

Greenhithe School Board Newsletter Year End | 2025

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!

“Change is the only constant in life,” said the Greek philosopher Heraclitus — and never has that felt truer than in 2025.

This year has been full of change. Curriculum updates are in full swing and remain a strong government focus. While recent legislative shifts have altered national requirements, our values, strategic direction, and relationships remain steadfast.

Our Commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi

You may be aware of the recent amendment to the Education and Training Act, which removes the requirement for school boards to ‘give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi’. While this may influence how some boards choose to govern, we want to reassure you nothing will change at our school.

Our Strategic Plan, developed with our community, sets out clear commitments to guide us. This includes giving effect to Te Tiriti within the school and wider community, and is the foundation of our strategic vision. While national policy settings may shift, our values, commitments and relationships do not.

Giving effect to Te Tiriti is “business as usual” at Greenhithe. It is woven into our teaching, governance and daily interactions. Our staff, students and community can be confident that Te Tiriti continues to shape our vision and actions, regardless of external changes.

Our direction is grounded in the principles of partnership, participation and protection, expressed through our relationships with iwi and whānau, including our valued connection with Te Kawerau ā Maki. We remain steadfast in our strategic and annual aims to grow Te Ao Māori capability, uphold culturally sustaining practices, and ensure Māori knowledge, language and voice remain visible and valued across our kura.

Welcoming Our Principal / Tumuaki

This year, one of the Board’s most rewarding responsibilities was appointing a new principal. We were fortunate to attract a large number of high-calibre applicants, reflecting the strong reputation of our school and the wonderful community that is Greenhithe. Each candidate displayed excellence, passion and a deep commitment to leading high-performing schools.

In July (Term 3), we officially welcomed Andrea Clarke as our new Principal. A full pōwhiri was held — a beautiful ceremony and a powerful display of manaakitanga (respect) and kotahitanga (unity). We accepted Kaukapakapa School's wero, their heartfelt challenge, to embrace Andrea, uphold her mana and walk alongside her as she begins her journey with us.

Andrea expressed her appreciation for the occasion and Kaukapakapa School shared their pride in being part of the event, acknowledging the tikanga upheld throughout. Matua Webb and Whaea Vikki were proud of our staff and students for the respect shown before and during the pōwhiri. Parents also shared positive feedback about the day, reinforcing the strength of our community spirit.

A changing Board

This year marked the end of term for three of our six board positions in the triennial elections. We were delighted to receive eight nominations for three places — a fantastic turnout that reflects the strong interest in supporting the governance of our school.

We congratulate Reece Leggett and Greg Duff on their successful re-election, and warmly welcome Monica Wang from our parent community as a new member.

We also farewelled Tilly Harvey. While we are sad to see her step down, we are grateful that she will continue to support the Board as part of her final handover as we close out the year and prepare for the next.

We are fortunate to have such talent and dedication on our Board.

Teaching, learning and the new literacy and numeracy curriculum

Updates to the literacy and numeracy curriculum have been released throughout the year and our teachers have worked diligently to implement them.

The refreshed literacy curriculum, with its focus on oral language, writing and reading progressions, has been gradually introduced. Teachers have undergone training, applied new practices with students and engaged in peer reviews and management checks. Mathematics has followed the same pattern and we are proud of the hard work and results achieved so far.

In the absence of new Ministry of Education assessment tools (now due in 2026), interim reports have been developed. The Board extends its thanks to Andrea and her leadership team for producing clear and helpful guides on student progress.

We deeply appreciate the time and effort our teachers have committed to ensuring our students receive the best possible support during this period of change.

Community Engagement

We'd like to acknowledge some key community events this term:

- **New Entrant Evenings** A successful event introducing new whānau to our community. These evenings provide valuable information and reassurance for parents as their tamariki transition into school. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.
- **Kai and Kōrero Evening:** Attended by 75 parents, this evening helped our community understand the refreshed curriculum, covering both the “why” and the “how.”
- **Hui** - Our PRIDE values were highlighted at the Kai and Kōrero evening and continue to be celebrated in newsletters and at our junior, senior and full school hui.
- **Beats by Bingo (PTA event, August 2025):** A sold-out event that raised an incredible \$11,000 for the school.
- **Summer Festival:** a fun and festive event that culminates with our tamariki performing songs in front of all the gathered whānau. Thanks to the PTA for putting on this event for the school community, the teachers for all the efforts with our tamariki as they practised and to the parents who volunteered their time to help make it such a success.
- **Community Hui:** A hui with Josie and Te Kawerau ā Maki, sharing the journey of creating our school pepeha — a proud moment for our kura.

TE PEPEHA O GREENHITHE SCHOOL

Ko **Te Wao Nui ā Tiriwa** te Ngahere

Ko **Ōkahukura** te Awa

Ko **Te Wai Roa ō Kahu** te Moana

Ko **Tainui** te Waka

Ko **Tauhinu** te Rohe

Ko **Te Kawerau ā Maki** te Iwi

Ko **Greenhithe School** Te Kura

Around our school

This year, you may have noticed the replacement of the perimeter fence along Isobel and Greenhithe Road, as well as new fencing above the running track to keep our littlies safe. We’ve also invested in tidying and enhancing our grounds, making them more appealing and welcoming.

The PTA has been instrumental in supporting our kura, from pizza lunches and discos to helping with the school production and selling pre-loved uniforms. Their energy and commitment have been invaluable, and we thank both the PTA and our wider community for their ongoing support.

A special thank you....

We want to acknowledge the dedication and perseverance of our teaching and support staff. Navigating a year of change is no small task, yet each of you has approached it with enthusiasm, focus and commitment. We are truly grateful for all you have done.

To our Year 6 students who are graduating this year — congratulations! You have been a pleasure to have at Greenhithe, and we know you are ready for the next exciting chapter in your learning journey.

That's a wrap...

As 2025 draws to a close and summer approaches, we hope our families, staff and students enjoy a well-deserved break. May you recharge and return ready for a bright, fun-filled 2026 — a year of growth, opportunity and, as always, Greenhithe PRIDE.

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/>