

We've cracked it - playground appeal tops \$33,000

We are delighted to announce the school has raised a third of the \$100,000 target to build a cracker of a new playground for the school.

Our current appeal total is \$33,286.

Home and School heroes

Congratulations to the members of this year's Home and School Committee (Helen McLean, Sarah Maxwell, Sarah Mackenzie, Jane McGrath, Nichole Brown, Sean Antrobus, Adam Simpson, Jeremy Nelson, Rochelle Corbett and Jonny Gilbert), who have not only already met their appeal fundraising target but exceeded it raising more than \$11,600. That's a lot of sausage sizzles, not to mention three discos, two pub quizzes, an Election Day bake sale, pizza lunches and more.

They have some great plans for next year but they are down to just five members and REALLY need new volunteers to join. Please get in touch with Helen at helenmakarini@gmail.com if you can help.

Parents dig deep

Parent donations were over \$7,000 at the time of writing, including a hugely generous \$5,000 from one amazing family, - ka pai guys! Donations were given via our Givealittle website (givealittle.co.nz/northland playground appeal) while others donated directly to the school's bank account. It is nice to see grandparents and aunts and uncles donating in support of their relatives who attend the school. Donations have been received from as far afield as Australia and the UK. Thank you also to the Schaefer family for designing and paying for the giant fundometer in the school office.

Family fundraisers

A slow burner but we hope more families will come up with innovative ideas to raise money for the playground next year. We have raised over \$5,000 so far with this strand. A special hats off to Sean and Andrea Brunner for their New York Marathon fundraiser. They set up a Givealittle fundraising page and asked their work colleagues to sponsor them with all donations going to the Northland School Playground appeal – making more than \$1,500 in sponsorship.

A team of creative parents - Mandy Allen, Anna Stichbury, Ruth Abenojar-Yee and Jamie Schaefer designed and printed 400 beautiful tea towels, selling them at the Petite Fair and the Thorndon Fair. They have sold out of the Wellington design but have a few of the *Food is Love* designs left. Once they are all sold the fundraiser will make over \$3,500 in profit. So please support them by buying the final few - contact mandymmartin@hotmail.com.

Student council aces it

Our hard-working student council organised a number of fun days involving pyjamas, wacky wheels, ice cream and lots (and lots) of sausages. Half the year's proceeds went to the playground so that's an awesome \$1,700 banked. A big

thank you to all the students, teachers and parents who have supported the school council's fundraisers over the past year.

You can see how we are tracking against our targets in each of the 10 fundraising strands on the table and bar chart on the school website's fundraising page.

Naturally fundraising is winding down now that Christmas is upon us. The committee's fundraising priorities for 2015 include:

- Seeking donations, sponsorship and grants from local businesses.
- Launching new strands of fundraising involving the wider community, including school alumni.
- Installing new playground appeal signage outside the school to raise awareness in the community.
- Supporting some major community events, including Team Up Northland (an Amazing Race inspired competition) – get your entries in now! And encouraging families to organise fundraisers to support the playground.

Playground design update

The playground committee drafted and consulted parents on a vision for what the playground will look like. This is a huge and important step in the design process, which will continue next year as we work towards drawing up detailed plans. We are confident we can meet our \$100,000 fundraising target, which will enable some exciting new playground developments to take place. Our priority in the early part of next year will be to work closely with the project manager on the B block rebuild so the new playground design/build can be integrated into the main project.

Thank you to the great number of parents and students who have contributed time, money, ideas and above all enthusiasm to the playground project. Raising \$33,000 in less than a year is a great achievement considering we haven't even launched five of the 10 fundraising strands.

*The Playground Committee, December 2014
(Jeremy Edwards, Chris Gosling, Andrena Patterson, Caroline Wood, Lara Robertson, Jamie Schaefer, Megan Wraight, Thijs Nicolas, Ruth Abenojar Yee, Geoff Davenport, Mandy Allen, Mary Craythorne and Paul Houlston)*