



Ellerslie School

EST 1877

"To be the best we can be."

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER

Term 3, 2024

WORD FROM THE PRESIDING MEMBER

Dipak Govind

Kia ora koutou, it's hard to believe we have passed the halfway mark of the school year and dare I say it feels a little like the summer break is coming – in a positive way! That said, we have some time to go and much to do. You will have had the opportunity to meet teachers and discuss your learner's progress in addition to receiving their mid-year report.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the teachers, support staff, school leaders and of course students and their families for the extra discretionary effort and continued progress we continue to see in academic achievement. It was particularly pleasing to see the school maintain high levels of overall achievement and in line with specific goals we have set in our strategic plan. Alongside 95% of all students making sufficient or accelerated progress at school, we have closed some of the achievement gaps that we have seen persist over recent years. We are ahead of the curve with regards to government's introduction of structured literacy and planning is underway for the new mathematics curriculum. We look forward to continued success in this area.

Carrying on with that theme of strategic goals, we continue to make progress in the cultural space with the engagement of a female kapa haka tutor and also an older student leader from the College to further support this kaupapa. We are a very culturally diverse school, and this diversity continues to grow with our school role growing

rapidly in recent months. Though we are making progress in this area it is fair to say there is always more we can do because in many cases we simply don't know what we don't know. It is a journey of course and we encourage our community to share their culture to help us all understand and grow together.

PROPERTY UPDATE

Though we have not made the progress we all would have liked with our large strategic projects of a new classroom block and replacement school hall we continue to agitate fiercely in this space. With Government priority and funding changes recently announced the Board and school leadership have continued to engage with the Ministry of Education (MoE) on the matter of the school hall in particular. A multi-purpose focus group made of up school leadership as well as experts from within our school community has been established to help drive this. We have met with MoE earlier this month to continue to press our case and concerns given the growth we are seeing in the area. However, despite assurances from MoE the reality is that our place in the queue of projects will not likely be revised until 2025. With a focus on what we can do rather than what we can't, we are looking to progress to the concept design stage at least to keep things moving and be at the ready for when we are reassessed by the MoE.

DONATIONS

A sincere thanks to our families who generously support Ellerslie School through their payment of the school donation. The reality is that funding provided by government sources only really

provides for basic teaching and learning requirements. As a school, we strive to offer more than the basics and in the main these opportunities and resources for learning and development are only possible due to our parents' and caregiver's generous support. We appreciate your support of the school. We know though, that some families may not be able to support the school by paying the donation in full, so we are grateful for instalments or any contribution you are able to make via Kindo or the school office. School donations go towards:

- Purchasing new **structured literacy books** right across the school, a very important resource that is required to support our new reading approach.
- Funding **Teacher Aide salaries**, they are an incredible group of staff, working in our learning environments who make a difference to your children, everyday.
- Ensuring we have enough **curriculum and extracurricular resources** so we can provide opportunities to learn and foster your children's passions and interests.
- Supporting **school trips, sports events and activities**, making sure everyone gets to attend these exciting experiences.

ELLERSLIE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Since the last Board comms, we have had a number of changes to our Board. We have welcomed Lou Dennis and Ruth Goldwater to our group with the following re-jig of portfolios:

- Presiding Member/Personnel: Dipak Govind
- Principal: Nick Butler
- Staff Trustee/Health and Safety: Shelley Bardsley
- Finance and Fundraising: Ruth Goldwater
- Cultural Responsiveness: Lou Dennis
- Policies and Procedures: Steph Bond
- Property: Corrina Gibbons-Hurunui and James Dench

A reminder that Board hui are public meetings. If you wish to raise an item at this meeting, please contact the Presiding Member, Dipak Govind prior to the meeting: dipakgbot@ellerslie.school.nz. The next Ellerslie School Board of Trustees meeting is 6.30pm, Monday 16 September 2024 in the school staffroom.

ACCESSING INFORMATION

This is a good opportunity to remind parents and caregivers that important school information can be found on the school website: www.ellerslie.school.nz. Here you will be able to information such as:

- *School's Strategic and Annual Plans*
- *Policies and Procedures*
- *School Organisation - Staff*
- *School Calendar*
- *Term dates for 2024 and 2025*
- *School Uniform*

Reflections of the year so far

We commenced the year with an excellent cultural day in Term 1 followed by Matariki observance in Term 2 where we were able to share and celebrate some of that diversity mentioned above. As the year has gone on, we have managed a full school sports programme including the introduction of Year 5&6 Tuesday sports exchanges. We have had record number of after school soccer and netball teams participating in local competitions alongside various Zones sports events. We continue to offer a full music programme involving many students playing the marimba, ukulele or in one of two school rock bands. As we look forward to the remainder of the year, we have Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori coming up as well as end of term learning celebrations and of course the highly anticipated Term 4 school discos – be careful Mr Butler doesn't take over the dance floor in one of his famed get-ups!

Take care and enjoy the upcoming school holidays before we charge into term 4 and summer.
Ngā mihi

