of a week requires a lot of planning), and to Rachel France for her ongoing work with kapahaka which was demonstrated at the Matariki celebrations.

## **Property works**

We have recently been given the go-ahead to complete the works that began in term 1. As well as upgrading the toilets, we were keen to make our budget stretch as far as it could to extend to innovative learning environments. When work was done on the toilet block we also upgraded the old 'library cupboard' between Room 7 and the teacher resource room in the same area, to be used for independent or small group work. The final part of the works will be done over these coming holidays, creating another break-out room in what was the Room 10 cloak bay, and making a doorway to link rooms 9 and 10.

This will be funded partly by the Ministry through its 5 year property grant, and with a \$15,000 contribution from the school, being funds raised by Parentlink in 2015 for property works.

While it may just look like a simple doorway, we view the link between rooms 9 and 10 as an important part of the school's journey to innovative learning environments. We want our tamariki to explore and develop learning skills so that they will be the type of learner that we have outlined in our Graduate Profile.

We see Innovative Learning as being driven by three inputs:

- What students, learn and how they learn it – this is why a major focus of the school's professional development this year will be extending and challenging the knowledge and capability of teachers in this area
- The physical environment where learning takes place – while our budget is limited and many of our classrooms may have to be altered to enable more flexible learning, the new doorway will trial the type of learning that can be achieved. This will help inform decisions about future building enhancements or retrofitting of classrooms.
- Digital technologies are also important to support learning.

## **Pool use by Aquazone**

At the last meeting we discussed a proposal from Aquazone to use our school pool in term 1 next year for private lessons. We will be speaking to Aquazone about this further, as we could not see enough immediate benefit from the proposal to outweigh the significant periods of time that it would be unavailable for use by our school community.

## **Next meeting**

We have decided as a Board, that we will continue to have opportunities to involve the wider community at Board meetings. In the past we have held discussions or presentations in the first hour of the meeting (7-8pm) to cover items of interest such as the maths professional development, ICT, development of the bicultural policy, and property issues.

For the next meeting, on 8 August, we thought that it was timely, given that the building work will have been completed over the holidays, to meet for the first hour in rooms 9 and 10, to look at the work just completed, as well as the long-term building plans that have been prepared for the school, and to also learn more about the Innovative Learning

Approaches being adopted. Please put this in your diary if you are interested – Monday 8 August, 7-8pm.

### **We represent you**

The Board of Trustees is there to represent you, so if you have any questions or queries that you would like to raise, please get in touch with a member of the Board of Trustees – our details are below.

Ngā mihi

Chris Montgomerie  
Chair

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