



Trustee News

November 2020

Kia ora te whānau

We are well into term 4 now, and for those of us with children doing NCEA, school has already finished, which makes Christmas feel very close. What a year!

In this update from your Board of Trustees, I will cover:

- Property work – grounds plans and senior classrooms.
- Introducing the end of year community survey which is shorter this year and considers how teaching and learning has adapted during 2020.
- An overview of the items that we will be covering at the December board meeting, as we reflect on the past year and plan for the future.

Property developments

As I outlined in June, the majority of our five-year property funding from the Ministry has been allocated to upgrading the senior classrooms, which is planned to be done over the Summer holidays and into term 1 of next year. We are still going through the tender process, and until a final contract is agreed we won't have a clear picture of the timing of the project and what impact that will have on our use of teaching spaces. When we have more details, we will provide an update for parents of children in the Matairangi hub about how this will be managed.

Thank you to all of the families who came along to the working bee held at school earlier in the term. As someone who has been involved with the school for a long time, it was great to meet people who are at the beginning of their time at Kilbirnie School. The working bee focussed on clearing and tidying gardens and disbursing the wood chip that was a result of the tree work that was done in the holidays. It was with a lot of regret that we made the decision to remove the two Ash trees, but they were getting increasingly unsafe and were prone to losing large limbs in northerly winds. As well as the new replacement Rewarewa tree, we have plans for enlarging that play space, and adding a shade sail and garden area so that it can again become a popular shaded play space.

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.

As it has been a year when we have asked more of you, and sent more detailed communications, we don't want this year's survey to be too onerous. There are a few general questions about how the school operated during the Covid-19 lockdown and following, and a specific section on the school production.

The survey will take about 5 minutes and will close on Friday 4 December and can be found here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KilbirnieSchool2020>

December meeting review and thoughts

Our December board meeting is a time to say thanks to everyone who has been part of our wider community through the year. We invite representatives from Parentlink and Kilbirnie After School Care to come along, as well as the senior management team.

It is also an important meeting in terms of reporting, as we discuss student achievement results, a key focus for us as a board. This year has again been quite different; at every board meeting we have spent a considerable amount of time discussing how the school is continuing to make sure that tamariki progress in their learning as the teaching and learning programme has had to be adjusted. This, of course, can only happen when a child feels safe and settled, so we have spent a lot of time also considering the hauora of our students, and also making sure that the workload and stress levels of our wonderful staff are managed for their own wellbeing.

By the December meeting, planning for the coming year will also be well underway, and we will be discussing the draft annual plan and budget for 2021.

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. Please contact the school office if you would like contact details for any of us.

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