



13 April 2018

BOT Newsletter Term 1 2018

Resignation of our principal

Before the Easter break, Carolyn 'Aukafolau announced to the school and the community that she will be leaving Edendale at the end of Term 2 to take up a job opportunity in Hong Kong.

We know it was not an easy decision for Carolyn to make – she loves Edendale and being part of our vibrant community, and in her time as principal she has made a hugely positive impact and a lasting impression.

The Board is extremely sorry to see her go and we are now planning an appropriate farewell on behalf of the whole school community to show how much we have appreciated all she has done for the school. We want to ensure Carolyn leaves Edendale with our fullest aroha and support before starting this next chapter of her life.

The Board has already begun the process of finding a new principal and we will keep you updated as to developments.

Vacancy on Board

On the subject of departures, there are some changes within the Board to announce as well.

Earlier this term, Mose Tokuma, one of our parent trustees moved to Peru to take up a teaching job there, with the intention of his family joining him at the end of this year. He is one of five parent trustees who was elected to the Board in 2016. While we are very excited for Mose and his family as they embark on their new adventure, we are very sorry to lose him from the Board. He has made a very valuable contribution to the life of our school and we have really appreciated having his experience, knowledge and insights.

Mose's departure means there is a vacancy on the Board to fill, preferably from someone within the parent community. We would particularly welcome interest from the Maori or Pasifika community and/or with experience or skills in the following areas:

- Accounting and finance
- Project management
- Human resources

Being on the Board is rewarding and a great way to be more involved in the life of the school and your child's education. If anybody in the school community is interested in joining the Board and has any of the above skills, please contact myself or Chriss in the school office.

Next term our staff trustee, Libby Snushall, will be taking maternity leave. We want to thank Libby for her contribution to the Board and wish her well as she becomes a parent.

An election will be held by staff to find a replacement for Libby and again, any staff who are interested are invited to talk to me, Chriss or Carolyn A.



Strategic plan

The beginning of the year is when the school's strategic plan is reviewed and forwarded to the Ministry of Education.

The strategic plan includes a detailed breakdown of the school's overall aims, values and principles. A copy of the current strategic plan is available on the school website and we welcome feedback from the school community.

School donations/spending

Government funding has reduced since Edendale's school decile rating went up to 6 in 2015. Despite this, the donation and activity fee has remained at a low rate compared to some other local schools, so that it remains affordable for all.

At the end of Term 1, 48% of families had paid their school donations and 65% had paid their activity fees. This compares to the last three years:

2015 = 48% paid parent donations and 67% paid activity fees

2016 = 61% and 75%

2017 = 61% and 82%

Thank you to those families who have already contributed. If you have not, please consider doing so. It would be great to improve on figures for the past two years.

Although it is voluntary, paying your donation and activity fee makes a real difference to the programmes and facilities that the school can provide. For example, we have recently been able to purchase 54 new chromebooks at a cost of \$22,602. These will replace existing chromebooks that we have been leasing. This ensures there continues to be 5 chromebooks in each middle and senior level classrooms and these will be ready for the children to use in early Term 2.

Without your donations, this wouldn't be possible.

National standards

A key part of the Board's role is to monitor student achievement and curriculum delivery in the school. The Labour Government has scrapped National Standards, however we will continue to monitor student achievement and report to parents. Reports will be coming out as usual at the end of Term 2.

As part of the Mt Albert Community of Learning, the Senior Management Team have been working with leaders from other local schools and now have agreed on common assessment expectations and strategies.



Communities of Learning

Communities of Learning (CoL) / Kāhui Ako are groups of education providers and their communities working in collaboration for the purpose of improving learning at all levels and aims to maximise the learning potential of all learners. Edendale School is part of the Mt Albert Kāhui Ako, which includes Edendale, Gladstone Primary, Owairaka Primary, Wesley Intermediate, Wesley Primary, Kowhai Intermediate, Mt Albert Primary, Mt Albert Grammar, Auckland Girls Grammar and the ABC Early Childhood Centre. Taking part in the Mt Albert Kāhui Ako gives us new opportunities to bring together the collective expertise across all the schools. The shared learning culture within the Mount Albert Kāhui Ako is one where students are at the centre of school decision making, enabling students' to experience success throughout their educational pathways. At the end of last year the Mt Albert Kāhui Ako appointed six Across School Teachers (ASTs). Libby Snushall from Edendale was one of the successful candidates. Libby is working across all the schools looking at whanau engagement. Edendale appointed three Within School Teachers (WSTs), Amanda Ray, Ingrid Cheung and Jamie Christensen. At the end of January the Edendale teachers joined with Wesley Primary and Wesley Intermediate for a workshop with Professor Christine Rubie-Davies. Christine presented her research on implementing high expectation principles in order to lift the achievement of all students. This research is part of the work we are doing with the Mt Albert Kāhui Ako.

Kelly Club

Post-school provider Kelly Club has now been operating at Edendale for a whole term, with positive feedback reported from families using the service. The decision to introduce a new provider came in response to the growing demand from the school community; the need to extend the post-school programme and offer a before-school programme; and ensuring compliance with Government regulation.

Earlier in the term, we held a farewell afternoon tea for the Edendale Post-School and Holiday Programme team Emma, Karen, Carroll, Danny, Mary, Kavita and Abbie. We acknowledged and thanked them for their many years of loyal service. Emma, Carroll, Danny and Kavita continue to be highly valued members of the Edendale staff in their capacity as Learning Assistants. Karen continues her valued role in the school office as well as working as the Assistant Supervisor at the Kelly Club holiday programme.

Property

We are well underway with the review of our 10-year property plan and are currently deciding which areas need prioritising over others. We have engaged a new property consultant, Watershed, to advise and assist us through this process and are looking forward to a constructive and successful working relationship with them over the coming years.

One of the first priorities will be repairing or replacing the roof of Block 1 which is causing leaks and water damage. This is an extensive job and we are waiting on an assessment from Watershed to determine what needs to be done and the likely cost.

Tigerturf was laid next to the playground at the end of last year at a cost of \$66,000 (70% paid last year and 30% this year). This has been very popular with children, and will no doubt come into its own during the winter. No more cones out on wet, muddy days!



We are taking stock of damage caused by the storm earlier this week. Most noticeably and sadly, we have lost the oak tree on the bottom field and the stone boundary wall behind it has been damaged. The Council will be coming to assess the tree and a blessing is planned this Saturday at 1:00pm. All are welcome. The tree has been a landmark at Edendale since it was planted in 1919 to commemorate the death of Arthur Hannah, a founding teacher at the school, early in World War I.

The shade sails over the playground, which were due to be removed over the school holidays, were also ripped in the storm.

Staff

At the end of this term we farewelled Ben Koubaridis who has been teaching in Room 10. We welcome Liz Osokin who will be teaching in Room 10 for the rest of the year. Aimee Dale is now on maternity leave and Fleur Tuck and Vanessa Felix will be teaching Room 24. We wish Aimee and Ben all the best for the future.

Warm regards,

Carolyn Bielby, Chairperson

on behalf of the **Edendale Board of Trustees**