

Wadestown School

News from the Board



Kia ora koutou

The Board met virtually on Wednesday 15 September and were delighted to welcome our first parent observer. We start our meetings with a Karakia gifted from Te Ati Awa to all our Kāhui Ako Schools:

E oha ki runga,

Acknowledgements to the sky,

E oha ki raro.

To the ground,

Āna

And all in between

This update covers:

- Reflections on school at levels 3 and 4
- Evaluating distance learning at Levels 3 and 4
- Before and after school care update
- Property update
- Deputy Principal recruitment
- School security

Levels 3 and 4 Schooling

Tēnā rawa atu koutou, thank you very much to our Wadestown School principal, teachers and staff for all their hard work over the recent alert levels 3 and 4. One of our areas of focus for the school is on partnership - and the need for partnership manifests very clearly during lockdowns - partnerships between whanau and school - teachers and kids and kids and home. Our school team often goes the extra mile for students and that was very evident over lockdown. We acknowledge the parents and caregivers who supported students with their distance learning while also doing their day job - and we acknowledge our kids who seem, in the main, to be highly adaptable to many of the positive aspects of remote learning. My kids were very adept at telling me that “they had done all of their work” - next lockdown (if any) I have made a note to myself to test this assertion more fully...

Evaluating Distance Learning During Levels 3 and 4

The Board is pleased that distance learning in lockdown is being evaluated and that the culture of constant improvement and challenge is alive and well at the School. Please complete the survey that was sent out. You can access the survey [HERE](#). The school is committed to improving distance learning should we

have lockdowns in the future. As well as feedback from parents/caregivers the evaluation will include student and Māori voice.

Before and After School Care Update

As mentioned earlier this year, we have been engaging with potential providers for before and after school care. We have identified several providers, have been pleased with the response from them and intend to run a tender process later this year. Due to Covid disruptions to the business of the providers this is unlikely to be in place until 2022 (we will unfortunately not be in a position to run a pilot in term 4).

Property Update

Rata Block Refurbishment

This is a large project for the school and the Ministry of Education. Unfortunately this is one of those renovation projects that many in our community will have experienced - where a lot of money is spent, seemingly without having to have changed that much - #WellingtonRenovation.

The detailed investigations and scoping of the project have now been completed and presented to the Ministry. Once the final scope and funding is agreed, the next steps will be preparing a procurement plan and securing a prime contractor. We had originally hoped to start construction on this project in the 2021-2022 Christmas holidays but realistically this is now going to be commencing at some time in 2022. There will be disruption to the school while this construction is underway but we will give you more information and the detail of how this will be addressed closer to the time. We are fortunate to have some additional classrooms that can be used away from the construction. Rata Block is the block where the Years 3 and 4 children are currently taught.

Resurfacing of Sports Areas

We have previously outlined our project to upgrade the sports surfaces at Rose Street.

The new turf and equipment for the courts next to the tennis clubhouse and the basketball area next to the playground was ordered some time ago. We are currently hoping to have this turf and equipment installed by the end of the upcoming school holidays. This work is weather dependent and accessing materials has been impacted by alert level changes.

The new turf areas will be able to be used for a variety of sports and we anticipate that the courts next to the tennis clubhouse will be able to be used for hockey and soccer practice and lunchtime games in addition to full markings for tennis and netball.

We are also working on plans to put a full basketball court and a tennis court on the quad area as we have previously mentioned, plus increasing the number of hand-ball squares which we know are super popular with the students.

Last year we put forward the suggestion of putting turf on part of the lower field of the school. This may allow us to have a fully marked soccer field and may assist the teachers for winter sports training. We continue to be open to this project and if any parent is interested in managing it we would love to hear from you. Initial quotes look like some further investigation is needed and of course there would also need to be some further consultation and likely also some fundraising or seeking grants to cover the costs.

Deputy Principal Recruitment

Progress with the appointment of a permanent Deputy Principal is underway. The position is currently being advertised through the Education Gazette.

School Security

The Board received an update on a security review of the school following the incident at school in Week 2. As you know, security cameras were installed the week after the incident. Future work includes a walk around of the school with our local Police Officer (Tuesday 14 September), the creation of Lockdown classroom kits (inclusive of toilets) and then a whole school lockdown drill.

As always please do get in touch with any Board member if you want to discuss anything and you are welcome to attend Board meetings.

Ngā mihi maioha (with appreciation)

Mark Crowsley

Chair

Wadestown School Board