



*Tātai ki te rangi*

# BOARD NEWS APRIL 2016

## HE WAKA EKE NOA -

*all together, one canoe, no exception*

**Welcome to the first Board News of 2016.** We are nearly at the end of term one and a long, warm summer. The clocks have gone back and the nights are getting cooler but the school year is most certainly in full swing and our classrooms are a hive of activity.

Thanks you for a great start to 2016

### **To our staff:**

Thank you for your enthusiasm, your continued commitment to our children and their learning, your amazing team work and your innovative and exciting classroom programmes. We are lucky to have you.

### **To our Home and School:**

Thank you for your hard work and continued support. We are richer (both financially and culturally) for your contributions. Your fundraising efforts (with our communities support) generate real benefits for our children and our school. Keep your eyes open for a revamped junior playground - coming soon.

### **To our community:**

Thank you for all the things you do that support our school. From getting your children to school on time to paying your voluntary donation. A positive school culture depends on an engaged and supportive community.

### **To our children:**

Thank you for starting 2016 ready and eager to learn. We are really proud of our Khandallah School learners.

## **Board Elections**

In June the Board will be holding elections. The NZSTA (New Zealand School Trustees Association) has provided us with a theme for this year's election.

*The 2016 election theme is "Make a difference: Ki te whakapiki". Our challenge is to attract trustees with the right skills and to attract votes to put the right people in place. We aim to encourage potential candidates to think big about the difference they can make in the lives of kiwi children. - NZSTA*

Three of our current members, David Soper, Murray Waititi and Tanya Dunlop are coming to the end of their three year terms and in May, we will be calling for nominations from within our community to fill these positions.

In keeping with the NZSTA theme (and in order to fill the skill deficits left by our departing members), we are looking for nominees with skills in finance and accounting, policy review and legal expertise, human resources skills.

### **Does this sound like you?**

If you feel like you have any or all of these skills and the time and capacity to commit to our board, keep your eyes open for the nomination papers which will be distributed in May.

### **Information**

There is a leaflet, created by NZSTA (available from our reception) which provides information around what the role of trustee entails. You can find information about *our* board on the school website under the 'about us' tab.

## **New Policy - Dogs in School**

In light of recent incidents around our school and our responsibilities under the new Health and Safety at Work Act 2015, the board is in the process of introducing a policy around dogs in and around our school.

The Ministry of Education requires that schools adhere to the National Administration Guidelines (NAGs). NAG 5 states that each board of trustees is required to provide a safe physical and emotional environment for students and comply in full with any legislation currently in force or that may be developed to ensure the safety of students and employees.

We appreciate that dogs are an important part of life for many Khandallah School families, and as such, are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from school, we also acknowledge other families (and individuals) can find contact with dogs stressful, even frightening.

This policy will take into consideration the needs and expectations of all members of the Khandallah School community with an aim to minimising the risk of accident or injury to people or animals within the school grounds.

### **Policy Review**

We review our policies on a cycle to make sure that they are relevant and fit for purpose. Part of this process is an opportunity for all staff, management, Board and members of our community to contribute to the review.

We are currently reviewing our 'Drugs, Alcohol and Other Harmful Substances' policy. You will have received a link in this email with instructions and links to the policy review page. We would be really grateful if you could find the time to complete the review - it only takes about five minutes!