



Wadestown School

News from the Board

Kia ora koutou

The Board held its second-to-last meeting of the year on Wednesday 3 November.

This update covers:

- Donations
- Cultural responsiveness
- Property
- Recruitment
- Before and After School Care
- Approach to school events under Delta Level 2

Donations

As many of you may know, the school relies on the voluntary donations from the community. Like other schools, the funding we receive from the Ministry of Education is not sufficient to cover everything that we need to provide for our students. Voluntary donations enable us to fund things like teacher resources, the library and technology as well as have education outside the classroom activities such as school camps and trips. In all, non-grant funds make up nearly 1 in 5 of the dollars we are able to spend. A huge thank you to all those families who continue to support the school by making donations - without them our kids' educational experience would be so different.

Depending on your individual circumstances, the school donation and voluntary contributions qualify for a tax credit with IRD. If you qualify for this and would like to claim a tax rebate, you either make a simple application online or you can download the form from the Inland Revenue website to receive 33.3% of the total donation that you have paid. If you have not received a receipt for a school donation please email the school office.

Property Update

Rata Block Refurbishment

The scoping work for the refurbishment of the Rata block is now complete and the scope has been settled with the Ministry. As we have noted before, this is a large project requiring extensive engineering, roofing and architectural work and is one of those wonderful Wellington projects that many in our community will have experienced, where a lot of money is spent but there is little external difference. We are now working on

the documentation for the revised scope including the detailed design and following that the procurement plan.

We are still planning for construction for 2022 but we can't be sure of the specific timing until the procurement exercise is complete and we note that the construction market is particularly volatile at the moment. As mentioned in our last update, there will be some disruption to the school while this construction work is underway. We will give you more information and the details of how this will be addressed closer to the time. We are fortunate to have some additional classrooms that can be used during this project.

Resurfacing of Sports Areas

The Board is delighted that the new turf for the courts next to the tennis clubhouse and the basketball area next to the playground was completed in the school holidays and is being enjoyed by the students and the school community.

Recruitment

The Board warmly congratulates Cathrine Wilkinson on her permanent appointment as our Deputy Principal (Years 5 -8).

Planning for school organisation for 2022 is well underway and we will announce our staffing for 2022 in due course.

Margaret Burwood is concluding her long standing service to the school, after almost 13 years as the cleaner at Weld Street. In her retirement she intends to spend time with her sister and to enjoy a more relaxed pace of life. We have secured the services of a new experienced cleaner who will have taken over from Margaret as of the 16 November.

Cultural responsiveness

Over the last year the Board has, through the Kāhui Ako (a cluster of local schools and colleges) that we belong to, participated in a series of workshops on using the Hautū: Māori Cultural Responsiveness Self Review tool. Our current focus is on working with our Māori families to understand what Māori students achieving success as Māori looks like at Wadestown. We plan to engage with all families of students that have identified as Māori in their registration information. Please do get in touch with the school office if you wish to be included in this consultation and are not sure what registration information the school holds about your child/children.

Before and After School Care Update

As mentioned earlier we have been engaging with potential providers for before and after school care. Due to Covid disruptions to the business of the providers we were not in a position to run a pilot in term 4. As we look to 2022 however - please email the office before year end IF your family would very likely be customers of such a service - but only if you could see your family using more than three sessions a week of after school

care for a minimum of two hours. We would need to demonstrate a rolling demand of ca. 20 places including at least 15-17 “always there” places (with casual places filling the rest) in order to facilitate and support a sustainable service.

Approach to School Events under Delta Level 2

The Board discussed the approach to school events such as school camps and the Year 8 Leavers' Dinner in terms of Covid requirements. We were mindful of the fact that we have many younger students who are unvaccinated, the recommended precautionary approach, but also the importance of ensuring that, as far and as fully as possible, our students continue to learn, grow and enjoy school life. The Board's approach to COVID has been to simply require that the rules are followed (and ensure that the resources are there to facilitate that compliance) - we do not attempt to reinvent the wheel or steer our own course - helpfully - in the case of schools - clear guidelines are set out in the relevant Ministry of Education Bulletin for School Leaders | He Pitopito Kōrero. Given the current environment, the guidance is rapidly evolving and the school will need to continue to adapt to the changes and we thank everyone for their hard work in shielding our kids from the downsides of COVID. As well as our staff I would like to thank our parent volunteers who have managed by and large to keep the vibrant and vital volunteer part of school life going. Some events - like the annual working bee have had to be delayed - others changed but all - have involved extra work by the people concerned - having the occasional Board meeting via zoom pales in comparison - and The Board would like to thank all parents and staff for their continual extra effort put in on behalf of our tamariki.

Term Extended for Some Board Members

The elections for all school boards in NZ have been moved back from May to September as part of the government's COVID response. On the plus side this gives every parent a bit longer to come around to the very good idea that they stand for election to the Board - if you think you might - you should!

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 which are usually held on Wednesdays in the third and seventh week of each term.

Ngā mihi maioha (with appreciation)

Mark Crowsley

Chair

Wadestown School Board