

## Greenhithe School Board Newsletter Term 2 | 2023

### **Our Vision**

*Our children grow to be capable, balanced, confident learners who embrace new experiences and opportunities.  
Kia tipu kaha ai a mātou tamariki i raro i ngā manaakitanga hōu o ngā wheako me ngā angitu hei ākongā tau hei ākongā maia*

### **Kia ora koutou e te whānau!**

Confession: This email was meant to be with you in term 1 - our apologies for the delay in getting an update to you all.

While this newsletter may be slow to release - it's not through lack of activity. Term one's thrown some challenges to the school community, including a national state of emergency (Cyclone Gabrielle), a national teaching strike, a ministry rebuild and some disappointing vandalism all continuing to keep the school and board active.

On top of this, as a board we've been reviewing school policies, participating in our Kahui Ako Stewardship Group, learning more about Hautū - a self review framework for boards to assess the school's cultural responsiveness and celebrating the success of our students' Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT) results.

Whether planned or unplanned, we've had an active first term!

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

Last newsletter we took time to introduce you to Greg Duff and Tilly Harvey - two of our new Board members. We're continuing this theme, shining a light on another two new members.

#### **Spotlight: Reece Leggett (3 years)**

Father of three, husband to Charlotte - and still standing. Reece has one child at Greenhithe School with two more soon to follow. That, plus the fact that he's in his first year of a three year term means he committed to supporting our school for the foreseeable future. By day, Reece is in-house counsel at a large accounting firm - which is a fancy way of saying he's more than capable of leading our Policy Sub Committee. Reece understands the law and is committed to getting the details right.

Shout out to wife Charlotte, who is the Secretary of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Good people all round.

#### **Spotlight: Paul Steele (18 months)**

Originally from the UK, Paul saw the light years ago, setting roots in Aotearoa, New Zealand. Father of three, and husband to Claire, Paul is a Director, Industrial & Logistics at CBRE, where he specialises in commercial property services. Testament to the board's keen ability to spot talent, Paul's become a key member of - you guessed it - the property subcommittee and has been supporting Stephen as they lead through the raft of property updates to the school.

Not only offering his expertise to the board, Paul is doing his countrymen proud coaching a local boys football team. And not to be outdone by the Leggetts, the Steeles are also a double act with wife Claire a member of the PTA, proving they are as solid as the name suggests.

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

We were excited by the school's commitment to the [Mitey programme](#) - as this demonstrates our commitment to Mental health and well-being for our tamariki. The programme will support an evidence based approach and commitment to mental health education. It's a great journey to be on with our staff participating in professional development through term 1. Parents who attended the Cybersafety evening on the 30 March were also provided a glimpse into the programme, with Michelle Butler and team sharing our journey and how the programme is supporting [Greenhithe School's vision](#).

Also, at that event, Graeme Mueller (Chief Executive, NZ Tech) spoke about some of the challenges facing parents as they navigate raising kids in a digital age. Graeme produced some [scary facts](#) with some basic 'road rules' that were well worth hearing. We also had Greg Duff (Board member) provide an overview of the school's [online safety and security settings](#) that are keeping our tamariki safe while on the school's network.

Mental health, well-being and online safety are a community effort we're all committed to. We really encourage parents to attend these sessions when they come up - they're an invaluable opportunity to see the school in action, to learn more about your children's learning environment, and connect with the school.

### **Progressive Achievement Tests (PATs) results exemplify the work of our teachers!**

As a board we had the pleasure of reviewing the schools Term 1, PAT results. The PATs assess Years 4-6 students' Mathematics and Reading Comprehension. It made for great reading - here's two highlights:

1. In Maths, across all year groups Greenhithe students consistently perform above the national average.
2. In Reading, an average of 89% students across the three year levels performed at or above expectation; with over 30% (average) performing above expectations (well above the national averages)

It made for great reading and, considering the disruptive nature of this (and previous) years, these are results our staff, community, and tamariki should be really pleased with - thanks team!

### **School Property Update**

We were fortunate not to sustain much damage following Cyclone Gabrielle. The redevelopment of Block 8 continues, and has thrown a number of challenges our way. The block's cladding is all but complete, but the building has required additional pile replacement and damage to the ceiling materials means it now requires a reroof. Damage to the property was sustained following vandals entering the school site during

the term break, resulting in significant damage. In this instance, the perpetrators have been identified by local police and are being referred to Youth Aid.

We have also seen our bell system damaged as vandals attempted to rip them from the wall. We have caged the speakers, and the school has CCTV in operation, but we do ask that locals keep an eye out for suspicious activity and report anything concerning through to the police or to the school directly.

We have work underway on the school's drainage and are in the planning stages of some new and exciting projects to be announced later in the year.

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

We'd like to acknowledge the disruption caused by the events of term one, namely Cyclone Gabrielle and the sector strike action. Both events placed significant strain on the community as a whole, requiring staff, board members and families to act and respond to an evolving situation. Weather events can be disruptive and unpredictable. And while equally disruptive and unpredictable, we support our staff's right to participate in a democratic process to advocate for better pay and working conditions. In these situations, information from the Ministry of Education is not always readily available, as a board we are continuing to put structures in place to ensure timely communication and updates are made available to whanau. We're committed to learning through these challenges, and will continue to work as a team to ensure the community is informed as soon as possible.

That's all for now, but keep an eye out for future updates. We'll aim to have termly updates out for your reading pleasure. Have anything specific you want to hear about? Let one of the team know, or fire a query through to the school and we'll add it to the list.

### **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/>*