

Kia ora koutou katoa, Talofa, Malo e lelei, Fakalofa lahi atu, Min Glar Bar, Annyong ha seyo, Ni Hao, Salam, Enedemin, Alachehu, Vanakkam, Namaste, Bonjour, Tungjatjeta, Gia sas, Pozdrav, God dag, Greetings.

Can you believe that Term One is now complete? This newsletter aims to share some of the highlights from the Board of Trustees' (BOT) perspective. As a BOT, we are very pleased with how the school year has started and how the school is currently performing. The role is 447 to date and the Principal and Senior Leadership Team have worked hard in order to get the school ready for this year. This has involved employing 12 new teachers in the school. It has been great to see and hear about how well the entire staff is bonding and developing in order to provide our children with the best education possible. The entire team recently engaged in a team building exercise by spending a Saturday kayaking down the Puhoi River.

Some of you may be wondering just what the BOT does. We formally meet twice every school term and the aim is to provide governance around student achievement, policy, financial and property management and to support the Principal and staff within the school. We also monitor and critique student achievement and develop the Annual School Charter in collaboration with school staff, which sets the strategic direction for the year.

Our BOT is a diverse group, with a skill set that covers finance, property management, business ownership, academia and pastoral care. This also includes having trustees that are representative of the different ethnicities within our school. One example of how the BOT exercises its role is to develop new initiatives within the school. This year we have provided a scholarship that all staff can apply for. The aim is that any staff member can identify a particular educational area that they want to explore, research or develop, with the overall purpose being that it will enhance the general learning within the school. We are currently awaiting the first applications.

At a recent BOT meeting we reviewed the end of year achievement data for 2017.

	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>	<b>Maths</b>
<b>% of Students At or Above the National Standard at the end of 2017</b>	83%	81%	79%

The BOT was pleased with where the students were at and new goals were set for this coming year. As a BOT we are heartened that student achievement is an area that is a high priority for the school.

For those students that are not achieving at the expected curriculum levels, the school is specifically aware of these students and seeks to customise learning programs to support both individual and group needs. It is encouraging that most students make considerable progress throughout the year. As a school we

believe every child matters and that they will not be left behind in terms of their learning.

We have four key strategic goals in our Charter for 2018

1. To ensure all of our students are achieving at the appropriate curriculum level, for their age, across all curriculum areas.
2. Be inclusive of the needs of all students with particular focus on achievement of our Māori and Pasifika, Special Needs and Gifted and Talented.
3. Increase students' opportunities to engage in learning with the NZC through 21<sup>st</sup> learning strategies.
4. Provide safe, attractive functional buildings and grounds that promote the vision and goals of the school including a plan for future growth.

The Board, senior leadership and staff review and report on these goals regularly and annually to the Ministry of Education. We will report to our community next term on our progress towards these goals.

A major piece of news is that the BOT has agreed, in principle, to sell a piece of surplus land to Hobsonville Land Company (HLC). This has been a long process of engagement with HLC and the Ministry of Education. We don't expect to finalise the sale for another few years. This however gives the school and the BOT the ability to forward plan for the ever growing needs of the school. We are in an exciting phase as we begin to think about the increasing needs of our school community.

As a BOT we thank you for your continuing support.

No reira, Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou mo to tautoko.

Dr Matthew Shepherd  
On Behalf of the Northcote Intermediate Board of Trustees