



Wadestown School

Board of Trustees

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News from the Board – June 2020

Kia ora koutou katoa

A huge thank you!

As we emerge from lockdown and adjust to a new 'normal', the Board would like to acknowledge the dedication and professionalism of our wonderful teachers and staff in going above and beyond to implement online and distance learning in a short space of time. Many long days were spent preparing for schooling during lockdown. We thank you for supporting the wellbeing of our students as we all navigate these uncertain times. Ehara koe i a ia!

Our thanks also to our students and families for your responsiveness to new ways of learning, your support and feedback. We know it hasn't been easy for everyone.

We are restarting our Principal appointment process

Prior to the COVID-19 lockdown we appointed an experienced advisor (former school Principal Liz Miller) to assist us with shortlisting, interviewing and appointing a new Principal. We decided to re-advertise the position but paused our work due to the lockdown. We are now restarting the recruitment process, which means that the earliest start date for our new Principal is now likely to be the start of Term 4. We are grateful to our Acting Principal, Ian Hastie, for agreeing to continue in his role while we work through the appointment process.

A new property manager

The Board has recently contracted a property manager to assist with managing both Ministry-funded work and also school-funded projects such as the adventure playground. Property managers are required by the Ministry of Education and are an important link with the Ministry on all school grounds and building matters. Lockdown unfortunately delayed our process in appointing the property manager, which has had a flow-on delay to some of the projects the Board is working on.

Update on Adventure playground and other projects

Adventure playground

We understand that many parents and students are frustrated with the progress on the playground, after so much hard work over the years spent fundraising and planning. We want to assure you that we are committed to getting a playground built as soon as possible.

As mentioned in the last Board news, we have set up a Grounds Redevelopment Committee to manage all of the projects on the master concept plan displayed by the Gum Tree at Rose St.

We know that the community wants to know when the playground and other projects on the plan will be built. We are not yet able to give a date. But we are committed to keeping you informed about the progress on this important project.

The playground is planned to go directly below the top block of classes (rooms 4, 5 and 6) in the area between that top block and the old rooms 7 and 8, which will eventually be removed and developed to fit in with the playground.

Below is a summary of where we are at so far with the playground:

- We are continuing to work through the issue of whether the playground can proceed before the demolition of the old rooms 7 and 8. The playground site is a tricky one and demolition of those rooms will require certain access and open areas.
- The school's new property manager has been tasked with working with the Ministry to get the permissions needed and to put the project out for tender.
- There are likely to be some practical design changes that are needed to get building approval.
- One of the big changes is that the playground will be made from equipment produced by one of New Zealand's leading playground companies. These are proven, safe, and fun designs which we are sure the children will love. This means that the playground will look much more like a standard playground than the concept drawing does.

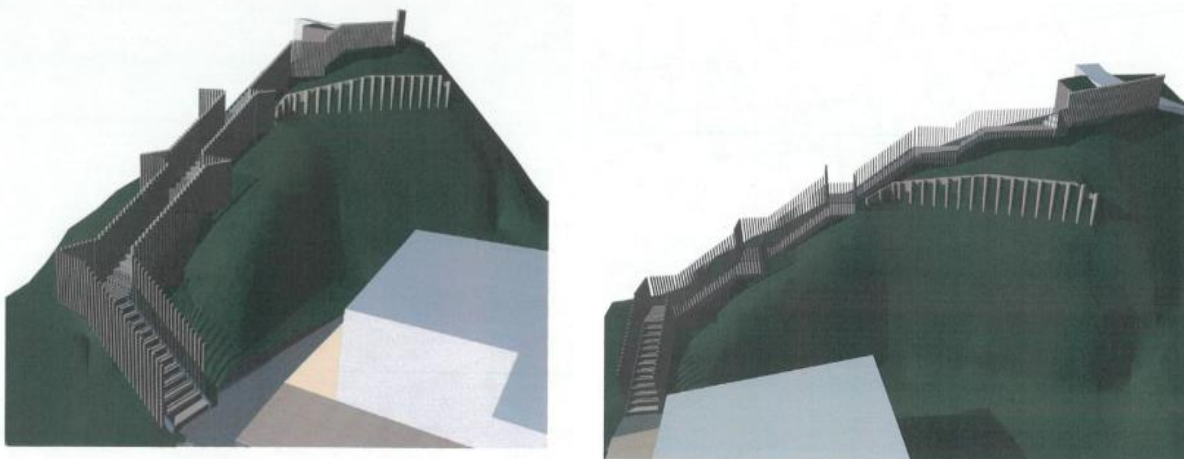
If at any stage you want to discuss any of this with the Committee please email Genevieve Hancock at: genevieve.hancock@gmail.com

Rata block refurbishment

Another priority for the Board is the refurbishment of the Rata block which is the one that holds the library and classes 9 – 12. This will be managed by our recently established Property Committee who will manage Ministry-funded work including "5YA" (5 year agreement) capital funding. 5YA funding is for upgrading, modernising or replacing existing buildings. The first step for this work is an assessment by the new property manager. We will be trying to schedule as much of the building work as possible in the holidays to minimise disruption for classes.

New stairway

The Ministry will be constructing a new walkway which will go from below the top block of classrooms down the bank to near the end of the new classrooms in the bottom block. This new stairway is needed to have enough walkway capacity for the new classrooms. We will provide an update on timing as soon as it is available. See below for the concept design.



Other projects

The Grounds Redevelopment Committee is managing a number of other projects on the master concept plan displayed by the Gum Tree at Rose St and we will send out more information on these soon.

Student achievement

At our last meeting, the Board reviewed results from PATs (Progressive Achievement Tests) for students in years 4-8 for:

- maths
- reading comprehension
- vocabulary
- punctuation and grammar.

Teachers use a variety of tests to determine what level students are at, what progress they are making, and where they may need extra help. PATs are a series of standardised tests developed specifically for use in New Zealand schools. Stanines are used to compare an individual student's achievement with the results obtained by a national reference sample representing a certain year level. For more information about PATs please see: <https://www.nzcer.org.nz/tests/understanding-pats-parents-and-community>.

The summary table below shows the percentages of students in each year group in each stanine by subject. Year 4 students only sit PATs in mathematics and punctuation and grammar. Teachers use the [STAR](#) reading test for Year 4 students as they consider it provides more appropriate diagnostic data for that year group.

Overall PAT results

Maths	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Stanines 1-3 (low / below average)	9%	5%	0%	0%	0%
Stanines 4-6 (average)	34%	43%	53%	54%	34%
Stanines 7-9 (above average / outstanding)	57%	52%	47%	46%	66%
Average Stanine	6.2	6.4	6.1	6.5	6.6
Reading Comprehension	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Stanines 1-3 (low / below average)		0%	2%	5%	0%
Stanines 4-6 (average)		32%	42%	49%	55%
Stanines 7-9 (above average / outstanding)		68%	56%	46%	45%
Average Stanine		7.4	6.6	6.3	5.8
Vocabulary	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Stanines 1-3 (low / below average)		5%	2%	5%	2%
Stanines 4-6 (average)		27%	45%	43%	45%
Stanines 7-9 (above average / outstanding)		68%	53%	52%	53%
Average Stanine		7.2	6.1	6.5	6.7
Punctuation & Grammar	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Stanines 1-3 (low / below average)	7%	3%	4%	5%	9%
Stanines 4-6 (average)	35%	32%	38%	36%	58%
Stanines 7-9 (above average / outstanding)	58%	65%	58%	59%	33%
Average Stanine	6.4	6.5	6.5	5.8	6.2

PAT results for Māori students

Average Stanine	Maths	Reading Comprehension	Vocabulary	Punctuation & Grammar
Maori students	6.8	7.2	7.0	6.5

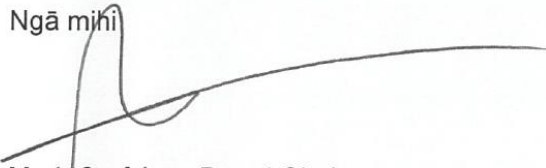
Teachers analyse detailed PAT results to:

- plan teaching programmes to meet identified student needs
- identify areas for professional development for teachers
- review long term teaching plans.

Individual results for students below average are analysed to identify how their learning can be supported, while results for students with outstanding results are also analysed to identify opportunities for extension.

Overall, the results show our student achievement levels are above average across areas tested for the vast majority of year groups in each subject. Our Māori students are achieving above average in all four areas.

Ngā mihi



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