



Kelburn Normal School

Ngā Tātarakihi o Ahumairangi



16 November 2022

Kia ora koutou

The Board has met twice since the election in September and our last meeting for 2022 will be on 28 November. To keep key areas of work progressing between meetings we have established committees in property, finance and communications. Despite having a new school building, property matters keep Andrew and the Board occupied. Initially the Property Committee will focus on arranging repairs of the equipment in the Gully and planting the bottom of the Gully to reduce the risk of slips. The Finance Committee will meet ahead of Board meetings to run over the finances in more detail before the wider Board considers the reports. A Communications Committee will consider the various forms of communication between the school and the community, and what works and what could be adjusted.

Community Survey

Thank you to everyone who contributed their thoughts and ideas to the community survey, it is really important to hear from you. The survey was timed so it was available to the new Board to help set the tone and direction for next year. As you would expect we received varied responses on issues, with lots of positive feedback and also some useful ideas on what we could change or adopt. There was positive feedback about the school's creative and performing arts, sporting and community events. Submitters also mentioned our capable staff and leadership team and the superb efforts of the PTA.

The question about communications drew a lot of useful suggestions, with a variety of views (sometimes conflicting!) about what worked and what didn't. This is one of the reasons the Board established the Communications Committee, to consider the ideas from the survey against a stocktake of all the various ways the school communicates with whānau.

We also received overwhelmingly positive feedback on the school's supportive, caring and inclusive culture, including positive comments on the year 5/6 playground buddies. This is an area we want to continue to strengthen and that came through from responses in the survey as well. The school is continuing to develop ways to support neurodiverse learners and to consider what adjustments could further support our tamariki in this area. Thanks again to everyone who contributed to the survey.

Equity Index Number

You may have heard in the news that the Ministry of Education is no longer funding schools using the decile system. The Ministry has a new measure called the Equity Index (EQI).

The EQI helps identify schools that need additional funding and resources to support tamariki. The EQI gives each school a three digit number which is tied to a funding rate. The numbers range from 344 to 569, and the average is 463. A high EQI number indicates that a school or kura is likely to have a higher number of ākonga or students facing socioeconomic barriers relative to another school. The number is not reflective of a school's teaching, culture or student ability or achievement.

The EQI number is developed under strict privacy protections. School Boards, principals and staff are not provided with any information about students or whānau that has been used to generate the school's EQI number.

For 2023 Kelburn Normal School's EQI number is 354, which is low. This means we will not be eligible to opt-in on the Ministry's School Donation Scheme and it also means we are unlikely to attract additional resources from the Ministry other than the standard bulk grant. The school's number will be updated every year.

You can read more about these changes including factsheets at the Ministry of Education's website: <https://www.education.govt.nz/our-work/changes-in-education/equity-index/>

Thank you

We are so appreciative of the many hands that keep things ticking along at school. Thank you to all the staff at Kelburn, who have kept smiling in a difficult year, Covid has really been unsettling and difficult for a lot of people.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Number Rumba fundraiser. We are excited to be able to invest in new Chrome books and iPads for the tamariki. Schools like Kelburn receive limited funding from the Ministry and rely heavily on donations and fundraising to allow the school to support all of its learners, as well as to be able to buy those extra nice-to-have items.

Farewell to the 'senior' members of the PTA whose children are leaving for college. The PTA is a really nice way to add your family's community spirit to the school. There are lots of ways to contribute, and you can dip in and out depending on your schedule. Come along to the next meeting or you can email Erica and Anneke on pta@kelburnnormal.school.nz.

Thank you to Danielle Sanders for acting as principal last term and to the team leaders for taking on extra work in Andrew's absence. It was a busy term, but Danielle stepped straight in and kept everything running smoothly, as well as adding a few of her own initiatives! Welcome back to Andrew from his TeachingNZ principal sabbatical. Andrew spent time visiting schools which work with teacher training providers to consider how well prepared graduating teachers are for the classroom. Important work which will hopefully flow back to how we assist training teachers at Kelburn.

Thank you for your support of the school. If you ever wish to get in touch with the Board you can email us on bot@kelburnnormal.school.nz.

Ngā mihi

Nickie van der Beek
Chair KNS Board of Trustees