

Around the table

Update from Titirangi School's Board of Trustees

Kia ora!

We were delighted to welcome Karla Brennan, Joanne McGregor and Rachele Watson to the Board of Trustees following the May elections. Fresh thinking is always great, and with returning members Jamie Gleeson, Melanie Bennett and myself, we are delighted to have a combination of experience, professional skills, and most importantly, the best interests of all children in the school at heart.



A great deal of 'Business as Usual' work takes place around the board table in regards to our core work of policy, admin and budget, but we look forward to hearing from teachers about the inspirational variety of work they are doing. For example, in October we learned about the ['Pause Breathe Smile'](#) programme that is being rolled out to help improve wellbeing, and it looks great.

Thank you to the hard working PTA, who delivered a great Quiz Night, and to the Gala Team which put its heart and soul into the annual gala - one of the highlights on our own family's calendar, a fun day out, and a hugely important fundraiser for the school.

Thanks for this opportunity to update you on some of our work ahead of the busy Christmas period.

Yours sincerely,

Zoe Hawkins
Chairperson
Titirangi School Board of Trustees

Strategic Planning 2020-2023

What is success for our school?

This is the time of the year that the school starts to prepare its charter and strategic plan for the coming three years. The strategic planning process spans around six months with the entire school community having the opportunity to provide input in one way or another. (If you have completed a school survey this year, you have contributed to the strategic plan!)

As a board, our job is to supporting our principal and staff in developing a robust plan that aims to meet the needs of all learners. Then in the future, this plan guides all decision making - ensuring we are all working towards a shared vision.

In 2020 and beyond Titirangi School will continue to be responsive to what each child needs, embedding great practice and expertise.

It will also embrace some exciting new directions. Some of the focus areas that the school is exploring include:

- Developing a problem-solving approach to learning, in particular in relation to mathematics, where pupils work together to solve complex real-life problems.
- Implementing the digital curriculum, an area of professional development that is well underway with the guidance of Mel McCorquindale and Hilary Peterson.
- Introducing a Te Reo pilot programme, with Te Kawerau a Maki. An introductory session has been revelatory in terms of understanding Titirangi's local stories and Māori history. In addition, a great number of families have confirmed they would like to participate in Te Reo Whanau, launched in September. We are also deepening our school's knowledge of Tiriti o Waitangi.
- We have applied for and soon expect to hear that we have successfully met the requirements to become signatories to the Code of Practice in relation to care of International Students. This will mean we can begin to welcome international students to Titirangi School, which is a great opportunity for a wide range of reasons. In conjunction with this, an ESOL teacher will be recruited to provide **support for these** students in their early steps with us.
- Implementation of the Pause Breathe Smile programme in some parts of the school has seen huge benefits in terms of improving focus and attention for better learning, increasing calm and student well being, and enhancing self-awareness and pro-social behaviour. Assessment of non core subjects such as science, health and technology. This means understanding what assessment of these learning areas looks like in our school, which skills we think are important, understanding what each child is achieving, and knowing how our children are tracking.

The plan will be drafted, reviewed, and submitted to the Ministry of Education in March 2020.

Property and Buildings

Getting on with building upgrades

We are blessed with a character filled, heritage school that is very special and much loved.

Many wonderful memories are created here, but when it comes to a school such as ours there is much more involved in maintenance and upgrade of buildings.

With that of mind, and with specialist expertise from project managers and architects, the school is preparing a package of projects.

The first priority relates to health and safety, in particular:

- replacing the fire escape servicing Rooms 9, 10 and the staffroom
- modernising Rooms 11 and 12 and their connecting bathroom and cloakroom

We are also seeking to complete the following as part of this package:

- upgrades to Rooms 4, 5 and 6 - including flooring, wall finishes, storage, and heating
- upgrading the bathrooms next to Room 15

We are requesting funding that is in addition to the '5YA' budget granted every five years from the Ministry of Education to enable what we believe are essential works to move forward.

Designs will be completed in the coming weeks, funding will be requested from the Ministry of Education, and the project will go out to tender.

Please keep an eye on the school newsletter for updates.



Pictured above from left to right: Back row: Thomas Skelton (Octa Project Management), Karla Brennan (School Trustee). Rachelle Watson (Staff Trustee), Glenn Bodger (Architect). Front row: Brigette Helwes (Acting Principal), John O'Donnell (Octa), Joanne McGregor (School Trustee)

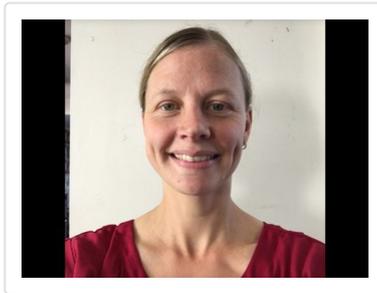
Your Trustees

The [Board of Trustees](#) is elected by the school every three years to govern the school. Your Trustees are:



Karla Brennan

Karla has extensive experience in operational and strategic management through her role as National Restaurant Solutions Group Manager for McDonalds NZ. She has two girls at Titirangi School and has lived in Titirangi for ten years.



Rachelle Watson, Staff Trustee

Rachelle wanted to be a teacher since she started school aged five, and entered the profession in 2010. She has taught in New Zealand and Australia, and moved to the area in 2018 with her husband and young son. She is keen to be involved in decision making to ensure our school is a great place to be for all the students who go here.



Joanne McGregor, Parent Trustee

Joanne McGregor is an environmental engineer, with two children at TPS. She is very pleased to be part of the new BoT, and to have the opportunity to contribute to the school in this capacity.



Zoe Hawkins, Board Chair

Zoe is a marketing-communications specialist with her own business, mostly working in the areas of marinas and the marine industry. She has three children who are very happy at Titirangi School and one at Glen Eden Intermediate. Zoe has been a trustee since 2012.



Mel Bennett, Trustee

Mel is a Chartered Accountant with her own tax and trust speciality practice. In addition she has experience working with the non-profit sector in a volunteer capacity. She has two young boys at school who have really thrived since starting. She is closely involved with the school community and utilises her finance and governance skills to provide a better education for our children.



Brigette Helwes, Acting Principal

Brigette is our Acting Principal. She has two adult children and is a young-at-heart grandmother with four delightful grand daughters. Her role is the delivery of professional leadership, focused on building and extending the school's vision and strategic goals with the aim of enhancing learning and teaching. She believes in the importance of engaging with the school community to achieve this outcome. She is passionate in having an expectation that all students will experience success.



Jamie Gleeson

Working with Microsoft, Jamie is constantly exposed to new and innovative ways that technology is influencing the way we live. He committed to contributing his skills and business acumen to Titirangi Primary School. Jamie has two children at Titirangi School.



Titirangi Primary School
ako tahi : learn together