



Trustee News

September 2019

Kia ora te whānau

As the newly-elected board of trustees has been together for over a term now, it is timely that we give you an update on what we have been working on.

With several new faces, it has been a time of learning the processes of the school. There have been external training workshops on governance, and we have spent time in the board meetings talking about student achievement data and explaining the education acronyms that are used so frequently!

Specifically, at the last meeting we focussed our discussion on:

- Sport opportunities at the school
- Strategic plan and annual survey

Sport

At the last meeting we heard from Katrina Te Rito who has responsibility for sport at the school. It is always great to have Katrina at our meetings and hear of the number of sporting opportunities that are made available to our tamariki. As well as outside providers who come in to introduce various sports, there are annual school events that lead on to eastern zone competitions and beyond, and tournaments that are available to schools in our area.

It is really impressive to hear about the very high numbers of children involved in school sports teams outside of school hours. The teams that we field as a school to these competitions are only made possible by the large number of parents who make themselves available to coach and manage the teams, so thank you for those of you who help out in this capacity.

We spoke about the sports equipment that is available to all children at lunchtimes, and the resourcing of this. For those new to the school, there is an overview of all sports available through school on the website <http://www.kilbirnie.school.nz/sports>. We are also looking at compiling a list of other kids sport available outside of school, with links to sports clubs, so if you have a club that you would like to profile, please let me know.

Strategic planning and school survey

As a board we reviewed the existing strategic plan, and discussed how we stay on the same course, while being responsive to the children's and community's needs.

While reviewing the strategy, we have also begun looking at the annual community survey which will be developed and made available next term. In it, we will be testing some of the school's focus areas, to make sure that they align with your aspirations for the school. The survey outcomes will then inform the school's strategic and annual plan.

Thanks for so much community activity

This term has been characterised by a lot of community involvement and generosity.

The Art Te Aroha event was a fantastic celebration of the ideas and talent of our tamariki, the support of our community – and was the result of a lot of hard work by everyone at the school, and Parentlink. Both the Friday auction event and the Saturday family day were lovely events to attend, and the money raised will be a great contribution to the school, ensuring that we can continue to offer more rich, deep learning like this.

We also had the two working bees earlier in the term which made enhancements to the play area and gardens, with the aim of giving the free plants that we received from Wellington City Council the best possible growing conditions. The final step of this work by parents of the school will be completed in the holidays.

We're always happy to talk

As we're parent representatives, please get in touch with any of us if you want to find out more about what we do. The following people are on the board:

Chris Montgomerie
Robin Fepuleai
Andy Davies
John Denton
Davin Hall
Heidi Cannell
Peter Dobson (staff rep)
Tony Austin (principal)

Ngā mihi

Chris Montgomerie
Chair, Board of Trustees