



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

Kia ora West Park School Community,

It's been a busy start to the school year, with the kids getting settled into their new classes, the meet the teacher evenings and a change of alert levels to keep us on our toes! I hope everyone got to have a break over the summer and that you're all enjoying being back in the school routine.

For those of you that are new to the school, my name is Natalie (Nat) and I am the Chair of the school Board. I have two boys at the school who are both in the seniors this year. I have been a parent at the school since 2013 when my daughter started at West Park, and it's scary to think that my time with kids at Primary school is nearing the end!

We have lots of exciting things happening in and around the school this term, so I'll give you an update on what the Board is/has been focusing on.

Welcome

Firstly, I'd like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Board, to welcome all our new families to the West Park School community. I'd also like to welcome Devon Ward and Flavia Kuntze to their teaching roles within the school. We hope you have all enjoyed the first couple of weeks of school!

School Activity Fees

For the last two years the Board has covered the cost of a specified number of school activities. One of the key priorities for the Board is 'Inclusive Education', so when looking at whether the Board would fund some activities again this year, we considered the right for all children to be provided with equal opportunity to attend these activities, without children being excluded due to the cost of the activities.

The cost is not insignificant to the school, but the Board have managed the finances well enough to enable us to meet this cost for families, while still managing to fund all other resources that are needed within the classrooms.

Therefore, after reviewing the budget, the Board has resolved that the school will again meet the cost of core activities in 2021. These core activities are swimming, an ASB Sports Centre visit in each term and the Life Education visit. You will still be required to give permission for your child to attend these activities at the time they occur. Please note that there may be activities in addition to those mentioned above that will not be covered by the school. Notification of these will occur at the time along with a request for payment.

Property News

We finally have a library! It's been a long time coming, we've had to change plans multiple times, but we are thrilled with the final result. The library is officially being opened on Friday 26 February at 8am with a blessing from Matua Joe. I hope to see those who can make it there for this special occasion.

You may have already seen the concrete steps between the junior and middle block that were put in over the summer. I'm sure you will agree that this has created a better flow for the school.

We also still have the two temporary classrooms coming, which are planned to be onsite by Johnsonville West Kindergarten and ready for use by the beginning of term 3.

School Charter

Our charter, which is the school's three-year strategy, is currently being finalised before being submitted to the Ministry of Education. We are also finalising the details of the annual plan that sits under this charter/strategic plan, and once this is complete, we'd like to share it with you all in a community information evening. Please keep an eye out for details of this evening, which will be towards the end of term 1.

Home and School

The Home and School Committee is a huge part of what makes our school community special. The Home and School Committee run community events and fundraisers for the school and is a great way for you to get involved in the school and meet other parents.

The first Home and School meeting of the year is being held on Thursday 25 February (today) at 7pm in the staffroom. I encourage you to attend!

COVID-19

We would like to reassure you all that with the changing nature of COVID-19 alert levels, the school will adapt and respond as required. We have learnt a lot since the last lockdown and have a series of plans in place based around different scenarios to try to ensure we are as prepared as we can be. Luis will keep you posted on any COVID-19 related updates as and when necessary. In the meantime, we would encourage all our whānau and caregivers to keep an eye on government messaging around COVID-19 alert levels.

Final Comments

That's all from me for now. Please feel free to contact any of the Board members if you have any questions by emailing board@westpark.school.nz. Our next Board meeting will be held on Monday 1 March in Rooms 14 and 15 at 6pm. You are welcome, as always, to attend and observe this meeting.

Ngā mihi nui

Nat (Natalie Henry)

On behalf of the Board of Trustees

Board of Trustees:

Prashant Bakshi

Jennifer Carey (Staff Representative)

Luis Echegaray (Principal)

Natalie Henry (Chair)

Aaron Jordan

Stefan Kirkwood

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