

News from the Board - June 2022

Kia ora koutou

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Matariki breakfast last week. We were blessed with a beautiful winter's morning to come together as a school community.

This update covers:

- School donations
- Spending of previous playground fundraising
- Student achievement
- Rata block refurbishment
- Strategic plan
- Before and after school care
- Reminder about Board elections
- Road safety review
- COVID

School donations

If you have not already paid your school donations and you can support the school by making this valuable contribution then please do!

Much of the resources we provide at Wadestown School are not funded by the Government. We rely heavily on the generosity of our parent community to continue to provide an exceptional level of education and resources. This year we have set the annual voluntary donation at \$325 per student.

Donations fund approximately 20% of the school's operational expenditure and the funding is used for things like library resources, school technology and teacher resourcing (including funding teacher aids and additional teacher professional development).

Thank you so much to all those families who have already paid the annual voluntary donation. We do appreciate that these are challenging times for many families and no student will ever miss out on an activity if their family has not made a voluntary donation. But in a short time frame any decrease in funding from donations will have a negative impact on the resources and activities that we are able to provide for all students.

And remember that, depending on your individual circumstances, the school donation and voluntary contributions qualify for a tax rebate of 33% from IRD and the school office can provide the required receipts on request.

Please also look out for and support the fundraising activities run by parents and caregivers who give very generously of their time to raise money for the school.

In addition, some families have also gained a lot of pleasure from making donations of specific items - if for example your family has a particular love of music - I know of a lovely school in Wadestown that has the need of a new piano! For projects like this it can be more a matter of sourcing a good used (and perhaps unwanted and free) instrument (or other piece of equipment) and arranging for its transport then of buying an expensive new one. If this sounds like something your whānau would like to do - give me (Mark Crowsley) a call.

Spending of the previous playground fundraising

One piece of specific fundraising and spending over previous years was for the playground and grounds works that were completed this year and we wanted to report on how this significant investment from the community was spent. The money raised by the community for the grounds works totalled approximately \$240,000.

Over the last two years the board has used this money for the following grounds projects at school:

- Landscaping at Weld St approximately \$10,000
- New playground at Rose Street approximately \$140,000
- Multi-playing surfaces (astro-turf) and new sports equipment approximately \$60,000
- Nature play area (Rose Street) approximately \$30,000

Student achievement

The Board reviewed the school's approach to student assessment and results from PATs (Progressive Achievement Tests) for students in Years 4-8 in the following curriculum areas:

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

A Summary of the 2022 PAT results

Curriculum Area:	Year Group	Well Below Average (4%)	Below Average (19%)	Average (54%)			Above Average (19%)		Out Standing (4%)	Percentage of Wadestown students attaining an <i>above average</i> or <i>outstanding</i> stanine	Mean Stanine (5)	
		Stanine	Stanine		Stanine			Stanine	Stanine			
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8			9
Mathematics	Yr 4	0	12%		52%			27%		9%	36%	5.9
	Yr 5	0	7%		52%			30%		11%	41%	6.2
	Yr 6	0	13%		38%			43%		8%	51%	6.3
	Yr 7	0	8%		41%			38%		14%	52%	6.2
	Yr 8	2%	4%		44%			36%		14%	50%	6.4
	Māori Students	0	6%		47%			35%		12%	47%	6.1

Punctuation & Grammar	Yr 4	0	3%	59%	31%	6%	37%	6.0
	Yr 5	0	7%	31%	44%	18%	62%	6.4
	Yr 6	0	9%	39%	45%	7%	52%	6.5
	Yr 7	0	5%	46%	43%	5%	48%	6.5
	Yr 8	0	0	52%	32%	12%	44%	6.3
	Māori Students	0	5%	37%	58%	0	58%	6.8
Reading Comprehension	Yr 4	0	0	45%	39%	16%	55%	6.7
	Yr 5	0	5%	45%	40%	10%	50%	6.4
	Yr 6	0	3%	43%	43%	11%	54%	6.5
	Yr 7	0	2%	56%	36%	6%	42%	6.3
	Māori Students	0	0	42%	37%	21%	58%	6.7
Reading Vocabulary	Yr 4	0	2%	39%	41%	18%	59%	6.9
	Yr 5	0	8%	38%	51%	3%	54%	6.5
	Yr 6	0	5%	43%	38%	14%	52%	6.5
	Yr 7	0	0	40%	42%	18%	60%	6.8
	Māori Students	0	0	37%	44%	19%	54%	6.9

It is important to remember that the PAT data provides a 'snapshot' of student achievement at one point in time. Teachers use a range of assessment data to provide an Overall Teacher Judgement (OTJ) for all students across the three core-subject areas of mathematics, reading and writing. The PTA results are one piece of assessment data that informs a student's OTJ. In Years 1 - 3 other assessment data is used to inform these professional decisions.

OTJs are reported to parents and students in their written mid-term and end-of-year reports and these are then discussed further, at the Three Way Conferences. This assessment is tracked and trends and patterns are identified.

If you wish to discuss assessment in further detail, please do not hesitate to make contact with Amanda Frater, Robyn Grover or Cathrine Wilkinson.

Rata Block refurbishment

As we have noted before, this is a large project requiring extensive engineering, roofing and architectural work. Our property team has been working hard to prepare this project for tendering. Our architect, Peter Beaumont, has had a number of meetings with staff and has completed the detailed plans for the refurbishment. We have undertaken some additional engineering and service investigations including weather-tightness, fire engineering and drainage. The detailed plans have been provided to the Quantity Surveyor for detailed pricing including a price increase structure that is intended to give some indication dealing with the

current challenging pricing environment. Once we receive approval (or after any amendments/approval) from the Ministry we will go out with a tender using GETS - the government tendering platform. We will then seek to appoint a prime contractor based on the tender responses. At this stage we are hoping to start building work on this project in the Christmas holidays but the timeframe is still very much up in the air due to the current climate.

As the process continues, we will share any updates with you.

Strategic plan

The Board recently reviewed progress against the school [Strategic Plan](#). Last year we developed new goals and values in consultation with the school community.

Our goals are:

- Personal best - realising your full potential
- Partnerships - working together
- Inclusivity - catering to all needs
- Wellbeing - caring for all
- Future focused - preparing for what lies ahead
- Contribution - service to others

Our values are:

- **G**ratITUDE
- **R**esilience
- **O**thers
- **W**onder

Our vision is:

- Te Whakatipu me to Honohono Hei Akonga – Growing and Connecting as Learners

The Board noted the progress that has been made against the Strategic Plan and acknowledged that while COVID has impacted on the delivery of goals in some areas, much has been achieved despite the interruptions of COVID.

Before and after school care

As previously communicated, our earlier survey of parents who were interested in taking up after school care did not give us the required numbers to make commercial tendering viable and there has been too much uncertainty during the COVID outbreak to proceed with a tender process and a pilot.

However, those interested in after school care are encouraged to themselves form a committee, do the mahi, drum up support and approach the Board (before and/or after the elections). Those on the Board with experience in this area are of course happy to share that with whatever group of parents (if any) wishes to drive this forward.

Reminder about board elections

Every three years, state and state-integrated school communities elect their parent representatives to help govern their schools. And this is an election year! Usually elections are held a little earlier in the year, however, this year the Ministry extended the timeframe to September due to COVID.

The elections are run by either an appointed Returning Officer or through the appointment of a specialist election service. As has been done previously, we are once again using Canterbury Services to run our election. Other local schools within our Kāhui Ako, have also selected to use Canterbury Services for their 2022 board elections. You will have read about how the election will be managed in the Community newsletters, including this [one](#).

As a parent of students at our school, there are two important things for you to do:

1. Ensure that the school has an up-to-date email address for you (and that means each parent). There are still approximately 40 parents that the school does not have email addresses for. If you need to update your details, please let Megan Smith know at megan@wadestown.school.nz
2. Consider putting YOURSELF forward for the board. There are 5 parent board positions that are filled at each election. A number of the current parent representatives will be stepping down as their students are in Years 7 or 8 - but in any case all 5 positions are available. If you want to find out more about what is involved, there are some great resources available [here](#) and/or you can phone any current board member (see the phone numbers at the end of this section). **Nominations close on Wednesday 3rd August at 12 noon.**

Board member contact details (parent representatives)

Mark Crowsley	027 6446585
Huia Forbes	020 41473822
Nadine Gray	021 770032
Genevieve Hancock	021 408255
Fazleen Ismail	021 1206425
Alistair Rumball-Smith	027 5481882

In terms of succession, it's useful to note that the Board has systems in place to support the new Board including having all board documentation housed online in a secure google drive and easily accessible by new members. There is also a lot of professional training available. There are currently eight members of the Wadestown School Board and in addition to the five parent representatives, there is the principal, teacher representative and one co-opted member (Nadine Gray) all of whom will continue on the board regardless of the election. In addition, all past members of the Board will be available and willing to help, if asked, as has been the case in the past.

Judging by the kids at the school - their parents must be amazing - so if it is something that you think you would like to do then give it a go - you will be great at it.

Road safety review

If you haven't yet filled out the survey that the school has sent out about how our students travel to and from school, please do so. Thanks to the lots who have already. This has stemmed from the Board's request to the school to review student traffic safety. Our two sites, at Weld St and Rose St, are challenging in terms of traffic safety and the information from the survey will help inform the school's review.

COVID

No newsletter in the motu would be complete without a separate section on COVID - Amanda and her team say that we have been lucky - I usually reply that a lot has been due to her team's good management. It is also down to our wonderful site, uncrowded teaching spaces, the hard work of the staff and the smiling (hard to tell with the masks), willing compliance of your wonderful kids and the homes they come from. It is also a credit to our staff and tamariki that we continue to attract a steady stream of excellent relief teachers and have managed to avoid too much disruption.

As we head towards the end of Term 2, we wish you all a restful break.

Noho ora mai

Mark Crowsley
Chair
Wadestown School Board