

Kia ora

It was a pleasure to meet so many of you at the family engagement evening on Monday 26 February. We have received some really positive feedback and we are looking at doing more family engagement evenings in terms two and three.

On Wednesday the school held a powhiri for children that have started in the past six months. Again, it was a good opportunity to welcome a number of new families to the school as well as formally open the modernised Kowhai (junior) block.

As a board over the past month we have been getting to know each other and understand our new roles. We also all attended governance training to ensure that we focus on the right areas and know the right questions to ask.

The following are some highlights from last night's board meeting.



Matua Alwyn officially opening the modernised Kowhai block with Anthony Taylor (BoT Property)

Home learning (homework) policy

The board is reviewing the school's home learning (homework) policy. We know this is an area that many parents are interested in and have views on. We therefore encourage you to provide feedback on the policy by 29 March.

To provide feedback, please go to: www.schooldocs.co.nz/Home/SchoolLogin.aspx. You will be asked for a username and password, these are: Username: khandallah, Password: kaukau.

Meet the board evening

The board are keen to get to know you more, outline our role and get your initial views on the direction of the school as outlined in the section on Strategic Engagement below. We are therefore holding a meet the board meeting at 6pm on Monday 9 April in the school staffroom and invite you to attend. The meeting will be followed by the next Home and School meeting at 7pm.

Building and playground update

Naylor Love, the building contractor for Kaukau Block development, have advised us that the completion date for the new building has been brought forward by a month to September this year. The demolition of the existing D Block is now planned to take place in term four, as is the building of the new playground. We will keep you updated over the coming months, especially as things become clearer around the new playground development.

As you may have noticed, additional artificial grass and the new 'whirly/spinning' piece of playground equipment (selected by children last year) has been installed on the bottom field next to the drop off zone. We have also been able to re-install some of the old playground equipment that was taken down as part of the Kaukau build and the Ministry of Education has outlined they no longer require. A big thank you to the Home and School for their donation to make this work happen – the area has and will be well used by many children.



Education changes

As you are no doubt aware, the new Government has removed National Standards and announced an ambitious three-year workplan for education. Details are still vague, but we do know many aspects of schooling as we know it will be under review including Tomorrow's Schools (introduced in 1989) and School Property and Learning Support. As a board we are closely following developments, especially those that may have an impact on Khandallah School.

The Minister of Education has also indicated the Labour party's proposal to provide state schools an additional \$150 per student per year instead of schools asking for parental donations will be considered in the 2018 Government Budget process. Any potential implementation will not take place until 2019 at the earliest. School donations are critical in running Khandallah School and go towards areas such as funding an additional teacher to keep class sizes down, chrome books and school resources. If the proposal goes ahead, we will ask school families for their views towards the end of the year as a change will have a fiscal impact for the school.

Strategic engagement

As I mentioned in the last update the board will be developing a new strategic plan and 3-5-year vision for the school this year. Parent views will be key in the development of the new vision and we are currently discussing the best way of capturing this information. At this stage we are looking at surveying parents in term two.

Over terms two and three we will be developing a new strategic plan for the school. As part of this we will proactively engage with you on your views. We strongly believe that a strategic plan must have community buy-in and reflect community views. We will be working hard to ensure that this is the case.

We always welcome your thoughts and feedback. You can contact us at bot@khandallah.school.nz

Shaun Twaddle (chair)

on behalf of the Khandallah School Board of Trustees