



# Trustee News

## February 2020

Kia ora te whānau

A very warm welcome to the new families who have joined the Kilbirnie School community this year, and also to our returning families.

This newsletter provides an update from your Board of Trustees, and you will receive it at least once a term. In it, we summarise the governance issues that we discuss as a board when we meet twice a term, particularly as they relate to our families and the children's learning journeys.

In this issue I will discuss results from the end of year community survey and how these findings have been integrated into the school's annual plan.

### **End of year community survey**

Each year we survey parents on a range of issues to help inform the school board and management team when developing the annual strategic plan.

In our November survey, the first section reviewed the health curriculum, something we are required to do every two years. In line with the increased focus on hauora and wellbeing, we structured this first section in line with Te Whare Tapa Whā, a Māori model of healthcare that describes four dimensions that are equally important for a balanced life (wairua/spiritual, hinengaro/mental health, tinana/physical health, and whanau/family health).

The second section sought feedback on a range of learning programmes that are underway at the school to seek your levels of awareness, and knowledge of impact of the programmes.

Three main themes came up through the survey:

- Relationship management is important, and parents want to know more about the school's processes to deal with any conflict and how parents can work with the school on this
- Use of digital technology – many of the additional programmes use technology, and there were questions about the best, most balanced use of technology. This is an area where the school has put in a lot of thought, but has probably not communicated this with our parents regularly enough
- Academic outcomes, and how the school's various learning programmes help to increase student learning

I will address each of the themes separately below.

### **Relationship Management**

Happy, settled children learn better, so it is important that the school creates a physically and emotionally safe learning environment.

The school's C.A.R.E. values are a key influence, as is the principle of Manaakitanga to foster open and trusting relationships. Students are encouraged to consider the needs of others, and adults must also model this disposition.

Some parents were unsure of the process that the school uses to deal with bullying or upsetting behaviour, and what they can do to help.

The school has a [Behaviour Management Procedure](http://www.kilbirnie.school.nz/Media/Default/Documents/Policies/Behaviour%20Management%20Procedures%20v1.3%202019.pdf) published on the website [http://www.kilbirnie.school.nz/Media/Default/Documents/Policies/Behaviour%20Management%20Procedures%20v1.3 2019.pdf](http://www.kilbirnie.school.nz/Media/Default/Documents/Policies/Behaviour%20Management%20Procedures%20v1.3%202019.pdf). The school focusses on preventative approaches, but when expectations for positive behaviour are not met, the focus moves to the consistent school-wide application of restorative practices and appropriate consequences.

The procedure was reviewed by staff in 2019 and led to some additional work done in some classrooms which was shared with all staff as classroom techniques. The board will be reviewing it this year.

Some survey comments revealed a confusion between unkindness and bullying. While neither is desirable, bullying is commonly defined as behaviour that is repeated, intentional and harmful, and is distinct from kids being impulsive or mean on occasion. The diagram in the procedure shows that one is treated as minor and dealt at a classroom level, and the other is major.

Encouraging positive behaviour has to be a partnership between school and home. While teachers can observe what is happening in classrooms, words said in break times often go unheard. We do encourage you to tell the classroom teacher about an issue if it is affecting your child, because very often if a certain behaviour is addressed early it won't happen again. Teachers address all issues once they are aware of them.

## **Digital Technology**

There were several questions about the use of digital technology across each of the hubs, and also around the use of BYOD in the Matairangi hub.

Each of the hubs were asked to discuss and share their approach to digital technology at last week's hub meetings. Each hub is in the process of writing an item explaining digital technology use in their areas of the school. Once complete these will be available at <http://www.kilbirnie.school.nz/e-learning>.

The survey revealed that the school needs to better profile how technology enhances and deepens classroom learning so parents and whānau are well informed regarding the use of screen time in the classroom. To achieve this the school will provide information and updates on the use of digital technologies in class emails and the school newsletter. During the year there will be opportunities for parents to come in to the class to observe technology use. On the evening of Monday May, the 18<sup>th</sup> we have the Netsafe organisation in the school to present to parents. Netsafe is New Zealand's independent, non-profit online safety organization. They will work with school staff during the day also.

<https://www.netsafe.org.nz/>

## **Various learning programmes**

Parents are aware of most of the learning programmes that are offered. However, some were unsure about when they are used, the levels of supervision, and the learning outcomes.

The survey results for this section were shared with staff and used at teacher planning days before the start of the school year so that they are reviewed for impact, as well as discussing how they are

introduced and communicated to parents. Hopefully you will have heard about some at the hub meetings last week and we are working to have a summary on the website too.

**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