



# Trustee News

## May/June 2015

Kia ora koutou

Term two seems to be racing by, with a lot of activity at Kilbirnie School. Here's an update of what your Board has been up to.

### **Overview of last meeting**

At the Board of Trustees meeting earlier in the term, we acknowledged the work that had been done over the holidays on the covered seating outside the junior block, and the new fence in the pool area which provides a bit more playing area in the playground. This has been well received by students and staff, and has been a great asset in the wetter weather.

We also had Peter Dobson attend the meeting to talk about the school's ICT strategy. When discussing the redrafted ICT policy we spoke at length about digital safety. It was acknowledged that the new Ministry-funded Network 4 Learning broadband has content filters but the school is still looking at the best options for monitoring and reporting usage to the school and parents. However Peter stressed that digital safety is something that is routinely taught in the classroom, and that the preferred approach is to have a conversation about appropriate use of the Internet at all times, rather than it being presented as a separate module, or as a form that is signed at the beginning of the year and then filed away.

### **Next week's meeting**

Next Monday (8 June) our second meeting of the term will occur. We will start the meeting with a presentation from Louise Miller from Cognition Education who is leading the maths Professional Development programme for all teachers this year. As Mike noted in the last newsletter, all parents who are interested in hearing about the programme that Louise is leading are welcome to attend. It will be first in the agenda at 7pm, for about half an hour.

### **Property update**

Tenders have been sought for the toilet upgrade project, and we are pleased to announce that Don Jamieson, who has previously designed our junior and admin buildings, is the successful architect for the project. As well as the Ministry-funded toilet upgrade, the Board has asked Don to prepare a long-term concept plan for the

whole school grounds so that we have a long-term plan for how we might alter the middle and senior classrooms in the future to make them more modern learning environments.

We are hoping that Don will be able to speak to our first meeting in term 3, and this again would be open to parents to attend.

**Please support our fundraising efforts**

We are immensely grateful for the effort that our Parentlink group puts in to raising money for the school. Our operating budget is very tight, so a lot of the 'extras' that make Kilbirnie School special are funded from money raised at these events. The next event coming up is the *Art Te Aroha* art exhibition and auction. If you have not yet put it in the diary, please do – the evening function and auction is on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June, and the exhibition will continue on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> so you can show your child's artwork to more family and friends.

Ngā mihi

Chris Montgomerie