



## Wadestown School

### News from the Board

Kia ora koutou

The School Board held its last board meeting of the year on Wednesday 7 December. It has been a hugely busy last term and we are writing to give you an update and to record some important acknowledgements.

#### Finance

The main focus of our last Board meeting of the year was on finance. This year many schools, including Wadestown, saw a very significant delay in the audit of the 2021 financial statements, due to a lack of auditing resources across the country. However, we finally received our audited statements this week so you can expect to see those up on the website. At our last meeting we also began to review and consider the draft budget for next year.

The Ministry of Education has made changes to the way schools are funded, with the decile system you may be familiar with being replaced by a new equity index system in 2023. We are awaiting the details of exactly what that means for future funding and will provide you with an update on this as soon as we know the details. Our understanding at this stage is that there will be a number of years for transition and that our funding is unlikely to be impacted immediately.

Despite school costs continuing to increase this year, and having some supplementary funding reduced, the school's financial position remains very stable. We continue to be conscious of spending and have made savings where possible.

Thank you to all the parents who paid their voluntary donations and payments this year. We continue to put this money to very good use including additional resources for teachers, professional development for teachers, our library and technology, and we are very grateful for these payments. If you haven't paid yet and you have the means, there is still time before the end of the year!

#### Staff

Each end of year does usually mean some staff farewells and welcomes. We farewell Sarah Bruce, Claudia Squire and Cole Hanfling. We wish all these teachers all the very best for their future and thank them for their contributions to our school.

We welcome the following new teachers joining the school in 2023: Katy Synge (Year 1-2), Melissa Kosmadakis (Year 3-4), and Clare Gilligan (Year 5-6). Haere mai Katy, Melissa and Clare.

We wish to give a particularly big thank you this year to Amanda and all staff in their work in keeping our school going, without any break in schooling, over the pandemic. This has required, at times, a significant amount of behind the scenes work. We also wish to give particular thanks to the staff for continuing to provide amazing opportunities for our tamariki during another year of covid disruptions, including providing for both school camps.

## **Teaching and Learning Programmes/Student Achievement**

We are continuing to monitor and track student achievement across the core learning areas of reading, writing and mathematics and this is reported to the Board by the Senior Leadership Team. Sometimes there is a misconception that student achievement is measured mainly by testing such as PATs, whereas actually every student is individually monitored, and our teachers have plans in place to help every student meet (or exceed) their potential.

A success of this year has been the continuation of learning programmes, despite the disruptions to learning by Covid. Teachers have continued to deliver programmes that meet the individual needs of all learners.

Where teachers have identified students with additional learning needs, specialised support programmes have been put in place and delivered with the support of our teacher aides. This year saw us continue to have a specialised Reading Recovery Teacher support our 6 year olds with their reading and writing. It is our intention to continue to support Reading Recovery again in 2022.

In Robyn's role as SENCo, additional support has also been provided through the Ministry of Education's Learning Support division, and the Resource Teachers of Learning and Behaviour (RTLB). In conjunction with these outside agencies, Robyn has established and worked to develop Individual Education Plans (IEPs) catered to individual student needs for students with additional learning and/or behavioural needs. A key focus of this approach is the partnership between the teachers and the child's whānau.

Teachers have continued to receive Professional Learning Development in numeracy and literacy teaching and assessment practices, with some teachers trialling new approaches in these areas such as the Better Start Literacy Approach (BSLA) and Numicon.

We are now starting to see a shift from paper based assessment to digital/online testing in Year 4 - 8. An advantage of this is that we can more quickly turn around student results so teachers can inform their learning programmes.

The Senior Leadership Team has continued to review our reporting processes to ensure our student reports and Three Way Conferencing processes provide parents with up-to-date information about their child's progress and next steps in their learning across the curriculum.

## **Volunteers**

Another huge thank you goes to our wonderful teams of volunteers that have helped the school this year: Michelle, Mathew, Danielle and Heidi for the PTA, Malcolm with the working bee, Victoria and Larissa with the yearbook, Vanessa with the leavers dinner, all the parents that have helped with camps and other trips, book week, morning teas, the delivery of the leavers dinner and everything else. It is hard to make this list complete so please accept our thanks if you have helped out in any way!

## **Rata Block Refurbishment**

We are excited to be able to announce that the tender for this significant project is underway and we hope construction work will begin in April 2023. The drawings for this project are now on display at the school office. Please take a look.

The final design has been developed with the Ministry of Education using feedback from teachers and the board.

The current scope of the project has been confirmed as the refurbishment of the Rata Block 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.
- Structural upgrade.
- Refurbishment of the library interior where this becomes necessary due to the structural upgrade works to the building.
- 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).

The current items not included that will need the school to fund, if required:

- Refurbishment of the Principal's Office.
- Refurbishment of the Resource Room.
- Painting of the back corridor and library.
- Furniture replacement (including the library bookshelves).

We anticipate that the refurbishment of the classrooms building will begin in the school holidays April 2023. We expect that the building work will take until at least the beginning of the 2024 school year. Once we have a contractor onboard we will update you on the timeframe.

During the initial establishment phase for the contractor, (this will likely be the April 2023 school holidays) there will be no access to the Rose Street school grounds except by prior approval of the Contractor. This will be sign posted at all entry points to the school grounds during this time.

The current plan is for the library and Year 3 and 4 classes to remain in the Rata Block for most, if not all, of Term 1 2023. We will confirm the timing once we have a Contractor onboard. We will then move these classes and library to rooms 14, 15, 7, and 8 for the remainder of 2023 or until the refurbishment is finished. Our school hall will remain empty as a shared area for team and school assemblies.

If you have any questions, contact our Board Property Representative, Tania Williams at [tania.w@wadestown.school.nz](mailto:tania.w@wadestown.school.nz)

## School roll

A very large number of schools in Wellington continue to struggle with marked roll fluctuations, thought to be due at least partly to the high cost of property and living.

There's a useful discussion of the relevant factors in this article:

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/127471202/as-house-prices-rise-wellington-area-school-rolls-are-falling>

We are pleased to note that this year our school roll has continued to gently grow and we have ongoing interest from families to have tours of the school.

## **Best wishes**

This is our last Board newsletter for 2022. We are grateful for all the hard work contributed by our students, our excellent team of teachers, support staff and leaders, and by so many of our parent community.

All the very best for a restful and happy Christmas season, and we look forward to welcoming you back in 2023.

## **Board contact details**

As always please do get in touch if you want to discuss anything. And community members are welcome to attend Board meetings which are usually held on Wednesdays in the third and seventh week of each term. These dates are published in the school newsletter and on our website.

Ngā mihi maioha (with appreciation) and Meri Kirihimete me te Hape Nū Ia!

## **Wadestown School Board**

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