

Greenhithe School Board Newsletter Term 3 | 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!

This week marks the end of another successful school term. And, as parents, you're probably wondering where the time went as the weeks flew by. For our staff, we're sure they are all looking forward to some time to relax, unwind and regroup once that bell rings at 3pm Friday. It's been another massive term, and as a board, as well as members of the community, we'd like to thank the Greenhithe staff for their effort and dedication to make this another successful term.

Providing balance is important to the vision of Greenhithe's education - and there was certainly something in term 3 for everyone. Between working around building works, school productions, school trips, mixed in with plenty of academic activity, students were presented with plenty of opportunities and new learning experiences throughout the term. Mid year results illustrate that students are experiencing success at above average rates in reading (84.4%), writing (76.6%) and maths (85.5%), but we're not resting there- and have plans to grow these results (nb: there's still half a year of excellent teaching still to be delivered).

As always, the board continues to be amazed with the spirit that our kaiako, ākongā and local whānau undertake new challenges to support our tamariki. As the saying goes - it takes a village to raise a child, so much thanks also to the 'village' of Greenhithe.

Ko wai tatou? | Who are we?

In previous newsletters we've shone the light on some of the newcomers to the Greenhithe Board. Now it's time to reintroduce you to a couple of our more experienced members.

Spotlight: Kathy Frame (18 months)

Kathy holds the distinguished position of Presiding Member of Greenhithe School Board of Trustees. A role that involves cat-herding and a natural affinity to timekeeping. Fortunately, Kathy's got skills in this area, with a background in Programme and Project Management that comes with a raft of qualifications and acronyms to boot; all of which means she manages Board meetings with military precision. A leader in her worklife, Kathy is a longstanding board member whose experience has helped shape school policy, manage financial stability and ensure that time is always on our side.

As well as being a dedicated mum and wife, Kathy also enjoys a good beach trip - especially if said beach involves a plane ride, warm weather and a blank calendar.

Spotlight: Samantha Ebel-Brown (18 months)

Sam brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to Greenhithe School AND Albany Junior High School Board. Sam has a background in Interior Design, owning and running her own business, she's not only great with property matters, she's also good with the books, and chairs the finance committee. Sam brings endless positivity to the table (and occasionally baking, if we're lucky), she is passionate about supporting the wider Greenhithe Community.

Outside of work, board commitments and just generally being creative, Sam's married to Michael with two kids attending AJHS. In her spare time, she's discovered a passion for F1, and enjoys nothing more than a coffee in hand, watching cars going faster than they should to get revved up for the day.

Ta tatou mahi | Our work - your chance to join us...

Ēhara tāku toa i te toa takitahi, ēngari he toa takitini | My valour is not that of the individual but that of the multitudes

By now you will be aware that there's an important upcoming election with notification out earlier in the week that there are mid-term parent elections for 3 board vacancies. The election process is being handled externally by CES on the school's behalf.

As outlined in the communication, the key dates to note are:

- **Friday 22 September, 2023:** Nomination papers issued to the community via email (or if no email via post)
- **Wednesday 11 October, 2023:** Nominations close
- **Wednesday 15 November, 2023:** Election day

As a board, we have the responsibility to ensure that all students at school are achieving. This extends to making sure that the principal/staff are supported and resourced to achieve high-quality teaching and learning to all learners within our community. It's an important role that deserves to have diverse voices and perspectives heard at the table. If you've ever wondered about joining the board, been curious about supporting the school's development, or questioned why things are done a certain way then reach out to a current board member to discuss, come along to a board meeting and observe or simply step up and nominate yourself on September 22.

Sure, there's another election that seems to be taking the limelight, but this one puts you in a position to make a direct positive impact on our kids' education.

Literacy Update

In August, the Board was presented with results and information regarding literacy achievement at Greenhithe. 86% of Greenhithe students are at or exceeding at the mid year assessment point, and our staff have set the target of growing this achievement to 93%. Literacy is a hot topic in the news media but early reporting indicates that Greenhithe students are performing well above national benchmarks.

At Greenhithe School we have been using a specific phonics programme with years 0-3 classes for the last four years. Yolanda Sorryl's Phonics Programme, uses the 'Science of Reading' that combines a structured approach to phonics while ensuring students have an understanding of *what* they are reading also. The board was presented with the results of recent phonics assessments which illustrate the success this programme is having.

Literacy continues to be an area of Professional Learning and Development for all staff with the school utilising MoE funding to engage Vision Education to provide expert support and guidance to enhance literacy practice. PLD focuses on best teaching practices, curriculum integration, and targeted interventions, such as Accelerated Learning Groups.

Have questions about Greenhithe's literacy practices? We'd encourage you to reach out to the school leadership directly via Stephen Grady, Michelle Butler or Kelly Knowles.

School Property Update

Building work is wrapping up and while it hasn't all been plain sailing, I think we can all agree that with scaffolding down on block 8 - the school site is looking great. The refurbished building provides a fantastic, modern teaching and learning environment for our new entrant students and a platform for our staff to introduce new students into the school.

Well done to Stephen, Maeke, our contract partners Puddlefish Platt, Project Manager David Major of ASJ, the MoE and everyone who's supported (and/or tolerated) this build work.

That's a wrap...

That's all for now, job done for another term. Reach out to any of the board members if you've got questions or concerns. We're a nice approachable bunch...

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/>