



**Edendale**  
Primary School

December 2020 – End of Year  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER**

Tēnā koutou e te whānau o Edendale.

We are reaching the final days of Term 4 2020 in what has been a life-changing year in a local and a global sense. We recognise that there have been difficult challenges for many people in what has been a stressful and angst-ridden time of our lives. We hope that the upcoming summer break will bring peace, respite and a time to recharge for you all.

For some of our students the end of term also means the end of their time at Edendale. We would like to wish them all well for the new start in their new schools and this wish also goes to our two members of staff leaving – Julie Crombie and Amanda Ray. Thank you for everything you have done for our students over the years – you have made a lasting impact on their education and for that we thank you.

Thanks also go to the rest of our wonderful admin, teaching and senior leadership teams. Well done for navigating your way through the uncharted waters that 2020 threw in your way, and congratulations for making it to the end of the year in one piece!

We would also like to express our thanks to you, the community – our parents, grandparents, caregivers, guardians and Edendale supporters. Thank you for your continued backing, for your honest feedback and for placing such value on our school and community. We recognise this is what motivates that incredible support you have for our amazing school and we realise how lucky we are to have it.

**Community survey**

The Board of Trustees is pleased to bring you the results of the community survey recently undertaken.

You will recall that we engaged consultant Kay Hawk from The Education Group to conduct the survey which included a broad range of topics pertinent to school life including the learning during lockdown.

The purpose of this survey was to canvas parent/caregiver views on wide-ranging aspects of the school's performance and to identify areas of strength to continue to build on in order to help make Edendale a great place for our tamariki, staff and wider community.

The first thing to observe is the fantastic response rate – out of 708 questionnaire links emailed out to families, 369 completed questionnaires were returned. A huge thanks to everyone who took the time to do the survey; we are very grateful to have your feedback.

### **Survey Summary:**

Overall, most families are happy with the education and learning opportunities the school provides for their children. While there are areas that were identified for improvement, the feedback from over 80% of parents was positive. In particular, 90% of parents said their child feels safe at school and is proud of their school. 84% think the school has a good reputation and 87% agree it is well managed.

An aspect of Edendale School culture that came through as being highly valued is the cohesion of a diverse community. Many parents are actively involved in the school and there is potential for more parental support.

Covid 19 proved to be a huge challenge for Edendale as it was for all NZ families and schools. Some experienced the pressure caused by a loss of income or the stress of managing work pressure while overseeing their children's wellbeing and learning. Likewise, teachers were balancing the competing needs of their own children and family as well as those of the children in their class, while adapting to an online platform almost overnight. The 'Think, Learn, Create' online home learning platform provided well for two thirds of Edendale families but for a third, it was not as successful. For that third of families, increased contact with teachers and more support with the learning programme were identified as areas for improvement.

### **Overview of survey feedback:**

Key areas of strength identified in the survey included:

- Excellent teachers and quality of teaching, and the personal care for the students and their wellbeing
- Edendale's diversity and how this is valued and celebrated
- Innovative leadership and direction from the Principal and senior team
- Wide-ranging educational opportunities provided for children, including co-curricular

Key areas for improvement included:

- Student achievement reporting which empowers parents/caregivers to understand the progress of their child/ren and how they can best support them in their learning
- Improved communication and engagement with the Edendale community, which is empathetic, helps to strengthen relationships, and keeps our community connected
- Ensuring the 'Think, Learn, Create' online home learning platform provides a consistent and seamless shift between onsite and online learning.

The Board is now working with the school leadership team to implement plans to continue building on the strengths of the school and to help to develop in the area identified for improvement.

For further information or for a detailed analysis of the survey, please contact Christine Scott, Board Chairperson at [cscott@edendale.school.nz](mailto:cscott@edendale.school.nz).

## Board changes

We are delighted to welcome two new parent trustees to the board – Warner Cowin who has filled the board vacancy and Katie Higgins who is a co-opted member.

Warner has three children at Edendale – Molly, Harriet and Charlie who are going into Years 6, 3 and 2, and he and his wife Liz have been members of the Sandringham community for 10 years. Of Ngāti Porou descent on his father's side and from the Hauraki Plains on his mother's side, Warner hopes to contribute to the Board by bringing Te Ao Māori (Māori world view) to the forefront in decision making. He also has a background in construction, founding his own project management consultancy, Height, in 2013 which he hopes will prove invaluable experience for the property committee.

Katie has two children, Ollie who is now at Balmoral Intermediate and George who is going into Year 4 at Edendale next year. Katie and her husband Jono have lived in Sandringham for 12 years. Having worked her whole career within education, Katie will bring some valuable experience to the table, particularly with her current focus on facilitation and strategic management. She currently works within the national Enviroschools Team where she supports partnerships, sustainable strategy development and facilitation throughout Aotearoa. The Enviroschools Kaupapa is embedded in Te Ao Māori, honouring the indigenous wisdoms of and relationships with tangata whenua.

We are excited about the skills and mahi Warner and Katie are already bringing to the Board.

## Property

Our Garden to Table project continues to progress, although not quite as quickly as we had hoped. We have reached the point of submitting for Council consent and putting the contract out to tender. The construction is now expected to take place in the Term One holidays next year.

## Student achievement and attendance

Despite the disrupting effects of Covid-19, both attendance rates and academic achievement for our students have tracked very well.

This year attendance was down 2.3% from last year but the attendance rate for Edendale was still better than the national average (11% compared to the national average of 11.4% in 2019 last year).

Likewise, our students overall fared well in their school work. The data for both Mathematics and Reading revealed that 87% achieved 'at/above' expectations, both exceeding the Edendale target of 85%. Writing slipped 2% below the target of 80% and there was a slight increase in the number of students achieving 'below/well below' in 2020 compared to 2019. However, overall there was a positive shift in achievement as the year progressed and there were more students achieving 'above' expectations (2019 – 11%; 2020 – 17%).

## Next year

We wish you all a Mere Kirihimete and a safe and happy holiday over summer, and we'll see you all again in 2021!

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. 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)