



## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER – September 2017**

### **Kia Ora Koutou Parents and Caregivers**

We are in the final week of the third term of the 2017 school year. The shortest day is behind us and the clocks have come forward again but spring will still gift us a few more wet and cold days.

It's certainly hard for your Board to believe that we only have one term remaining this year. It has been a busy, positive and productive year thus far.

### **What have we been up to?**

#### **Playground**



It is heartening to see the final stage of the new playground completed and already so well used. The kids appear to love it. The Board can see that it has been a very worthwhile investment.

We are committed to healthy and active children at Woodstock School, including those children in our conductive education unit. We are pleased that the new playground will benefit them too, with inclusive play options.



## **School Pool Upgrade**

Our school pool is a wonderful asset for our school. Having the pool enables the school to easily meet its obligations to teach water survival skills to our children. Without it, the children would need to travel off school grounds for lessons meaning there would be less time in the water, learning valuable skills. Our pool, however, is aging, and accordingly the Board has committed, along with help from the PTA, to fund crucial upgrades. We plan to have the work done in January, so that the pool is ready to go for the 2018 lessons.

## **Other Ongoing Maintenance**

Our Five and Ten Year Plan for maintenance and upgrading of the school buildings and facilities has been completed and reinforces what we knew, that it remains a challenge to do what we have to do with the funds we are allocated.

The Boys' Toilets in the main junior block are now undergoing a much-needed upgrade which will be completed by the time the children are back from holidays – fingers crossed!

Completion of other items on our wish list will depend on Ministry approval and meetings to prioritise these items are on-going. We will have more updates for you as we move forward.

## **Surveying our School**

In 2015 the Board surveyed the school population on a number of issues, including the perceived role of the school, our strengths and weaknesses and any improvements that could be made. The response was very helpful and helped us formulate the strategic plan for the coming years.

We thought it would be interesting to revisit the survey and report on the areas where we have been able to improve and implement your suggestions:

The top suggestion for improvement was a new playground and/or play equipment. We are obviously delighted that we have been able to deliver on this with help and support from the

1. PTA and other funders.
2. The second suggestion was for improved landscaping and this was coupled with a request to equip the children with life skills like gardening, looking after the environment and encouraging their sense of responsibility.

As a Board, we can see the positive effect that the EnviroSchools program is having on the school grounds and also the children's understanding of the environment and developing strategies to help protect it.

3. The school community was also given the chance to vote on retaining the Religious Instruction (RI) program and the clear preference was to keep it.

A comment was made that the Board should be more visible and have a greater engagement with the School community.

In Term 2 all members of the Board, together with Mrs Mills, were delighted to spend a morning at school during class time. We were able to meet with the teachers at morning tea and then visit each classroom to see the teachers 'in action' and the children 'at work'. This is something that we will endeavour to do on a regular basis, in addition to our evening Board meetings.

We received a great deal of positive feedback, as well as constructive comments. Please be assured that every comment was read and considered.

Examples of comments received:

*“We felt very supported when our family member was ill and was so impressed by the schools sensitivity and responsiveness.”*

and,

*“Developing the kids’ sense of responsibility. I see the kids grow in this area each year. By Year 6, they really make a huge contribution to the school by taking responsibility for Road Patrol, Milk run, Office duty etc.”*

By now you will have received the invitation to complete this year’s survey and we hope that as many of you as possible will share your thoughts about the school with us. It is so useful to receive feedback, both positive and constructive.

**We wish to emphasise our commitment to the education, wellbeing and growth of all our children at Woodstock.**

**Have a great break and we’ll see you all back safely for our final term of 2017.**

**Who are your Board?**

Jenny Mills     Principal

Kym Lenihan     Staff Rep

Janeen Foote     Secretary

Parent Representatives:

		
Safraz Hapuku    Chairman	Mike Conlon	Craig Blomfield
		
Reece Hill	Johanna Park	Belinda Blackmore