



BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER – SEPT 2016

Kia Ora Koutou Parents and Caregivers

The year is racing away on us, winter sports have wrapped up for the year, spring is here and the end of term 3 is now upon us.

What a difference the turf has made to our winter sports programmes, it has been great to see such a high usage from so many different sporting groups over the last two terms.

This is the first newsletter of your newly elected Board which took office in June.

Who are your Board?

Jenny Mills	Principal
Safraz Hapuku	Chairman
Kym Lenihan	Staff Rep

Parent Reps:
Mike Conlon
Craig Blomfield
Reece Hill
Johanna Park
Belinda Blackmore

Janeen Foote Secretary

We would like to extend a big thank you to the previous Board for the work done over the past three years, hand over has been seamless and is obvious from all accounts that the school is in good shape and has been well run,

the new Board is keen to continue on in this manner.

What have we been up to?

Since the new Board has taken office all Trustees have attended a “Governance Essentials” course run by the Ministry of Education to ensure that all Trustees are fully aware of their role and responsibilities as Trustees. Key focus of this course was to reinforce that it is the Boards role to govern, the day to day management of the school lies with our principal - Jenny Mills and her management team.

Ultimately the Boards role is to ensure student achievement in the school for all children.

Playground

At our last meeting after consultation with various providers one preferred contractor was chosen to progress with the playground project, this has now been committed to and signed off, with work due to commence within the next 6 months.

This project would not be possible without the great work of the PTA committing \$25,000 to the project by way of funds raised through the Luxury Raffle and other smaller fundraising projects throughout this year and last

– a big thank you to all PTA members for your tireless efforts. A further big thank you to our grants team – Mary Lamberton and Johanna Park, who have put numerous hours into submitting applications for Grants, for which we are hopeful will be successful and generate further funds to be allocated to the playground project.

To date this year, Woodstock School has been in receipt of the following grants:

- \$2,000 from Grass Roots Trust in Jan 2016
- \$4,000 from Lion Foundation in July 2016

We are very thankful to these Trusts for the funds granted to assist with various projects going on around our school, without their assistance these projects would take a lot longer to come to fruition.

Conversion of Room 1A.

At the end of 2015, work commenced on converting the then computer suite, into an additional teaching space for the school, this project is now near complete, with an external door providing access to the astro turf scheduled to be installed these holidays. In its new format, it provides additional storage, a dedicated working space for our teachers when

on teacher relief and essentially an additional teaching space able to be utilised by various different break out groups within the school. It is also available to deal with capacity issues if required, in the case that the school encounters a large number of new entrants enrolling in term four.

Ongoing Maintenance

With our buildings being the age they are, there is always a need for some form of ongoing maintenance around our school. While it is great to be able to deliver the 'fun' and highly visible projects like the astro turf and the playground, there is also the need to keep the school operational and a safe environment for students and teachers alike. Projects committed to, to be completed before the end of the year include:

- The resurfacing of the floor of the boys toilets.
- Replacement of the sinks and benches in all classrooms
- The concreting of the area outside rooms 7, 8 and 9.

Student Achievement

At each meeting the principal or the staff representative reports on an aspect of student achievement. As an example of the programs being run within our school, at our last meeting a report was reviewed on the achievement of our English Language Learners (ELL's).

There are currently 33 ELL students being catered for in our ELL's programme.

To qualify for the ELL's programme students must fall into one of the following categories:

1. Refugee
2. Migrant
3. New Zealand born with one or both parents being a migrant

Once it is established that a student meets the requirements for one of the above categories the student's level of English is assessed. The student is assessed against the English Language Learning Progressions (ELLP) and an ELLP Record of Progress is kept for each student.

Programmes are then put in place by the teacher in charge of ELLs and carried out by Learning Assistants. Programmes focus on the development of language skills to enable the students to become proficient in speaking, reading and writing in the English Language.

Students receive approximately 3 x 25min sessions per week with our Learning Support Assistants (Alison Motion, Sandra Walter and Tamar Peterkin). This is usually carried out in a small group situation.

The programme is well received by the families of children involved, and goes a long way in assisting those children to develop a sense of belonging within our school.

Thank you

In addition to those groups and individuals mentioned above, we would also like to thank one of our school parents – Stacey McLean,

who once again has been key in co-ordinating the "BNZ Closed for Good" day, which saw a number of BNZ staff come into our school on a voluntary basis and carry out various projects around our school. We are very much appreciative of their efforts.

We wish all our children and families a good break over the next two weeks of school holidays and look forward to, as always, a very busy but fun Term 4.