

18 May, 2016

Dear Parents

Here is our Term 2 Board of Trustees newsletter, updating you on key issues that the Board is currently working on.

Hall Strengthening Project

We have progress! Engineers are hard at work on the final plans and we expect these at the end of this month. Geotechnical drilling to test the subsoil has been done with very positive results. A fire engineering report is also complete. The next key steps will include applying to the Wellington City Council for consent and seeking tender prices on the final design. Critical to all of this progress is the work of our newly formed Project Management Team.

The Project Management Team consists of four sector savvy school parents who are bringing their professional skills and experience to the project, free of charge. They have diverse roles in the construction industry and by managing the hall strengthening project together, they are not only saving us thousands of dollars but ensuring that all necessary steps will be covered effectively and efficiently. The team consists of Andrew Hemsley, Amelia Minty, Anthony Waters and Peter Affleck. We are confident that the project is in safe, experienced hands and the Board is extremely grateful for their expertise.

Of course, we are all desperately keen to get the hall back in use as soon as possible. As you know, our fundraising team has had tremendous success but, close as we are, we do not yet have all of the necessary funds in hand to meet the current cost estimate. Very soon, we will make our first (and hopefully only) appeal to you to help raise funds for the hall. Information flyers for the public funding appeal are being prepared now and will be distributed soon watch out for this information coming your way at the end of this month. Please be innovative and generous as you consider your response to the appeal. We really do need your help to bring the project to final fruition.

That said, on Thursday 2 June at 9.30am, we have a lovely opportunity to celebrate our fundraising success so far. Representatives of the Transpower Community Care Fund are coming to school to present their \$50,000 hall donation at a special assembly. More details of this will follow in Toby's newsletter, but we would warmly invite you all to attend that celebration if you are able to do so. Please put the date in your diary.

Classroom modernisation programme

The current phase of the building modernisation programme is drawing to a close, and we are now the proud and excited owners of a block of four beautiful modern classrooms and associated learning spaces, along with the tidily refurbished Rooms 6&7. The staff and children appear to be enjoying the new spaces that are already in use. We are looking forward to seeing the junior classes move into their new home later this month.



The Board would like to thank the staff, children and parents for their tolerance and good humour during the construction period. Working alongside a building site on a daily basis has been taxing at times, but productive learning has continued throughout the construction period and we are confident that the end product will be enjoyed for many years to come.

Board elections please be bothered to vote!

Nominations for Board of Trustee elections close at midday on Friday this week. Once nominations have closed, voting papers will be distributed by post and we urge you all to vote. It takes some deliberate effort to actually complete your voting paper and physically post it or hand deliver it back to school by the deadline, but as this is your opportunity to choose the parent representatives who steer the future direction of the school, we would encourage you to make that effort and exercise your democratic right to vote. Voter lethargy has been significant in the past and it would be great to see that change. In short: don't forget to vote!

Health and Safety

Over the last few months, the Board has been giving significant attention to health and safety considerations in preparation for the new legislation which took effect on 4 April. Some of our Board members have attended training seminars to ensure that we have a full understanding of the obligations of both the Board and the Principal under the new legislation. We are confident that all is in hand and that the school has sound policies and procedures in place. This includes the mandatory establishment of a Health and Safety Committee, headed by Dan Kay and comprising a representative group of staff members. Dan and his team are reporting the Board on a regular basis, and a regular review process is in place to ensure all policies and procedures stay current.

As part of meeting our obligations, parents can expect to receive regular reminders of key safety messages in Toby's newsletters in the future. We would like you to assist us by taking heed of these safety messages and understanding that they are part of our obligation to provide a safe environment for staff, children and anyone else on the school's premises. We also invite you to contribute positively to the school's health and safety systems by letting Toby know if you identify any hazards around our environment which may need to be addressed.

Thanks and congratulations

The Board is always proud of the work that our staff do across the school and would like to thank the staff for the time they committed to attending an international Philosophy for Children conference held in Wellington during the last term break. The Board also wishes to acknowledge the work of Louise Gusterson who took a key leadership role at this conference. Louise was a presenter (along with Toby) at the conference as well as an organiser, and she had particular responsibility for delivering the very successful Action Day (attended also by many past and present students) which was held at our school. Louise is rapidly becoming a respected leader in Philosophy for Children, and she has a key role in supporting not only our own staff but teachers in other Wellington schools too. Congratulations, Louise.

As always, please contact me if there is anything in this letter that you would like to discuss further. I can be reached on 0277159414 or by email at: [m cinnes.robyn@gmail.com](mailto:mcinnes.robyn@gmail.com)

Yours sincerely



Robyn McInnes

Chairperson, Board of Trustees

