



6 July 2018

BOT Newsletter Term 2 2018

Carolyn Bielby

It has been a tragic term for the Board, the school and the wider Edendale community after losing our Board Chair Carolyn Bielby.

She was elected to the Board in 2013 and ran again in the 2016 elections, becoming Chairperson. She was a constant presence at school, be it helping out with Garden to Table, offering inspiring words at Year 6 Graduation or thoughtful observations at staff morning teas.

It was a real honour for the school to be the chosen venue for her funeral and for us all to hear Carolyn's family and friends talk about what made Carolyn so special to them.

We miss her terribly - her knowledge, her fair-minded and empathetic approach to all matters and most of all her friendship, warmth and wit.

Board changes

A special meeting was held to appoint Shameen Hayat as the new Board Chairperson.

We have also welcomed three new parent trustees – Christine Scott, Annie Ualesi and Stanley Findlay and look forward to working with them in the future.

Our staff trustee, Libby Snushall, had to wind up her Board duties a little earlier than expected when baby Avery decided to arrive five weeks early. We are delighted to report that mother and baby are well and thriving beautifully!

Two staff members put themselves forward to become the new staff trustee on the Board and an election was held. We can now welcome Edendale's art teacher, Kusam Fausett, as our new staff trustee for the Board.

New principal

As reported in our last newsletter, Carolyn 'Aukafolau is leaving at the end of this term to take up an exciting new position in Hong Kong.

Carolyn will be hugely missed and we thank her for the great contribution and the kind and inclusive culture she has instilled within the school.

To celebrate Carolyn's time at Edendale a farewell assembly with the whole school was held for her yesterday. There were special tributes from every team, which covered a whole spectrum of emotions! This was followed by a special afternoon tea after, for all the staff plus Board and PTA members, and members of Carolyn's family.

To help find a replacement for Carolyn, the Board worked with consultant Kay Hawk from The Education Group who sought input from the staff on what they would like in a new principal.

It was a unanimous decision for the Board members interviewing the shortlisted candidates which led to us offering the position to Jonathan Ramsay, currently principal at Richmond Road school where he has worked since 2014.

He will be welcomed to Edendale with a pōwhiri on the first day of Term 3 and he has told us he is very excited to join the Edendale team.



Property

We have been working with property consultants Watershed to project manage repairs on our buildings.

The Board has approved a programme of works with an estimated value of over \$720,000 focused on the New Entrant/Year One classrooms.

Most of this amount, which is from funds allocated by the Ministry of Education, will be used up on replacing the roof but some will be apportioned to refurbishing the toilets in this block and some interior improvements.

Donations

As has been communicated previously, the funding that the school receives from the government dropped when the school's decile rating went up to 6. This makes school donations more important than ever.

At the end of Term 1 this year 48% of families had paid their school donations and at the end of Term 2 that number has climbed to 53%. Activity fees collected so far are at 72%.

It's great to be over the half way mark for donations paid but it would be really awesome to beat the 63% high we've previously hit.

Here's how we're tracking in comparison:

2017 = 61% paid parent donations and 82% paid activity fees

2016 = 63% donations and 78% activity fees

2015 = 48% donations

Kahui Ako/Community of Learning (COL) update

The Mt Albert Kahui Ako/Community of Learning continues to work towards specific actions linked to the strategic goals. Leadership training for senior and middle leaders has been provided across all the schools by UACEL (University of Auckland, Centre for Educational Leadership). The six Across School Teachers have been collecting information related to the levers of change – learner agency, effective pedagogy, whanau engagement, transition, connections in science and self-efficacy in maths. The collated information will be presented back to each school next term. At Edendale the Within School Teachers, Amanda Ray, Jamie Christensen and Ingrid Cheung continue their great work. Connections in science and whanau engagement have been a focus at Edendale this term.

Kind regards,

Board of Trustees