



Trustee News

March 2022

Kia ora te whānau

This is the first newsletter from your School Board for 2022, and the last that I will be writing. At the first Board meeting of the year, we elected a new Presiding Member (previously Chair) and I welcome Davin Hall into the role that I have held for close to ten years.

I also want to extend a big welcome to the new families who have joined the Kilbirnie School whānau this year. As I have just stepped out of the primary school environment with my youngest child leaving last year, I would encourage you to get as involved as you can in these primary years – as well as having a chance to share the school experience with your child, the community connections and friendships that you make are strong and lasting.

The role of the School Board is all about community connection. We are community representatives with a governance role, and by discussing and approving the school strategic plan and budget, we have a say in the type of school that our tamariki attend and the types of learning experiences that they will have.

In this newsletter I will provide an overview of:

- School survey undertaken in November/December 2021 and how it has influenced planning this year
- School Board elections in September this year

SCHOOL SURVEY

In term four of each year we undertake a School Survey. This is an important forum for us as a Board to hear from the community, and has a large impact on the planning for the future school year.

Last year the survey covered the Health Curriculum (it is a requirement to consult with the community on this every two years), which we have ordered around the *Te Whare Tapa Whā* model. We also wanted to gauge how appropriate the current school strategic goals still were, as we gear up for a new way of planning and reporting as part of governmental changes.

There was general agreement that the school's strategy (see image below) remains on the right track. C.A.R.E. values are very well known and the focus that they are given each term is very good reinforcement. Having the value talked about in assembly and also the newsletter reinforces this. The Graduate Profile captures the aspirations that parents have for our children, and comments from parents of our more senior students indicate that these are actively worked on, particularly in the senior years.

Parents are less familiar with the principles that our teachers reflect, and work will be done this year to test them in relation to the teacher professional growth cycles.



KILBIRNIE SCHOOL EST. 1864
Whāia te iti kahurangi

To challenge and inspire for
lifelong learning and achievement.

OUR VALUES

Our school values are woven through the curriculum and modelled by staff, students and community.

Kilbirnie Children C.A.R.E.

- C Confidence
- A Achievement
- R Respect
- E Empathy

OUR TEACHERS

Our teachers will reflect the principles of:

AWHINA

Students will be included as part of their class and the school as a whole.

AKO

Learning is an active process shared by adults and students.

WHANAUNGATANGA

Parents and whanau are central to student progress and achievement.

OUR GRADUATES

When students leave Kilbirnie School at the end of Year 6, they will be:

- Curious and engaged participants, contributors and leaders.
- Creative, innovative and critical thinkers who communicate effectively.
- Independent self-managers who set goals, self assess and reflect.
- Happy at school with a strong sense of inclusion and belonging.
- Literate, numerate and keen participants in physical activity.
- Confident, resilient and willing to take risks.
- Respectful of others and aware of tikanga Māori.
- Skilled users of technologies and discerning consumers of information.
- Aware of the environment and eager to protect it.

As is often the case, the comments that you took the time to give revealed a lot. I wanted to address some of them and talk about how they have been incorporated into this year's school planning:

All staff modelling use of te reo Māori and school-wide work on cultural diversity

- This is a constant work-on for the school, and has been for a number of years.
- Last year a Teacher Only Day was dedicated to Te Tiriti o Waitangi training for all staff, and this year it will be built upon at the teacher only day on 1 April, when our teachers will be working with other schools in our Motu Kairangi Kahui Ako (a group of schools in the Eastern suburbs, including primary schools, EBIS through to the 2 secondary schools that is focussed on students' learning journeys), for a day specifically dedicated to issues around culture, identity, te reo Māori and te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- Our Board meetings have a standing item on te Tiriti, and the success of Māori students, and this remains a priority for us as school.

Property maintenance

We receive an allocation from MOE for the maintenance of property over a five-year period, and pay for day-to-day maintenance from our operations grant. The Board has to prioritise the amount of money that is spent in various areas of school operations, and we make classroom learning a priority.

For the day-to-day property maintenance, we feel that the hours that our caretaker Mark currently works ensure a tidy and safe school, and we thank Mark for the effort and attention to detail that he brings to his work. We also plan and run working bees 1-2 times a year to keep on top of gardens and work on other items as they come up. In the last two years, with the Covid interruptions, these have not been as frequent as we would have liked. We used a paid service for grounds maintenance before school started this year. In addition, we pay for maintenance to the trees on our site several times a year. Please do look out for notices for a working bee later in the year.

This is separate to larger-scale building work. We have just completed the modernisation of the Matairangi learning spaces, and continue to work the Whāitaitai hub development project. We hope to be able to provide more detail on this soon.

Community input

As with the gardens, we do rely on community input and volunteering from whānau in a number of areas. As well as ensuring that we can prioritise funding towards learning, it also means that you can have a hand in shaping the school that you want your child to experience. There are many ways that you can provide non-financial input to the school: from help in the garden (one off, and through our weekly Garden to Table programme), to sports coaching and coordination, through the Parentlink and After School Care group parents groups, and other more specific tasks such as website development.

Policies

Some of you asked specific questions about device usage and the school's approach to behaviour management. These, and many other areas of school operations are covered in the many policies that we have, and which are reviewed regularly by the board.

You can view the Review Schedule for 2022 [here](#) – please note that Term 2 covers Behaviour Management, and Term 4 will cover Digital Technology and Cyber Safety. We will undertake as a school to write more specifically about the policies that are up for review each term, so that you can provide timely feedback as their review period comes up.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS THIS YEAR

The Board elections are held every three years. This year's election date has moved from April to September, to allow an electronic voting system to be set up.

The Board is made up of 5 elected representatives, a staff representative and the principal. Elected representatives are usually parents or whānau of the school, and are elected for three years. We well as setting the vision for the school, the Board ensures that it complies with legal and policy requirements so that every child can achieve their potential. As there are several members of the board whose children have left or are leaving the school, we are looking for more parents and whānau to step forward into this role at the September election. The call for candidates will be made in July, and the election will run from 5-23 September.

If you are interested in finding out more about how the Board works, we invite you to attend a board meeting to see how we work. They are held via Zoom at the moment. Our upcoming dates are below, and please get in touch with one of the board representatives listed below and we will organise getting you papers and the Zoom link. Please contact the office if you would like email details.

Upcoming board meetings:

Term 1: March 31

Term 2: May 19; June 23

Term 3: August 11; September 15

Current Kilbirnie School Board:

Davin Hall (Presiding Member)

John Denton

Robin Fepuleai

Tony Austin (Principal)

Chris Montgomerie

Heidi Garrett

Andrew Davies

Peter Dobson (staff representative)

A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL STAFF FOR AGAIN BEING SO ADAPTABLE IN A PANDEMIC

I would like to finish by acknowledging all of the extra time that our staff have put into planning and needing to respond quickly to change plans as Omicron has moved through our community. Thanks to Tony and the senior leadership team for their dedication and the above-and-beyond efforts that they go to, to make sure that the learning experiences for our tamariki are as positive and uninterrupted as possible.

Ngā mihi

Chris Montgomerie