

29 June 2021

Nga mihi nui kia koutou



## **A message from the Board of Trustees - your opportunity to become involved.**

Tenā koutou e te hapori ā tātou kura. Greetings to our school community

It's wonderful to have the opportunity to update you on a couple of things that the Board are working through at the moment. Firstly, let's acknowledge that as things unfolded in Wellington due to COVID that we still live in somewhat uncertain times and it can cause stress and anxiety for everyone at home and at school. This tests our ability to cope and bounce back. That's why the collective wellbeing of the school community is at the top of our list of priorities. Good learning doesn't occur unless whānau, teachers, school leaders and staff and most importantly, our beautiful kids are travelling well.

The rebuild and remediation of the school is moving apace and our subcommittee of Kate Helem, Jono Coote, Johnny McFarlane and Pene are using all of their skills, knowledge and experience to get our school into the best position possible. We are finalising a communications plan for this and once that's launched you'll all be updated. I am so grateful to have absolute professionals in this field as part of our board doing this for us.

That segues nicely to the next topic. Board elections are coming up next year and prior to the last elections a small number of people were co-opted onto the Board as a succession planning exercise. Our current group have skills, knowledge and experience in the fields of law, government, education, ICT, finance, architecture, project management, cultural competency and community engagement. We'd like to give those of you who are considering standing for the Board next year the opportunity to apply for up to three co-opted positions for the remainder of the current term. Please apply by Monday 12th July to [office@paparoastreet.school.nz](mailto:office@paparoastreet.school.nz) It's also important to note that co-option is not a guarantee of election. There are no guarantees at all in this process.

We are looking for people from diverse backgrounds with different life experiences but who can work well with other people to come to the best outcomes for everyone in the school community – kids, staff and whānau. It's no accident that our theme for 2021 is belonging or tūrangawaewae (the place where I plant my feet – my belonging place). One of the key drivers of wellbeing is feeling like you belong somewhere and are accepted for who you are. Our school demography is changing and we have an increasing number of whānau who have either come to live in Aotearoa or whose parents or grandparents migrated here. Te Reo and Tikanga Māori now has an important place in our kura (school). We will have staff and whānau that are part of the rainbow community and we'll have kids that will be part of that community. We'll have parents on their own and we'll have whānau who own their own businesses in multiple different industries and fields. There are those of you that have views that challenge how the school does things and those of you that absolutely agree with how the school does things – we can all agree that learning in New Zealand now looks wildly different to what we grew up on in the 70s, 80s and 90s.

Please send in a two pager outlining why you'd like the opportunity and what skills you'll bring. Have a look on the school website for the Board strategy and see where we're headed. If that's a bit of you then please apply. The Board will consider the applications and will advise the future co-opted members along with the hapori kura (school community).

As we move towards Matāriki, there are lots of great resources about what this period of time means and the school is holding a wonderful whanau event on 8 July. Ka kite terā – see you then!