

Around the table

Update from Titirangi School's Board of Trustees

Kia ora!

With the unprecedented times we are all finding ourselves in, the board is working alongside our principal and staff to keep pace with the ever changing Covid-19 situation. In terms of the school's response to the pandemic, the board extends its support to Julie and her leadership team and is confident that a well-considered approach is being undertaken. Julie remains our lead voice at this time, putting effective planning mechanisms in place and continuing to update the TPS community based on the latest Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education guidance.



The board's role is to work in partnership with the community, principal, teachers, support staff, and the government to ensure the best possible outcomes for all students. This way in which we do this may look different over the next while, but we continue to maintain a strong focus on supporting our children in their learning and wellbeing. This 'business as usual' approach is important, both during this period of outbreak and to place us in good stead once we come out the other side.

At the first meeting of each year the Board has a number of key functions to set the scene for the year ahead. This includes the important step of reviewing progress made in the previous year and signing off on strategic planning for the three years ahead. Key aspects of this assessment and planning phase are summarised below, along with an update on the property and building upgrades.

An administrative task also undertaken at the February meeting was the election of the board chair and deputy chair. After 8 years as board chair, Zoe Hawkins has stepped down from the role. As the new chair I would like to acknowledge the dedication and strong leadership that Zoe has provided, and her continued efforts as a Trustee. Thanks also to Karla Brennan who has taken on the deputy chair role, and to our other Trustees - Jamie Gleeson, Melanie Bennett, Zoe Hawkins, Rachelle Watson (Staff Trustee) and Julie Lynch (Principal) – for their ongoing commitment.

We have a special community centred around our kura, one that is very good at rallying together and supporting one another. Please keep safe, keep informed, and make the decisions you need to make for your own families.

Noho ora mai, stay well
Joanne McGregor
Chairperson
Titirangi School Board of Trustees

2019 Learning Progress

Children's progress is monitored and reviewed throughout the year, with the final annual results giving staff and board the ability to identify any areas for future focus. As has been the trend for a number of years, TPS continues to perform strongly across reading, writing, and maths, consistently sitting above national achievement levels.

An area of continued focus is closing the gender gap in writing. With this in mind, our principal and teachers continue to keep abreast of new research and evolving teaching methods around literacy and writing practice. Lisa Sparey, TPS's Literacy Leader will spearhead ongoing improvement in these areas.

Of significant benefit to TPS in 2020 is the appointment of Jacqui Stenson as our specialist Learning Support Co-ordinator. This newly created role provides increased learning support for our children, as well as to our teachers and whānau.

Strategic Planning 2020-2023

What is success for our school?

Our Charter sets out the strategic plan and vision for how we "Inspire every learner to thrive and succeed" at Titirangi Primary School.

The Strategic Plan guides all decision making and is broken into four visions for:

- **Ako Tahi** - how we learn together
- **Whanaungatanga** – relationships
- **Manaakitanga** - rights and responsibilities
- **Mahi Tahi** - collaboration

Towards the end of 2019 the school prepared its 2020 – 2023 charter and strategic plan. This guiding document has now been submitted to the Ministry of Education, and is available to view on the [website](#). There are some exciting and innovative aspects of that plan that we would like to share with you.

One is the creation of a [TPS local curriculum](#), to bring together future-focused pedagogy, learner agency, and digital technologies. In practice, this means creating a flexible learning environment that is responsive to the emerging world around us, while continuing to support a range of different learning styles. It also empowers our children to be actively involved in their

own learning, and to focus on capabilities that our community believes important - e.g. based on feedback from community surveys.

We are also excited about a set of programmes that will sit within the Whanaunatanga and Manaakitanga parts of our plan. This is where we focus on the relationships and connectedness within our school community, to both people and place, and the respect and care we extend to one another. This means a continued focus on celebrating our cultural diversity, focus on our school values, school-wide implementation of the [Pause Breathe Smile](#) well-being programme, and the creation of a new pro-social behaviours programme.

Property and Buildings

Getting on with building upgrades

This year we are fortunate to have access to multiple funding sources, with the biggest 'pot' continuing to be our 5YA' budget that the Ministry of Education grants every five years.

Plans to replace the fire escape servicing Rooms 9, 10 and the staffroom are progressing, as are those for modernising Rooms 11 and 12 and their connecting bathroom and cloakroom. There has been a strong response to the TPS Tender request, and the contractor selection will soon be undertaken. Please keep an eye on the school newsletter for updates on when these improvement works will take place.

Many of you will be aware that the Government recently announced a further release of property maintenance funds for all schools. Based on our school roll, TPS has been allocated a further \$316,701. These funds have been earmarked to further progress our 2018 – 2022 [TPS Property Vision](#), with a focus on the field rejuvenation. Should funding allow, options are also being considered to upgrade the junior playground.

Lastly, the Learning Support Coordinator role has allocated property funding so they have a suitable working space to support students, their parents, and whānau. This initiative is at a concept design phase, and will potentially also allow TPS to maximise space and improve flow within the office block.

Our school strives to create learners that are well rounded, connected, achievers, thinkers and respectful. The school is guided by Ako Tahī, Whanaungatanga, Manaakitanga and Mahi Tahī and will continue to reaffirm its commitment to these principles and to increased connections with the community. A planned review of values and learner profile will see the school working with stakeholders to ensure that our community and local context are reflected.

The connection between school and community will be increasingly important in 2020, and the board wishes to acknowledge the efforts that Julie and staff have been making this year to keep our community updated.

Your Trustees

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



Karla Brennan, Deputy Chair

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, Board Chair

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, Parent Trustee

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, Parent 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.



Julie Lynch, Principal

As Principal, Julie is committed to building strong partnerships between the school and the local community. As the leader of learning, and day to day manager of the school it is important that Julie enacts the board's strategic direction.



Jamie Gleeson, Parent Trustee

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