



Trustee News

August 2017

Kia ora koutou

On Monday night we had our first Board meeting for the term. We heard from Peter Dobson and Jessica White, our ICT lead teachers who outlined the school's digital strategy and from Victoria Taylor who provided an update on her work to get the school pool repaired and operational for the summer terms.

Digital strategy

Having students who are skilled and confident users of technology is integral to the Kilbirnie School Graduate Profile. This is balanced with a determination by Tony, the Board and our teaching staff, that using technology in itself is not an end goal, but its use is important in creating innovative learning environments at the school.

Two years ago the board funded the purchase of Surface Pros for the senior classrooms so that our year 5 and 6 students could have a 1:2 ratio of device to students. This year, with the creation of the Matairangi hub, and with our year 5 and 6 students spread across rooms 8, 9 and 10, these devices are now spread at a ratio of 1:3.

In light of this, and knowing that other schools are investigating or have implemented a 'bring your own device' (BYOD) scheme for year 5 and 6 students, the Board asked Peter and Jessica to investigate options for us.

Peter and Jessica have done a significant amount of work over the past few terms which has included visiting and talking to schools who have BYOD schemes, and professional development through Connected Learning Advisory a Ministry unit which advises on integrating digital technologies with learning. Monday night's presentation outlined the school's digital strategy, which involves ongoing instruction on digital citizenship at all levels of the school and using technology to support innovative learning – not as a substitution but as a way of redefining the way students build knowledge.

Peter and Jessica recommended that the school instigates an optional BYOD scheme, effective term 1 2018, and this was agreed by the Board. There is still a lot of work to be done, but with the decision now made, we can start consulting with parents of our year 4 and 5 students (next year's year 5 and 6). There will be an information evening held on Tuesday 22 August for this purpose, and the already publicised Netsafe evening will follow on Wednesday 6 September.

From a technical point of view, we want to make sure that any device that is purchased for use at Kilbirnie School can be taken on to intermediate with our students. We are currently talking to suppliers and finalising preferred devices to be purchased, and an additional evening meeting will be held early in term 4 to provide these details.

The board discussion before making the decision covered the pros and cons of a BYOD strategy. As parents we have concerns about screen time and how device use is monitored, but we felt that introducing own devices in a supportive classroom environment where digital citizenship is constantly reinforced will set our children up with good habits for technology use at intermediate and secondary schools. At a board level we will be making sure that there is enough opportunity for parents to ask questions and air concerns through this introductory phase, and we will be making sure that school devices are available for students who do not bring their own. We'll also be ensuring teacher professional development is provided, and that the school has the technical ability to support a higher number of, and more varied devices.

Please look out for the notice about the upcoming evening meetings, and if you have any questions, please contact Peter, Tony or myself.

Pool works

We heard from Victoria Taylor, who has been driving the work to seek the best solution for our pool going forward. Victoria spoke of the options that were considered, what was chosen and why (fibreglass for its longevity) and funding. We are pleased that in addition to funding that we received from Wellington City Council for pools in schools, we have been successful in seeking funds from the Eastern Suburbs Sports Trust and the Lion Foundation. We still have one more funding application in which will ensure that all work can be completed. The work is booked in to be done over the two weeks of the October holidays.

We again thanked Victoria who has spent a considerable amount of time on this project. We couldn't have done it without her!

Community Emergency Hub planning

As outlined in the previous Trustee News, we have now confirmed that Kilbirnie School will be a Community Emergency Hub in the event of an emergency.

We are in the process of reviewing our Emergency Procedures to be consistent with the advice that Civil Defence suggests, and also have added more detail on how and when a Community Emergency Hub will be set up if an emergency occurred during the school day. For more information about Community Emergency Hubs, check out <http://getprepared.nz/my-community/community-emergency-hubs/>. If you click through to the Hub locations, we are listed as Hataitai (South) and you can download the full emergency guide that has been prepared for our site.

The Wellington Regional Emergency Management Office (WREMO) has been hosting Community Emergency Response workshops in various communities recently, and they are currently underway with the Kilbirnie, Lyall Bay, Melrose, Moa Point community. I have been attending the evening meetings as a representative of one of the nearest Community Emergency Hubs (most of the area is in a tsunami zone so we are likely to see people walking up to our school). The final session will be held on Tuesday 22 August. If you live on the Kilbirnie side of Wellington Road and are interested in coming along, please just turn up at 7pm at the Indian Cultural Centre at 48 Kemp Street. There will be a separate series of workshops held for Hataitai and Roseneath later in the year, which we will also publicise to the school community.

Community of Learning – Kahui Ako

Work continues on the Eastern Wellington Community of Learning, which Kilbirnie School has signed up to be part of. Tony and I have attended meetings to set up work streams and governance structures, and it is expected that the appointment of a lead principal will occur towards the end of the term.

We represent you

Below is a list of the members of the Board of Trustees. We have been elected by the school community to oversee the governance of the school, so please get in touch with any of us if you have any questions.

Ngā mihi

Chris Montgomerie
Chair

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