



Wadestown School

Board of Trustees

Sally Barrett
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Amy Maddock
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News from the Board – December 2019

Kia ora koutou

Appointment of Acting Principal

The Board is pleased to advise that we have appointed Ian Hastie as Acting Principal for Wadestown School.

Ian will commence at the start of the 2020 school year and will continue in this role for the first two terms of next year, unless a new Principal has commenced prior to that date.

He will work closely with our retiring Principal Sally Barrett, which includes a short period at the start of the 2020 school year, to ensure an effective handover.

Ian is a highly experienced school principal having led Kahutara School and Avalon Intermediate School as their Principal for a 24 year period before retiring earlier this year.

Ian's appointment follows the Board's specific search for an Acting Principal for a limited period. We are confident that his depth of experience will allow for 'business as usual' operation of the school during that period, provide some excellent professional development opportunities for staff and allow the Board to prioritise its focus on recruiting a new Principal.

All of the necessary organisational matters for next year are in place, and there are no teacher vacancies for classes at the commencement of the 2020 school year. So we are confident that the handover from Sally to Ian will be as seamless as possible.

New Principal

We have advertised the position in the Education Gazette seeking expressions of interest in the role and will be re-advertising the role again before the closing date.

When the current staff and parent consultation exercise is complete (seeking feedback on the desired attributes and characteristics of a new Principal), we will finalise details for interested parties so they may formally apply for the Principal position by the closing date of 28 February 2020.

In terms of timeframes, if we receive sufficient quality applications by the closing date and is in a position to short list, interview and appoint a new Principal, it is expected that the earliest commencement date is likely to be around the middle of the school year. We note that there are at least five other high decile Wellington primary schools seeking a new Principal, so we wish to highlight that the appointment process may take some time – this is to be expected - other schools have had to re-advertise their Principal vacancy several times.

Community Consultation

Please share your views on the desired attributes and characteristics of our new Principal.

If you haven't already done so, please do provide feedback via the survey that you can access via this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CYYPZTK>

We request your comments by the end of this week, 20 December, so the Board may commence considering the feedback. However given the busy time of year, the survey link will remain open over the summer break for those who have not had a chance to complete it. Huia Forbes is also available for in person feedback.

Playground Update

The Board has resolved to prioritise the Adventure Playground part of the overall playground project and is working with the architect to progress it. We have previously shared the concept plan for the Adventure Playground and will share the detailed plans as soon as they are available.

Thanks to our Leadership Team

We acknowledge once again the strong and effective leadership of the school from our Principal Sally Barrett and her deputies Robyn Grover and Nick Julian.

The school's excellent overall student achievement results and the breadth of programs and opportunities provided to the students are a reflection of the huge effort expended by the leadership team in the school. The Board wishes to acknowledge and thank our school leaders for all their efforts, noting that there has again been additional challenges managing around Ministry of Education property projects this year.

Thanks to our Staff

The Board also wishes to thank all our teachers and staff for another excellent year at Wadestown School. Overall student achievement results are very pleasing.

We also acknowledge the achievements of our children beyond academic areas. Performances, participation and results in cultural and sporting areas are all noteworthy, ranging from the school production, to the science fair results, visual arts and music / dance performances, recognition of the kapa haka group, and various sports achievements to name a few. . We are also especially proud of our school orchestra under the guidance of Rupa Maitra and Donald Maurice.

Thanks to our Departing Teachers

The Board wishes to acknowledge and thank those staff who are departing the school for their contributions.

Pip Honore is retiring from teaching after an outstanding career in teaching and school leadership positions. Her contribution at our school has been immense, as a highly effective and respected classroom teacher and a very able team leader. In addition Pip has led the school's highly effective literacy program and this year acted as a classroom release teacher and the school librarian. The range of roles is testament to Pip's prowess as an educator and her ability to connect with children's learning needs. We congratulate Pip on a wonderful teaching career,

thank her for her various contributions to the school over many years and wish her all the very best for her retirement.

We thank Fiona Mead for her contribution as a highly effective teacher during her time at the school and wish her well as she returns to Australia and moves into a new teaching position at St Mary's Primary School in Sydney.

Cath Kirkpatrick is moving to a new teaching role at Newlands School after a year teaching at Wadestown as part of the large year 7/8 cohort in the school this year. We thank her for her contribution and wish her well.

Leslie Mahoney returned this year in a fixed-term role having retired from a long career teaching at the school and very ably led her classroom in Room 3 at Weld Street for which we are all grateful and thankful.

Amber Pullin has been granted a leave of absence to pursue travels through Asia and we wish her well next year and hope to see her back for the 2021 school year.

Thanks to our PTA and Volunteers

The Board wishes to thank all of those parents who volunteer in the school in many areas. Our children simply would not be able to enjoy the range of opportunities they have available without the continuing support from parent volunteers. Thank you all.

Recently the school's major fundraiser the House & Garden Walk was again a big success, raising \$50,000 for the school and being a wonderful community event for the school and Wadestown in general. Many people invested a lot of time to ensure its success and we acknowledge all of the contributors to this event, led very ably by Andrea Davidson and Hannah Small. We thank once again Kirsty Fyfe and Marcus Bagueley for allowing their home to be transformed into the ArtHouse, a wonderful feature of the event.

The school yearbook has been produced again and is a wonderful tribute to school life across 2019. Thanks to all involved in publishing the yearbook especially Victoria Smith.

The year 8 leavers dinner had a record attendance and was a wonderful and fitting way to celebrate the students (and those parents) who now leave Wadestown School. Thanks to all of those involved in putting the dinner event together and in particular to Meredith Dreyer and Esther Goldberg-Contreras.

We also thank the PTA, especially its Committee members and its Chair Dan Buxton, for their hard work and fundraising in 2019 which is greatly appreciated by us all.

School Voluntary Donation Request 2020

Ministry of Education funding is principally on a per student basis. A strong school roll is essential to maximise operational grant funding. This helps the school manage ongoing cost increases and not be forced into cutting discretionary spending. We are fortunate to have a strong roll currently in our school.

Having reviewed the school's draft budget for next year, the Board has resolved to maintain requested voluntary donations at the same level for 2020. The requested voluntary donation will be \$310 per student.

Requested voluntary donation levels have been unchanged for many years.

We note that this will be reviewed in the coming year in light of expected clarification about the way in which activity fees are able to be charged in schools.

Parent donations represent approximately 20% of total school income (excluding funding for staff salaries and property works). Without your ongoing generous support there would be significant cuts to what the school can commit to for the benefit of our teachers and children, and ultimately the achievement results able to be delivered. We respectfully request that all parents respond generously to the request for voluntary donations in the New Year.

Some examples of what is Board funded and enabled through receipt of voluntary donations (in other words, the school receives no discrete annual funding from the Ministry for these items) include teacher professional development, kapa haka program and te reo adviser, our libraries and librarian role, performing arts, aspects of reading recovery and targeted intervention programs, etc.

Farewell to our Principal

Today is the final today in which our Principal Sally Barrett is leading the school on a school day as she retires at the commencement of the 2020 school year.

Sally has tirelessly and faithfully led our school as Principal over the past 8½ years as part of a wonderful 45 years at the school.

Her magnificent contribution will be recognised formally next year when farewell events will be arranged. This will be an opportunity for current and past students, staff and parents to offer their thanks.

Sally leaves a wonderful legacy for the school and on behalf of everyone we wish her and Bill the very best for their retirement.

Season's Greetings

Thanks and best wishes to those children and parents who now leave Wadestown School for the last time.

All the best to everyone for the holiday season, I hope you all have a peaceful and restful summer break. We look forward to seeing your children again in 2020.

Ngā mihi



Neil Paviour-Smith, Board Chair
On behalf of the Board of Trustees