

## Greenhithe School Board Newsletter Term 4 | 2022

Kia ora koutou e te whānau

It's almost the end of term 4! If you're anything like us, you're probably wondering where the year has gone. Well, we can't really help you there, but we can confirm that we're barreling towards the end of the year which means you are well overdue for a Board update from some new faces.

### **Ko wai tatou? | Who are we?**

It feels sensible to re-introduce your trustees given our recent election. Let's start with the basics - here's our roll call for the Greenhithe School Board.



Picture: Greenhithe School BoT - class of 2022

- Kathy Frame, Presiding Member
- Samantha Ebel-Brown, Deputy Presiding Member
- Greg Duff, Trustee (New member)
- Paul Steele, Trustee (New member)
- Reece Leggett, Trustee (New member)
- Tilly Harvey, Trustee (New member)
- Stephen Grady, Principal
- Zara Fletcher, Staff Representative

As a newly established board, we've spoken about the power of connection, and a strong desire for the community to feel connected to the school, its people, its leadership and its board. So in the spirit of building connection, each newsletter we'll dedicate some space to (re)introducing the team supporting Stephen and our exceptional kaiako (teachers). We all want Greenhithe School to be an inspiring place,

where tamariki learn to grow, feel connected and are inspired to embrace the opportunities that the school has to offer.

### **Spotlight: Greg Duff (3 year position)**

Let's start with the simple facts: Greg is a father of three (a boy 6, and two girls 4, 22 months), and a husband of one. By his own admission, this is enough.

A former secondary school educator, Greg is currently the Head of Education and Engagement for the Network for Learning (N4L) - a crown organisation delivering internet connectivity, cybersecurity and online safety resources to all NZ schools. Greg's got a solid background in, and passion for, education and experience in working with the Ministry of Education and school leaders to produce great outcomes for the sector.

Greg would like to have a hobby, but, as previously mentioned, he has 3 young kids, so they have hobbies instead.

### **Spotlight: Tilly Harvey (3 year position)**

Long term resident and mother of two boys in Years 1 and 3. Tilly has extensive experience in small to medium businesses through to large corporates (both here in Aotearoa, New Zealand and abroad) where she has held a variety of senior management roles. Tilly brings strong management and leadership to the board with experience in operations, procurement and project management.

Tilly is committed to the community and the Greenhithe Primary - not only serving on the school Board, she is also the Treasurer of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA).

But it ain't all work and school, Tilly's got greenfingers and loves spending time in the garden. She's also a talented musician, playing cello for a number of community orchestras and societies.

### **Ta tatou mahi | Our work**

We may only have formed on the 28 September, but we've already got down to work, reviewing school policies, finances, Greenhithe's local curriculum, as well as gaining a better understanding of the school's property plans and requirements.

It's fair to say that our initial experience has confirmed what many of us believed to be true; our school has been extremely well-managed - through extraordinary times. The school has exceptional leaders (throughout the staff) with a passion and strong desire not only to build on exceptional results, but to develop a connected community that's inclusive and inspires tamariki to fulfil their potential.

On behalf of the current board, we would like to acknowledge and thank Stephen, and all out-going members of the board. Your ability to successfully navigate the school through some truly extraordinary times and ensure academic success and financial stability has created a solid foundation for us to build from. For this, the Greenhithe School community can be really thankful - take a bow.

## **School Property Update**

We were excited to learn the developments to the school property plan, and while some may not have been as exciting as others (removal of damaged trees in the back carpark), we are very excited to see the redevelopment of Block 8 commence. This project will create an amazing teaching and learning space that will be a huge asset for the school. We anticipate the completion of this project by the end of March 2023 for use in term 2.

The term 3 holidays also saw the completion of a drainage project (to prevent future flooding), carpet installation in the library, roofing improvements and a fire system upgrade. Special mention to Stephen, who embraced his inner handyman, replacing tiles in the hall, kai pai - that's commitment!

## **Local Curriculum a win for the Te Takanga o Te Wā in Te Marautanga o Aotearoa**

We'd like to acknowledge Michelle Butler and Kelly Knowles for their mahi through the development and implementation of Greenhithe's local curriculum. In October, we were fortunate to be taken through the team's progress to date, where it was shared that Greenhithe Primary is leading and supporting other schools in this space. Progress was impressive, and clearly demonstrates whakaaratanga (initiative), and the school's commitment to connecting with the local stories, and the community as a whole. What was particularly pleasing was hearing how the current programme will support our ability to integrate Te Takanga o Te Wā in Te Marautanga o Aotearoa and Aotearoa New Zealand's histories into our curriculum when it's released next year. A great display of kairangatira (excellence) and embodiment of the school values in action - ka mau te wehi!

## **That's a wrap...**

In the coming weeks and months you'll hear more from the board, about the school's strategic plan, updates from sub-committees, as well as opportunities to build stronger connections so that your voice is represented in matters impacting our school community.

The new Board of 2022 have picked up the mantle, watch this space.

## **Hei konā mai (Goodbye for now)**

The Greenhithe School Board

*If you want to know more about us and what we do as a Board - visit - <https://www.greenhithe.school.nz/bot/>*