



Tātai ki te rangi

BOARD NEWS MAY 2016

HE WAKA EKE NOA -

all together, one canoe, no exception

Elections

Keep your eyes out for the 206 Board of Trustees election voting papers - coming to a mailbox near you soon! These voting papers and supporting information will either have already arrived or will be arriving over the next couple of days.

We are lucky enough to have had five candidates nominated in this round of elections. This level of interest in the governance of our school is really encouraging.

Outgoing members

We run staggered board elections at Khandallah School. This means that while each of our five board members have a term of three years; elections are run every eighteen months for either two or three positions on the board. This approach helps with strategic planning and continuity. Rachel Winter (Property Chair) and I (Esther Prall - Board Chair) are mid way through our three year terms (this is Rachel's second) and this cycle sees David Soper, Murray Waititi and Tanya Dunlop coming to the end of their three year tenure (six years for David).

We are really grateful to David, Murray and Tanya for their contributions to the board and to the school. Their expertise in policy review, finance and community engagement have been invaluable.

Choosing a candidate

The NZSTA (New Zealand School Trustees Association) has provided us with a theme and a directive 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

Included in the pack are short bios written by the candidates. Please read these carefully before you make your votes.

The deficits left by the departure of our outgoing members are in finance, policy review and community engagement.

The returns box is in the reception area off the school office. Votes can be posted but you may wish to avoid using postal services as late votes cannot be included in the count.

Voting closes at midday on June 3rd and the new board takes office on June 10th. Good luck to all the candidates!

New Policy - No Dogs on School Grounds

In light of recent incidents around our school and our responsibilities under the new Health and Safety at Work Act 2015, the board has introduced 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.

The new policy - which takes effect immediately states:

No Dogs on School Grounds

Dogs are not permitted on school grounds at any time. The only exceptions are for guide dogs, dogs being used during education programmes run by the school, or when the principal has given permission. Any stray dog at school will be reported to dog control and taken away so there is no danger to our students.

Signs will be installed at all entrances over the next week. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping our children safe.

Roll Growth

As part of their work with learning collectives in and around the Northern Suburbs, the Ministry of Education has made contact with our board to raise the issue of roll growth and enrolment zones.

Our proposed new build is one element of the Ministry's response to future proofing New Zealand schools to best meet the needs of their projected future communities.

As part of this strategic, regional planning, our board is being asked to consider an enrolment zone for Khandallah School.

The MOE has engaged us in this process and is supporting us in building a picture of what that zone would look like and what that will mean for our current whanau. Once we have gathered all the necessary information we will run consultation sessions with our community.

We appreciate that this may be a issue of concern for you and your whanau and we want to assure you that the board is committed to ensuring that all students currently enrolled will continue to have the right to attend Khandallah School for the duration of their primary schooling.