



Wadestown School

Board of Trustees

Mark Crofskey
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News from the Board – February 2020

Kia ora koutou

Welcome to our Acting Principal and other new members of the Wadestown School community

The Board would like to give a warm Wadestown welcome to Ian Hastie who has hit the ground running as Acting Principal. Many of you will have welcomed Ian personally as you have seen him around and about the school.

While we are already missing Sally, who announced her retirement last year, she and Ian have worked alongside the senior leadership team, Robyn Grover and Nick Julian, to ensure the handover has been as smooth as possible. We want to acknowledge their efforts and thank them, along with the rest of the teachers and staff, for the amazing work they have put into getting the year off to a flying start.

We also want to send a warm welcome to all new members of the Wadestown school whānau– our new students, families and teachers. Nau mai, haere mai.

New principal appointment process

The process to appoint a new permanent principal is well under way.

The Board would like to thank the many parents and staff who took the time to tell us about the attributes and characteristics they want to see in a new principal. This feedback will help us make the right decision as we assess applicants for the position. The information pack for applicants was finalised earlier this year and applications close tomorrow (28 February 2020).

Meanwhile, the Board is close to finalising the appointment of an experienced principal advisor to assist us with recruitment. We will be following the appointment processes set out in guidance from the Ministry of Education and NZSTA (School Trustees Association).

Assuming we receive enough quality applications, the earliest a new principal could be in place at the school is likely to be around the middle of the school year. There is, however, the possibility that the appointment could take longer. It is not uncommon for schools to have to re-advertise for principals, and it's important to note that several other Wellington primary schools are also advertising for principals at the moment.

School grounds redevelopment project update

The Board shares the community's frustration on the slow progress of this project and want to assure everyone that making progress on this is a priority. The Board has established a committee to progress this project. Unfortunately, lead times for building contractors are very challenging at the moment. We had expected work to be started over summer holidays but the contractors failed to commence work. We are currently waiting to receive the detailed design for the adventure playground and will share that as soon as it is received. More communication will follow on this project.

Farewell to our Principal


We look forward to seeing you at the two remaining Sallybration events. At the picnic on Friday there will be a presentation of gifts from the school and a few words from Neil Paviour-Smith to formally acknowledge and thank Sally for the remarkable contribution that she has made to our school community over so many years.

Formalities aside, it will be a wonderful chance for students and parents to say goodbye to Sally in the grounds of a school on which she has made such an indelible mark.

Thank you to our outgoing Chair

The Board elects a Chair at the start of every school year (except in a school election year). We would like to acknowledge our outgoing chair, Neil Paviour-Smith. Neil has been a member of the Board since 2007 and in the Chair role for the past 11 years. It is difficult to adequately express the extraordinary impact Neil has had on the school and to quantify the value of the enormous amount of hours of work he has undertaken on behalf of Wadestown School in that role – not to mention the contribution he has made and continues to make as a parent, board member, member of the Wadestown community, and as a volunteer for the School.

Ngā mihi



Mark Crofskey, Board Chair
On behalf of the Board of Trustees