



**Edendale**  
Primary School

September 2020 – End of Term 3

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER**

Kia ora everybody, all of us on the Board of Trustees hope you and your loved ones have stayed safe, well and happy throughout this second lockdown and are now able to enjoy some rest and relaxation during the upcoming holidays.

Another lockdown was the news no one wanted to hear, but perhaps inevitable. Fortunately, the school was able to revert quickly back to the online systems set up the first time around and the teaching and leadership teams did a fantastic job of keeping our tamariki safe on returning to school during Level 2.5.

A huge thank you from the Board for all the hard work that this has entailed and to our community for your patience, understanding and cooperation.

Here's hoping we can return to the freedoms of Level 1 soon.

### **Community survey**

This term our school families had the opportunity to give their feedback on a number of issues. These were covered in a community survey which the Board arranged through Kay Hawk, a consultant from The Education Group. We received the final report outlining the main themes that surfaced from the survey just this morning. There was an excellent response with 369 people taking the time to share their opinions and feedback.

We will need some time to go through it as a Board but from the first glance we are pleased with the detail received and overall positive trends that have emerged. We will share the survey results and summary with you early next term.

### **Board vacancy**

Earlier this term Shameen Hayat stepped down from the Board after four years of service to Edendale. We would like to thank Shameen for all her hard work including the two years in the role of Chair.

This has created a vacancy for a new parent trustee. You may have already seen that we are particularly appealing to our Māori community to help us find a replacement.

As a Board we are dedicated to our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and encouraging educational success for our Māori learners is one of our top priorities. Thank you to everyone who has expressed an interest so far. For those still considering, there is still time to come forward. We ask that you please get in touch with Board Chair Christine Scott on [cscott@edendale.school.nz](mailto:cscott@edendale.school.nz) by 5th October so that there is time for a decision to be made before the appointment cut-off date of 16th October.

### **Property**

Our aim of starting our exciting Garden to Table project in the summer holidays continues to progress. If you recall, the Government allocated Edendale \$400,000 as part of a nationwide infrastructure package. This money was aimed at addressing non-urgent but necessary property upgrades and the school is putting this money towards relocating the Garden to Table kitchen to the ground level of Block 1 to be closer to the gardens. The designs look amazing and during Term 3 there have been multiple meetings between the school, the Ministry of Education, our Project Managers from Watershed and architects MOAI. The latest idea is to see how much preparatory work for the rest of the Block 1 project can be done at the same time which has involved figuring out how best to draw funds from the various allocations and categories. We will continue to update you as we progress.

### **Budget**

Once again, Covid-19 has had an effect on our budget. While it prompted some extra outlay to make the necessary health and safety changes this is being reimbursed by the Ministry of Education and there were also fewer activities as a result of the lockdown so our overall financial performance is tracking better than predicted. The school is also planning for staffing beyond the current year. With our student numbers tracking lower than last year we are conscious that next year's financial plan will need to be adjusted accordingly.

### **Happy holidays!**

Our Principal Jonathan Ramsay is taking his Ministry-awarded sabbatical during Term 4 and will return to Edendale in Term 1 2021. We wish him a restful and fulfilling time and we wish all of you a safe and happy two weeks' holiday. See you all again in Term 4!

Nga mihi

### **Board of Trustees**

### **Next Board meeting**

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is Tuesday 3rd November. All are welcome to attend.

### **Contact:**

Please use the following email to contact the Board Chair:  
[cscott@edendale.school.nz](mailto:cscott@edendale.school.nz)