



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As the term draws to an end, the Board of Trustees would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a well-deserved, restful and happy holiday. We would also like to briefly update you on the key areas of focus for the Board over recent months.

First, we have been delighted to welcome two newcomers to the Board following the elections – David Savage and Duncan Didsbury. Both David and Duncan have very quickly come up to speed on Board governance and what's important for our school, adding invaluable skills and viewpoints.

Our first task as a Board was to allocate portfolios and responsibilities. These are:

- Jane Cooper – Board Chair and Property
- Duncan Didsbury – Finance
- Rusty Donworth – Fundraising
- Dorreen McKenzie – Staff Representative
- David Savage – Human Resources
- Belinda Wells – Communications

The Board calls on outside expertise from time to time to advise on specific issues and projects. We are delighted that Matt Bell, a previous Trustee, has agreed to assist with overseeing the upcoming replacement building project (outlined further below).

Achievement results reporting

The Board has recently received the results of some of our key areas of learning – reading, writing and maths. We are transitioning from the now obsolete National Standards to our own measures – which are directly related to the New Zealand curriculum levels.

The Board is satisfied our results are positive and in line with national result trends and are looking to meet the school targets for the year end. We are very confident our Principal and senior staff have an excellent view on areas for improvement and do everything possible to support staff and children to get the very best learning outcomes possible. We are seeking regular and specific updates from staff on ways to continuously improve.

New Build

As advised in our Term 1 update, we are working hard on getting the new classroom block underway. By way of reminder, this block is a replacement for the existing senior block that is beyond repair and will be demolished or removed once the replacement building is complete. [See April Board update for more detailed outline of project.]

The Ministry of Education project manager assigned to us is working very hard to complete designs, working alongside the Board and senior staff to ensure it suits our own community, site, environment, curriculum and way of working. Board and staff have spent time visiting other schools to see their new classrooms and gather ideas.

Current focus is on interior spaces. We can only say that there are such stunning options available it won't be an easy task! We assure you however, that children progressing to those classrooms will be fortunate indeed.

Building will commence next year. We will communicate details with you as soon as designs are complete.

Looking ahead

As we head rapidly towards 2020, the Board can express great confidence in Patrice to correctly allocate staff and pupils across our classrooms. We receive funding for teachers based on student numbers and it is over to our school as to how we employ and distribute staff.

Patrice aims to achieve class numbers as low as possible, which is quite a creative process when some year groups are smaller than others. This year it has been achieved through evenly spreading children across two year groups per class. We look forward to further details later this year on class makeup for 2020.

The Board continues to monitor roll growth and is keeping well informed on developments such as the retirement home, new medical centre, new subdivisions and other activity that might impact on our town and roll. Strict zoning of our school will continue indefinitely.

Kind regards,

Jane Cooper
Chairperson, Greytown School Board of Trustees