



# West Park School

*Te Kura O Papa Hauāuru*

Every student matters, every moment counts.

Broderick Road, Johnsonville, Wellington 6037, Phone (04) 478 7074, Fax (04) 478 7593

16 June 2020

Kia ora West Park School Community,

We're fast approaching the end of term two, and what a term it's been! Now we're back into the swing of things, I thought I'd update you on what the Board has been working on over the past few months.

## **COVID-19**

What strange times we have encountered over the last three months! Who could have foreseen how quickly we would move from 'normality' to lockdown and distance learning? The one thing that really stood out for me over this time was how well prepared our school was for a new way of learning.

Luis, the Leadership Team, our Teachers, the Teacher Aides and our Support Staff all worked incredibly hard to ensure that the transition in and out of home learning was well supported, structured, and took into account the needs of our children. I have received numerous emails from the community, as has Luis, acknowledging the fabulous way the school managed and communicated through the uncertain times we faced.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank all the staff for their efforts during the lockdown. However, I would like to single out Luis, who I know worked countless hours to ensure the staff had what they needed and that everyone was kept up to date with what was happening.

I'd also like to acknowledge the whole community, as we all transitioned into the role of supporting our children's learning. Many of us had the juggle of work and school, others had babies or toddlers to keep entertained. It was a challenging time, but the feedback from teachers is that our children returned to school having made good progress in their learning during lockdown.

We'll look to hold an event later in the year so that we can all get together to celebrate getting through this crazy time!

## **Property News**

What can I say....I never seem to be able to share good news when I give these updates! As you'll be aware, the upgrade to Rooms 3 - 6 is taking longer than anticipated, firstly due to the discovery of some sub-floor asbestos needing to be removed, and then slowed down further by the lockdown. However, this time I can say that thanks to Luis' determination, we now do have something positive to report. Last week we finally received confirmation from MoE that we could move ahead with the asbestos removal and that they would fund all costs.

The current building contractors have subsequently appointed a specialist asbestos removal company to remove the asbestos, and ensure that all work meets required Worksafe protocols. In brief, all removal work will take place within the building - the block will be put into negative pressure by creating a plastic tent arrangement inside the building - this in effect draws air into the building through any openings and has a filtration system which is cleaning the air every few minutes. All materials will be removed in sealed bags outside of school hours to ensure absolutely no risk to pupils, staff or community. Work is scheduled to commence on the 15th June and will take approximately 4-6 weeks. The removal will be done in stages, allowing for remodelling work to continue in the background. At the moment we are optimistic that the upgraded classrooms will be able to be used early in term 3.



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Efforts towards having a permanently designated Library space also continues. Our attempts to establish a low-cost temporary library on site have been hampered by compliance requirements and related escalating costs. The Board has agreed to suspend that option and are now seeking options and costs for a permanent library solution on site. The project is currently out for tender, and will see a library space built adjacent to Room 15.

Work is also continuing on various access modifications around the school to ensure that we are providing as safe and inclusive an environment as possible.

Our hall will continue to be used as temporary classrooms until the Rooms 3-6 project has been completed. It has been great to see how well our kids and staff have worked in that space, and I applaud their flexibility, enthusiasm and patience.

## **School Charter**

As outlined in my last newsletter, the Board has developed our three year strategic plan/school charter. The strategic priorities in the charter are based on the feedback we received from the community consultation survey, from staff and in consultation with the Leadership Team. Our plan had been to share that with you all towards the end of term 1, but like many things, that was not possible because of lockdown.

Due to parent teacher evenings being held over the coming weeks, we now plan to host an evening early in term 3 to share the charter and answer any questions you may have. In the meantime, I have attached the school charter to this email, in case you'd like to see what we're focusing on as a school.

## **Home and School**

Our Home and School Committee have been busy planning over lockdown and have come up with the fabulous idea of making a West Park School Cook Book! Keep an eye out for more information over the coming weeks.

I think that about covers it! Our next Board meeting is being held on Monday 22 June in Rooms 14 and 15 at 6pm. You are welcome to attend and observe this meeting. Please email [board@westpark.school.nz](mailto:board@westpark.school.nz) prior to the meeting and we'll send you a copy of the meeting agenda.

Ngā mihi nui

Nat (Natalie Henry)

On behalf of the Board of Trustees