

28 October, 2015

Dear Parents

The hectic fourth term is underway, and as we head towards the end of the school year, the Board of Trustees is busy working behind the scenes. This letter gives you a snapshot of the key issues that we are currently working on.

#### Building modernisation programme

Tenders close this week for the main construction contract for the building modernisation and extension work that will be carried out in the Room 4, 5 and 6A (old library) block and for the internal upgrades of Rooms 6 and 7. We hope to see the successful contractor beginning work in early December. Construction work will continue through the summer holidays and Term 1 of next year.

The planned redevelopment meets the Ministry of Education's requirement for the Board to deliver a modern learning environment with its capital works funding. The new internal layout of the Room 4, 5 and 6A block will support, enhance and influence current teaching practice in the school. To this end, the Board encourages all parents to attend Toby Stokes' information session on November 12th. At this session, Toby will discuss with you how teaching and learning will look in 2016, in the context of the modernised teaching spaces, and answer any questions that you may have.

#### Hall update

Through the work of our small Hall Grants Team, the Board has now submitted major applications for funding to the NZ Lottery Grants Board (requesting \$245,000) and the Japan 1970 World Exposition Commemorative Fund (requesting 10,000,000 Japanese Yen). Both of these funds contributed to the original construction of the hall and it is hoped that they will support the remedial work required. It will be some months before the outcome of these applications is known. In the meantime, further application material is being prepared for other funds. In addition, early in 2016, a public community fund-raising campaign will be launched.

#### The Vulnerable Children Act 2014 and the Health and Safety At Work Act 2015

Many of you will be aware of the passing of these two pieces of legislation: the *Vulnerable Children Act 2014* and the *Health and Safety At Work Act 2015*. Each of these Acts have an impact on how Boards of Trustees operate. Our Board members are currently attending a range of training workshops being delivered by the Ministry of Education and the NZ School Trustees Association to ensure that we are fully informed of the implications of these Acts on our school.

Over the coming months, we expect to make a range of consequent changes to our existing policies and procedures. Some changes will be hardly visible to the school community (although you are always welcome to read through our policy documents) and some changes you will see. For example, you may notice when the Board and Principal start issuing safety messages to the school community with much greater frequency than has previously been the case. These messages will seek your compliance with a range of safety requirements when using the school grounds and when participating in school activities (both on-site and those that occur away from the school). Another example is that we expect to increase the number of situations in which parent volunteers are required to undergo police vetting. We hope that by understanding that there is a legislative context for these additional safety requirements, you will be happy to accept them.

### Parent survey – ready for you online right now

The promised annual Board of Trustees online parent survey is now live and ready for you to complete. To access the survey, please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QL9SQX3>. It should take you only a few minutes to complete. We invite all parents to complete the survey individually.

The Board is legally responsible and accountable for the school's performance. This survey is one of the measures that we use to assess our performance and ensure that we are operating in a way that achieves the best outcomes for the school.

### Our thanks to the PTA

The PTA is currently very busy preparing for the Matsuri Gala on Saturday 7 November and it is actively recruiting your help for that day. This is the biggest fund-raiser of the year and its success delivers a huge range of benefits to the school and all of our children. The Board is tremendously grateful for all of the time and effort that goes into this event, and thanks everyone involved. We particularly recognise the dedication of our PTA members, led by Nicky Stallworthy, in bringing this event together. We look forward to a great (and hopefully sunny!) event and hope you will show it your full support.

### Our thanks and best wishes to Amy Burgess

Amy Burgess has begun her maternity leave. This newsletter is the first opportunity we have had as a Board to formally thank Amy for all of the time and energy that she has given the school over the last seven years. Amy has been, and of course remains, a much loved member of our school community and we know that her bubbly presence around the school will be missed while she is on leave. We wish Amy and Nick all the best for the exciting time ahead, and we look forward to hearing of the safe arrival of their baby.

### Finally... congratulations!

The Board was delighted to hear that, for the second time this year, a Crofton Downs Primary School team has reached the national stage. The school's Tournament of the Minds Maths/Engineering Team (comprising seven Year 5 and 6 students) reached the National Final of the tournament. The Final was held in September and the team achieved third place overall. We feel tremendously proud of these children, and we congratulate the team on its outstanding result. Our thanks goes to Louise Gusterson for the time and effort she has put into supporting both the team and the event.

You are most welcome to contact me, or any other Board member, if you wish to discuss any of the above matters further. The contact details of Board members can be found in the School Directory, or can be obtained from the school office.

Yours sincerely



Tracy Woods

Chair, Board of Trustees

