

Greenhithe School Board Newsletter Term 4 | 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!

You blinked, didn't you? Yeah, us too; another lap around the sun is upon us and what a year it has been. Our first full post-pandemic year of teaching and learning has been a huge success. It has also left the majority of us limping towards the finish line.

Limping yes, but not before we donned our holiday attire, and got all festive at Greenhithe School's Summer Festival last week - and speaking of the sun, didn't it do well. Looming weather concerns were unfounded and all had an amazing time in great conditions. Not only is the event fun, it acts as a great community gathering that showcases our community's collective **Initiative** and the **Excellence** that exists amongst our tamariki. All performances were a showcase of planning and **Perseverance** and were a real treat for the Greenhithe community and whānau. Special shout out to the Kapa Haka, whose performance is always a showstopper.



Huge appreciation and thanks must go to the whole Greenhithe School staff, our incredibly supportive PTA and all of the stall and food truck providers. These events don't happen without a great deal of planning and commitment, so on behalf of the School board (and our students) thank you for your hard work.

Ko wai tatou? | Who are we?

Term four saw another school board election cycle which resulted in Kathy Frame (Presiding Member) and Samantha Ebel-Brown retaining their positions on the board. Which is great news, because both Kathy and Sam are fans of efficiency and their bios were written in the last newsletter (so you can read more about them [here](#)).

But the excitement does not end there. We also have welcomed Kelly Olsen onto the board for a 3 year term. Let's get to know Kelly.

Spotlight: Kelly Olsen

Kelly moved to Greenhithe last year and joins the board as an active member of the PTA. Kelly works part-time for an insurance consultancy company and is a mum of one and wife to Matt. A marketing and communications professional by trade, Kelly's passion and expertise will be a huge asset to the SLT, the board and wider community. In her spare time, Kelly enjoys baking, travelling and has recently gotten into kayaking (so fingers crossed for lots of sunshine and calm waters this summer).

- we'd say welcome Kelly, but you're already part of the whānau!

And in less spotlight-y news, we say farewell to Paul Steele and thank him for his service to the board. Paul's commitment to the board (and specifically the support he provided Stephen with property matters) has been hugely valued and appreciated.

The man of Steele is gone, but not forgotten.

(Nb: no Pauls were harmed fulfilling their boardly duties).

Speaking of Property Updates...

Here's two new upgrades that we're pretty proud of this year.



1. Waka Inspired Junior Playground (along Isobel Road)

In November, we were pleased to open our newest playground. The waka inspired playground is not only a place for kids to play and let off steam, it's also a nod to our local heritage.

As a board we're committed to the sensible allocation of funds and resources towards outcomes that have direct benefit for students and staff - as the mantra goes, happy ~~wife~~ kids, happy life. If you have any suggestions for further projects, reach out to a board member or shoulder tap Stephen on the gate, we're open to ideas.

2. Classroom Block Refresh

After a few setbacks it was great to see the opening of our classroom block that will welcome new students in 2024. It's safe to say the building threw us some curveballs, but the end result has been well worth the effort and a labour of love knowing that this will be a space that embraces new entrants in the Greenhithe community.

Given the special nature of the space, we were fortunate to open the building following Māori tikanga to breathe life into the building. Special thanks to Matua Mate Webb, Whaea Vicki and our very own Kapa Haka group.

Bring on the 2024 cohort!

A Year In Review

Annual Plan scorecard - how'd we do?

We started the year with three main goals:

1. Strategic Goal 1: Empowering Every Learner to Embrace Opportunities
2. Strategic Goal 2: Enhancing the capability of our teachers to innovate so every child can be successful
3. Strategic Goal 3: Building Connectedness across the school.

These three strategic goals equate to 9 initiatives and 16 action plans that deliver clarity for staff, enable management to steer direction, and governance (BOT) to track the progress, growth and success against these goals.

We've seen curriculum developed, communities engaged, the implementation of the Mitey Programme (supporting better mental health outcomes), high participation and collaboration across Kahui Ako (our community of learning), investment in professional learning and development across reading and writing (phonics) and the formalisation of our relationship with Te Kawerau O Maki to help build connectedness with heritage and community.

Frankly, it's impressive stuff. As a board we'd love to claim the success - but the truth is, our success is about school culture. We display PRIDE in all that we do, and that builds success.

Ultimately we're measured on results. And given the coalition government's renewed focus on literacy and numeracy, the board were pleased to review the end of year results in reading, writing and maths. Results see year on year improvement across all three measures and above the national averages.

These results reflect the passion, dedication and commitment of the staff. An impressive achievement and growth all round, hats off team.

We're seeing lots of growth and development across the board. How about you? It's not really our scorecard to rate, we'd love feedback and feedforward to keep building a school and community that

shapes capable, balanced, confident learners who embrace new experiences and opportunities. So let us know how we're doing - and keep your ideas flowing.

That's a wrap...

That's all for now, job done for another year. Reach out to any of the board members if you'd like to know more about the content covered in this newsletter or if you have any questions or feedback for ideas for the future.

To contact the Presiding Member (Chair), Kathy Frame, you can email kathyf@greenhithe.school.nz

Ngā mihi o te Kirihimete me te Tau Hou (Wishing you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!)

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/>