



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

2 December 2020

Kia ora West Park School Community,

Can you believe that we're almost at the end of the school year?! I don't know about anyone else, but I'm certainly ready for Christmas – it's been a crazy year and the kids and I are looking forward to a well needed break. However, I'm relieved that in my last newsletter of the year I have lots of positive news to share!

New Board Members

At the end of last term we advertised an opportunity for someone to co-opt onto the Board, to bring more diversity to the Board table. We were lucky to receive some great expressions of interest and we'd like to thank everyone who indicated a willingness to be considered for the Trustee role. As a result of the expression of interest process, we are excited to be able to announce that we are co-opting two new Trustees onto the Board! Sanjay Narayan and Prashant Bakshi will officially start in their roles at our Board meeting later this month. Hopefully you'll get to meet Sanjay and Prashant, along with our other Board members, at our charter information evening in term one next year.

Welcome to the Board Sanjay and Prashant!

Property News

You will have noticed the progress of the library by room 15. It's looking great, and we are very excited that we will start next year with a dedicated library for the children!

While the special needs modifications are taking place around the school, the Board have decided to use the opportunity to also open up the space in between the junior and middle blocks. A wide set of concrete steps will be put in over the summer, where the garden is between these two blocks. This will create a better flow for the school, and provide more seating for the children during breaks.

We are also very much looking forward to receiving two temporary classrooms early next year. These additional classrooms will mean that we do not need to use the staffroom or hall for classrooms, which will benefit everyone!

School Charter

A strategy evening was held in week six to review the school charter to ensure our strategic priority areas still reflect the needs of the students, school and community. This evening was attended by the Board, school leadership team and some teachers, and was a great opportunity for us to reflect on what we have achieved in relation to our strategic priorities and what areas still need some focus.

At this strategy evening we also reviewed the results of the community consultation survey. A big thank you to everyone who participated in the survey at the start of this term. Our year 2 students were the lucky winners of the pizza lunch thanks to a large proportion of their parents completing the survey. The survey confirmed that the priority areas for our community are still student achievement, student and staff wellbeing and inclusion and diversity.

Therefore, the outcome of the charter review is that our strategic priority areas will remain the same, but will have slightly different objectives sitting underneath each priority area to reflect where we are at in our journey. As a reminder, West Park School's strategic priorities in our 3 year charter are:



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- Inclusive Education - To ensure equitable outcomes for all students
- Curriculum - To develop confident, capable, empowered learners
- Staff & Student Wellbeing - To ensure all students and staff have a strong sense of wellbeing

The details of the annual plan that sits under this charter/strategic plan are currently being developed. As mentioned in my previous newsletter, we will hold a charter information evening for the community in term one next year.

Home and School

A huge thank you to the Home and School Committee for all their hard work this year. I know a lot of the events we would normally hold were cancelled due to Covid, but the Committee still managed to come up with some great fundraising ideas. The school cook books turned out great and I have already seen loads of recipes I can't wait to try!

The proceeds of the Home and School fundraisers from over this year will be going towards developing the area by the fence at the end of the junior block, to turn it into useable play space for the children.

The Year in Review

I don't know where to start with this! It's been such a busy year. We started off with classes in the newly renovated rooms 7 and 8, and the rest of the school all "muddled up", including two classes in the hall, while we renovated rooms 3 to 6. We were supposed to move in to these rooms by term two, and then Covid hit!

The distance learning programme and communication from the school received a lot of positive feedback, but for a lot of parents, lockdown was a pretty difficult time. The juggle of school and work was hard, but we were fortunate enough in Wellington to only have to go into lockdown once this year!

It took until the end of term three to get the classes from the hall into the newly renovated rooms, but it was worth the wait! We have also had to wait the whole year to get the library built. What started out as a relatively simple project, moving a container onto the site by room 15, turned out to be much more complicated! After issues with the consent and costs skyrocketing, we changed tack and now have a permanent library solution almost completed.

We've had to cancel a lot due to Covid, but towards the end of this year, life seems to be back to 'normal'. I'm not sure what's in store next year, but I feel like whatever comes our way we're ready and can deal with it!

Final Comments

Our last Board meeting of the year is being held on Monday 14 December in Rooms 14 and 15 at 6pm. You are welcome to attend and observe this meeting. Please email board@westpark.school.nz prior to the meeting and we'll send you a copy of the meeting agenda.

Finally, I'd like to thank Luis, the Leadership Team, Teachers, Teacher Aides and Support Staff for all their hard work and resilience in what has been an unprecedented year! You all thoroughly deserve the break you're about to get, so I hope you have a lot of rest and relaxation planned.

A very Merry Christmas to you all.

Ngā mihi nui

Nat (Natalie Henry)

On behalf of the Board of Trustees



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