

Greenhithe School Board Newsletter Term 1 | 2024

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
ākonga maia*

Kia ora koutou e te whānau!

...And another one down, another one down, another term bites the dust. That's it, term 1 done and dusted. For those new to the community, or those old hands, congratulations - you have survived another term of lunch negotiations, endless games of 'School uniform; where are you?' and (hopefully) you've navigated the eternal summertime question of "is today a swimming day?" Well, for this, and other countless successes, we tip our hats to you for your contribution to a successful term.

As a school board, we're often charged with measuring success 'by the numbers' but that's only part of the story. We are fortunate to be part of the community and you can feel positive energy, and see our success every time we walk through the school gates and see the smiling faces of the staff and students. So as always, thank you to Stephen and his outstanding team for continuing to create a space and place that's welcoming and invites learning.

But what about the numbers I hear you say? Well, we've been reviewing these too. As a board, we've worked with the Senior Leadership Team to review strategic plans, alongside respective curriculum leaders to understand how students are tracking now, what initiatives are being implemented as well as confirming a work plan that supports development across all year levels and abilities. This term, we've reviewed literacy, numeracy, special education and the Mitey programme, making for some excellent reading. Special thanks to the unit heads who have produced well considered reports, and to our teachers who are maintaining and building upon some fantastic results.

Progressive Achievement Test (PAT) results

As part of our review, it was pleasing to review PAT results. In Maths, every year level at Greenhithe continues to track higher than the national average across all measures and year levels. Despite this achievement to date, we heard about initiatives to build on these results, which include staff professional development, teacher observations and a review of all online elearning tools employed throughout the curriculum.

Reading and reading comprehension follows a similar trend producing a high level of success across all measures and year levels. Acknowledging the importance that reading, and reading comprehension, play in literacy, communication and as indicators of future success, staff have been reviewing current teaching pedagogies. As a result, and in anticipation of curriculum changes, we were excited to learn that we will be piloting a 'Structured Literacy' approach to build on the phonics programme running from years 0-3. We look forward to the results of the pilot.

Acknowledging a Climate of Change

The education sector lives in a constant state of change and disruption, and while this is the norm, we want to acknowledge that the climate of change is particularly challenging at the moment. Changes of government bring change. Whether good, bad or otherwise, this change brings significant workload pressure, and uncertainty for those attempting to manage a state of norm. Currently, changes in literacy and numeracy are looming as are changes in assessment practices. The exact nature of these changes is yet to be defined. This is disruptive, but something the entire sector is experiencing. We want to acknowledge that (1) changes are afoot, and (2) our staff are equipped to meet these changes. We are committed to keeping you up to date with changes in the curriculum and will bring you updates through the year as more direction is provided by the Minister, the Ministerial Advisory Groups and the Ministry of Education.

Ko wai tatou? | Who are we?

Not only is change afoot in the curriculum, but there's also been a bit of movement in the Board with a new Presiding Member (Board Chair) elected. Congratulations to Samantha (Sam) Ebel-Brown for stepping up and taking on this role. Sam is a longstanding member of the Board, and has held the Deputy role for 2 years - which means she is well placed to carry the torch forward. Sam takes the role over from Kathy Frame, but Kathy hasn't gone far. Not only does she remain on the board, she has taken on the role of Deputy Chair - so the dynasty continues, just with a new flavour. Thanks to both Sam and Kathy for their ongoing leadership and commitment to the school community.

Kathy also steps in to chair the finance subcommittee and Kelly Olsen has picked up responsibility (alongside Stephen Grady) of the property subcommittee.

Special mention also to Reece Leggett, who alongside the SLT, worked to implement School Docs, ushering in a more streamlined, efficient and transparent policy management system. To learn more about School Docs go to:

SchoolDocs Website

<https://greenhithe.schooldocs.co.nz>

Username: greenhithe

Password: pride

Speaking of Property Updates... Pool Access (Decision Pending)

Last year the board received a number of enquiries about the use of the school pool over the summer period. We understand that access to the school pool is desirable but we do need to balance the responsibilities of the school, our health and safety obligations and the procedures required over a time period when staff are on leave.

The Senior Leadership Team is consulting with other schools that have a school pool to better understand our obligations and liability. We understand and acknowledge the community's interest in gaining access to the pool, as a board we have agreed to support a review and recommendation on whether it's possible

to provide access in future that meets our obligations for community safety. As a board we anticipate a recommendation paper later in the year.

Please note:

Schools do not receive central funding for school pools. Maintenance requirements are managed by the school so this needs to be factored into our considerations. We're aware of some maintenance that's required, including fixing the shower facility, so if there are any plumbers out there that are willing to lend a hand, please let us know.

Greenhithe featured in OMG Techs 'Future of Learning' showcase

Want an insight into the teaching practices at Greenhithe school? Well, look no further, recently the Ministry of Education commissioned research into the future of learning across three key areas: (1) Wellbeing, (2) Learning architecture and (3) Learner agency. OMG tech (a professional learning provider, known for innovative practice) selected Greenhithe School along with four other schools to showcase the work they do in these areas.

For each focus area there are case studies including staff and student voice. But don't just read about it here, follow the links on the Board page - I dare you not to smile while viewing: Wellbeing, Learning Architecture and Learner Agency.

Great recognition of the dedication and passion of our teachers, to be selected and showcased as part of this initiative.

That's a wrap...

As always, 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), Samantha Ebel-Brown, you can email samanthae@greenhithe.school.nz

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/>