



News from the Board

Kia ora koutou

This is the final news from the current board whose term ends this week. Three and a half years have flown by, yet at the same time so much has happened! During this time, as well as the usual board business of governing the school, we:

- Appointed an acting principal, Ian Hastie, for just over a year following the resignation of Sally Barrett. Ian led the school through the first Covid lockdown.
- Appointed Amanda Frater as our new principal in August 2020 and Cathrine Wilkinson as deputy principal (years 5-8) in late 2021.
- Consulted on and developed a new [strategic plan](#).
- Joined the local Kāhui Ako | Community of Learning, comprising a number of primary schools and colleges in Wellington who work collaboratively to raise student achievement. We participated in Kāhui Ako workshops on the Hautū self review tool development to assess the cultural responsiveness of our school.
- Co-opted Nadine Gray to the board for a term of two years following these workshops, the [changes](#) to the objectives for school boards set out in the Education and Training Act 2020 and the priorities outlined in the [National Education and Learning Priorities](#) (NELP) to better give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- Commissioned the work to upgrade the Rata block.
- Built the new playground, nature play area, and installed the astro turf areas.
- Supported the school through the initial stages of the new ERO self-review/evaluation process.
- Oversaw the school during the challenges of the COVID pandemic.

We want to particularly thank our principal, teachers and wider staff for their dedication and commitment to our students during a period of change and the external challenges of COVID.

Haere mai to the new board

Our very best wishes to the new board members for 2022-25. Election results will be announced by the principal and the new board will take office on Wednesday 14 September. The principal and the current board have been working on an induction for new board members.

This board update covers:

- COVID
- Property
- Education Review Office process

COVID

We particularly acknowledge the work of our principal and staff this year in managing operations in the context of COVID. It is worth celebrating that, so far, we have not had a single day where the school has had to close or have online lessons. There have been additional challenges due to a shortage of both permanent and relief teachers in Wellington, with many relief teachers being “pulled in” to permanent or fixed-term roles. A huge amount of careful consideration and planning has underpinned the school’s approach.

It is likely that the impact of COVID, and the flow-on effects on the school, will be around for some time even though things appear to be getting back to “normal”. Please continue to support the school, including by being patient with staff and teachers.

Property - Rata block update

The procurement plan for the Rata Block upgrade was signed off in August and we hope to have the tender released shortly. The current scope of the project has been confirmed as including:

- Full roof replacement, metal and membrane roofing (including re-pitched membrane roof over the principal’s office), new roof lights. (This excludes roof areas over the administration and hall areas of the block.)
- Refurbishment and update of toilet areas.
- Refurbishment of the library interior where this becomes necessary due to the structural upgrade works to the building. (We envisage the new board will be in touch with the community about other refurbishment of the library interior.)
- The exterior works scope to address surface water/ingress issues, predominantly to the southeast and eastern parts of the building.
- The safe removal of any asbestos-containing materials and asbestos debris which are commonly found in school buildings.
- Upgrade of space heating in classrooms and library.
- Upgrade of flooring and wall coverings (excluding the back corridor).

Property - upcoming working bee

Many thanks to Malcolm McKee for organising this year’s working bee on **Saturday 24 September**. We encourage everyone to attend if you can (and if you can’t, your donations of morning tea and/or working funds are very much appreciated!). Our working bees are a fantastic community event and a great way to contribute to our school. It’s also very satisfying to see your own handiwork (and point it out to your children).

Education Review Office process

We previously advised that our ERO review had commenced. Following the previous review the school was put on a 5 year review cycle. The current review began in 2021. However, the process has changed quite significantly to become more of a self-review/evaluation in partnership with ERO. Our evaluation focus is on building Cultural Capability across the school and with this comes the promotion and embedding of Te Reo and Te Ao Māori.

This evaluation focus also aligns to our Strategic Direction and a number of our goals; namely Personal Best (Goal 1) Partnerships (Goal 2) and Future-Focused (Goal 5) and so it made sense to align the two pieces of work. Our evaluation focus area has been set as: "*A focus on cultural responsiveness, working in partnership with whānau and iwi, to develop and embed a culturally responsive school community that reflects and demonstrates Te Tiriti of Waitangi for all students and promotes Māori students achieving educational success as Māori*".

At this point in time, we have submitted and passed one of the review stages and have a larger review to complete. Our assessment data has also been evaluated by ERO and on the basis of this, they were encouraging of us taking the evaluation focus that we did. This year marks the second year of the evaluation. However, with a change of ERO Evaluation Partner and the disruptions of Covid, progress has slowed. Despite this, we have continued to implement a number of initiatives across the school that will contribute to meeting our evaluation focus.

And finally...

Tēnā rawa atu koutou, thank you very much to all of you, our school community, for entrusting us with the stewardship of the school over the last three years.

Ngā mihi maioha (with appreciation)

Mark Crowsley
Huia Forbes
Amanda Frater
Nadine Gray
Robyn Grover
Genevieve Hancock
Fazleen Ismail
Alistair Rumball-Smith

September 2022