



Kelburn Normal School

Ngā Tātarakihi o Ahumairangi



Kia ora koutou,

Covid has ensured another bumpy ride to the beginning of this year. It is an adjustment to get used to the new settings, especially after two cautious years. We have recently been isolating at home, and it does feel strange staying home while life goes on, unlike the more general lockdowns of last year.

The uncertainty of covid is heavily influencing the school at the moment. The Board is grateful to the staff for their work in making the school as safe as possible, keeping the teaching and learning going and also providing the hybrid programme for children not at school. Curriculum and student progress and achievement is the heart of the school and we were impressed to read the newsletters from each Ara which demonstrated the wide scope of programmes that the team has organised for this term.

Property

It is so great to see the landscaping project finally nearing completion. In the last few months we have seen empty spaces transformed into vibrant areas of play. The landscaping has created different spaces for children to play in and has added more 'classrooms' to our outdoor space. The next property project for the school is to replace the hall and PE shed roofs, which is expected to be completed by the middle of the year.

With the landscaping project drawing to a close the Board would like to give a huge thanks to our PTA and parent community for the shade cloths. The Ministry of Education does not fund shade cloths and we really appreciate the PTA's support to purchase the three shade cloths to improve the sun safety of the school's outside spaces. The mural, which the PTA funded earlier last year, looks even better amongst the new landscaping. As covid restrictions ease it will be fantastic for whānau to be able to visit the school and enjoy the grounds. We also wanted to thank the PTA for its recent significant contribution towards library books and arranging funding for a basketball hoop (as well as topping up the shortfall).

We are really lucky to have such an active and attentive PTA. We rely on the generosity of the PTA to help with those extra items the Ministry won't fund. If you are thinking of getting involved or helping out at the school, I encourage you to give it a go. The PTA is a good way to meet other parents and get that "feel good" vibe. There are lots of opportunities to help, whether it be for a specific function or on a more regular basis, such as road patrol, it all makes a huge difference to the running of the school. The PTA is always

looking for new members - a nice way to see if it's for you is to head along to a meeting for a cup of tea and see how it all works.

School Finances

Our budget for this year is very tight as usual. The days of additional funding through our International Student Programme are over and changes have been made to trim down expenses to adjust to the new normal. Parent donations and contributions are very welcome and enable us to continue to offer our programmes to our children. Thanks so much to the many of you who have already made a contribution this year. We are very conscious that times are tough so please email Loraine Best at loraineb@kelburnnormal.school.nz or call the office if you would like to discuss payment options or are experiencing hardship. All enquiries will be kept confidential.

Strategic Plan

Here is a link to the [visual representation of our strategic plan 2022-2024](#), which we also shared with the community at the end of last year. The strategic plan guides the Board, Andrew and the team when making decisions. The plan identifies three strategic pillars to guide the progression of the school -

- Pūkengananga - we pursue excellence
- Manaakitanga - we care, nurture and protect
- Whānaungatanga - we are interdependent in our belonging to our community.

Detailed outcomes continue to be developed under each strategic pillar that the school will then report against to the community and the Ministry.

Keeping it respectful

Last year the Board was required to review how we administer the school's harassment policy, you can find a copy of it by following [this link](#) (User name: kelburn Password: normal). It was a really good reminder that KNS is also a workplace, and as such, the Board is obliged to ensure that we provide a safe physical and emotional environment for our staff, where staff are treated with dignity and respect. From time to time we might have difficult conversations with our children's teachers or school staff, but please keep the tone and content of the conversation or email respectful.

New Board member and elections in September

We are very sad to say farewell to Justin and Bec Gray. Both have made a huge contribution to the school and will be missed. Justin's departure left the Board a little lean on financial expertise, so we have co-opted a new Board member until the September elections. We are very pleased to announce that Nikki Stigley has joined the Board. Nikki works at KPMG as a senior manager and has expertise in commercial advice. Nikki has two children attending the school. We are very fortunate to have Nikki join the team - welcome Nikki!

We encourage whānau to think about whether they would like to put their name forward for the September elections. A variety of skills are always needed on the Board, including but not limited to experience in areas such as finance, education, property, law, human resources and the health and social sector. It's also important to be able to work well as a team and have good listening and communication skills. Board meetings are twice a term and run for 2-3 hours. There is usually a good hour's worth of preparation before each meeting, along with additional meetings and tasks from time to time. On average the time commitment would be between 10-15 hours a term.

As a board member you get a unique insight into the running of your child's school. While the Board can't get involved in the day to day running and management of the school - that is Andrew's job - the Board does get to contribute to the strategic direction of the school and the policies by which the school is controlled and

managed. Meetings usually focus on health and safety, property matters, student achievement and how to support the team to deliver the best it can for our tamariki.

If this is something you are interested in doing but you would like to know more please get in touch by either contacting Loraine in the office or writing to our email bot@kelburnnormal.school.nz and one of us can give you a call to talk about what's involved.

Ngā mihi nui

Nickie van der Beek
Chairperson