



News from the Board - Financial Sustainability

17 September 2024

Tēnā koutou kātoa

We have a fantastic school which continues to provide a host of rich learning opportunities. Our students are supported by talented and caring staff who provide a range of curriculum experiences, inside and outside the classroom.

In addition to our strategic goals of learning, wellbeing and culture, sustainability has recently become a key focus for the Board as one of our four strategic priorities. The school is currently in a strong financial position, and we are confident in meeting our 2024 budget targets. Nevertheless, the Board remains vigilant in maintaining the school's financial strength moving forward.

In reviewing the school's finances an increasing area of investment in recent years has been ensuring we have reliever teachers so classes can continue as normally as possible. The school has also invested in teacher aides so that our teaching and learning programmes are sustained without disruption and that students have the support they require to engage in their learning.

Finding reliever teachers continues to be a challenge, particularly when there is a national shortage of teachers. Other recent challenges include the economic environment, which has seen, amongst other things, increased costs across several different areas. We are working hard to respond to these challenges.

Donations

The school relies heavily on the generosity and support of our parent community to ensure our students have everything they need. Donations and fundraising help support school initiatives such as technology, our library and other classroom equipment and learning resources that are not covered by government funding.

Fundraising coupled with school donations support the school in delivering a high-quality education to students. To ensure the school can continue to offer everything it currently does, the annual school donation will increase to \$425 per year in 2025.

We are conscious of the current economic climate and the impact this is having on whānau. There will be further communications this year about paying donations over time and also, for those families who want to, opportunities to pay extra donations and support families who are not able to pay their donation. We would also remind everyone that the majority of donations are tax deductible.

Thank you to all the families who have paid their donations and fees for 2024. If you have not paid your donation, please do so if you are able. If you have not paid your school fees, which are costs charged for optional school activities (such as sports teams) please pay these as soon as possible. If you want to read more about the school's current approach you can visit <https://www.wadestown.school.nz/our-system/school-donations/>

Partnering with the community

Wadestown School continues to benefit from a supportive and engaged community of parents, caregivers and whānau.

A huge thank you to those who contribute to our school in so many different ways and particularly all those who planned, supported and participated in the House and Garden Walk, which contributed significantly to this year's budget.

Wadestown school has a fantastic PTA, and the Board is grateful for all the work they do, not just in fundraising, but in also creating opportunities to build connection and community. We were delighted that PTA Chair Alice O'Styke and Treasurer Heidi Loudon joined our recent board meeting to discuss how we can continue to work in partnership.

All parents can be part of the PTA and meetings are open to everyone. They are a great opportunity to hear what is happening at school and to meet other parents. You can read more about the PTA here <https://www.wadestown.school.nz/about-us/wadestown-school-parent-teacher-association/>

You can contact the Board about any matter at our shared email address board@wadestown.school.nz

Ngā mihi

Wadestown School Board

Michelle Crutchley

Amanda Frater (Principal)

Robyn Grover (Staff Board Trustee)

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Blair Macdonald (Chairperson/Presiding Member)

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