



Kelburn Normal School

Ngā Tātarakihi o Ahumairangi



12 August 2022

Kia ora koutou,

We hope you all had a good break over the July holidays and you and your whānau are well. Like our own lives, the school has been managing multiple disruptions, particularly at the end of term 2. A huge thank you to the staff who have all stepped up to cover each other to ensure learning is continuing.

Matariki was a wonderful experience for many of us. Thanks to everyone who made the event a success, especially our dedicated staff, whānau volunteers, and our magnificent PTA. You all worked together to create a special evening for our tamariki, ngā mihi nui.

We are proud of the continued growth of te ao Māori at Ngā Tātarakihi o Ahumairangi. Over the last few years we have struggled to establish a consistent te reo programme. We are so fortunate that this year our kaitiaki Jason is able to work with years 5 to 8 as our te reo teacher. Together Jason and Jeremy, who is working with the tamariki downstairs, have provided the children with regular access to learning and using te reo, and both run a programme that is fun and engaging. The Aotearoa Histories curriculum is another welcome addition to the school day and the teachers and tamariki are enjoying the new School Kit resource which is brimming with ideas and resources to learn about lots of different aspects of Aotearoa New Zealand's histories.

Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed the school survey. The responses contain a variety of views and some really constructive and positive feedback to consider and reflect on. The survey was timed to be ready for the new Board, to provide insights on how the community views the performance and direction of the school and to inform and shape discussions on the future focus of the school.

Property

There is always work to be done on property! In brief:

- The PTA funded netball/basketball hoops have been a huge success, thank you to the PTA team.
- We are pleased with how the building has performed during the COVID pandemic enabling the tamariki to be warm while still working in well ventilated areas.

- It is great to see the landscaping project complete and the children playing and using the new equipment and areas.
- We commissioned an audit of the safety compliance of the school's existing play areas (excluding the new landscaping), and we have a list of improvements and maintenance to work through. We are currently working with the Ministry and requesting that it allows the school to use its 5 year maintenance budget where we can. One of the recommendations is to increase the amount of soft fall in the Gully, which the Ministry won't fund, so thanks (again!) to the PTA who are paying for this.
- The replacement roof for the school hall is scheduled to be installed during the term 3 holidays.
- We are also purchasing a data projector in the hall, which will be great for assemblies and performances.

School Finances

Our budget for this year is very tight as usual. 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

We have a new visual representation of our Strategic and Annual Plan. This superior design flows better and it is worth a read - [you can find it here](#). 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 -

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

Board Elections September

The current Board had its last meeting earlier this week. We wanted to thank the community for your support over the last three years. The school is very fortunate to have eight nominees for the Board elections. You can read about the candidates by following [this link](#). Voting papers were posted on 10 August, so they should start arriving in letterboxes soon. The last day to return your papers will be 7 September, 4pm. You can either post your voting papers by using the prepaid envelope or deliver them to the drop box in the school office, whichever you prefer. The votes will be counted on 13 September and the new Board will take office on 14 September.

Chris has decided not to stand in the upcoming election, so we wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge his mahi over the last three years. Chris has made a significant contribution on the Board, asking lots of pertinent questions, suggesting creative solutions and providing sound financial guidance and support to the school. Thank you Chris.

Ngā mihi nui

Fiona McLean, Andrea Keenan, Nikki Stigley, Nickie van der Beek, Chris Bishop, Andrew Bird, Danielle Sanders and Susie Brown
KNS School Board