

2024 April Board Update

Kia ora koutou

We have a number of items to report back to you on from our last meeting. Firstly we would like to thank Justin Parker for his contribution on the Board over the last three years. Justin has contributed broadly to the school and the Board but in particular has shown considerable commitment and service to the property portfolio. This has included working with Andea and the Ministry of Education to agree an updated ten year property plan for the school as well as supporting specific works at the school - most recently the Room 1-3 block next to the office. Justin has supported Andrea in fortnightly meetings with contractors and the Ministry during this time.

Thank you Justin for your service to the school community and persistence to see the upgrade of the oldest building at Northland School come to fruition.

In this update we also acknowledge Julia Truesdale's service to the school over the last 29 years!! Julia has been the first point of contact for so many families at the school of that time. Julia has always been quick to answer questions and provide support to families and staff alike and has a wealth of knowledge that will be missed. We wish her well in her retirement and thank her for her outstanding contribution to the wider community.

Donations

The Board extends our thanks to everyone who is supporting the school by paying the school donation - whether as a lump sum or as payments spread throughout the year. These contributions are vital to the student experience and care provided by the school. We also want to take a moment to extend our gratitude to those families who have made additional donations to support the school. These have been received as general donations along with specific camp donations.

Learning Conversations

The Board would like to thank all teachers for the opportunity to discuss how children have settled and share goals with parents. These meetings are valued and we know how important it is for everyone to know how they can support their child at home and connect with the classroom teacher throughout the year. The HERO app and sharing of learning stories is another way to keep up to date with progress or view some of your child's work.

Annual implementation Plan

We are pleased our annual plan is well underway and classroom programmes are focused on delivering deliberate teaching in reading, writing and math for our children every day. The Board receives regular reporting from Andrea and the team on the instruction, practice and application across the core curriculum areas. [2024 Final Northland School 2024 - 2025 Strategic Plan](#)

Playspace and Community project

Thanks to all the parents and staff who filled out the play spaces survey. It was great to see so much positive feedback about the existing play equipment and hear what still needs to be done. We are looking forward to seeing the student's design ideas as well.

The overwhelming response from the community on what is required next is shade, trees, planting and seating. To achieve this we would like to utilise the expertise we have within the school community for both the design and installation. Planting and play ideas will be implemented across the school but the area of immediate focus will be the courtyard between the Ruru classrooms.

If you are able to support the school develop the play spaces in any way please get in touch. We are specifically looking for people who have skills that include; landscape and planting design, plant knowledge, construction & carpentry, painting, sourcing quotes and applying for grants. If you have other ideas on how you could contribute please email Rhiannon leading the playspace portfolio, rhiannonf@gmail.com

Our next steps will be to:

- Develop a plan for introducing trees, plants, seating and loose parts play / hut space into the upper courtyard between Ruru iti and Ruru Nui.
- Purchase shrubs to plant along the inside of the fence line between gate number 1 and 2 to provide greening and shelter.
- Paint hopscotch and four square onto the concrete between the two existing playgrounds.
- Develop ideas for murals on existing concrete retaining walls.

There are a number of other specific areas raised in the play spaces survey that we want to acknowledge, these include:

- Maintenance of the tiger turf. This had maintenance done earlier this year and a new layer of drainage sand applied.
- A flying fox and a large slide from the top level of the existing playground. Both of these options are costly and complicated to implement from a health and safety perspective and will not be progressed during this next phase of play space work

We would like to thank the staff for a very positive start to the year and the many learning experiences that have taken place during this term. We look forward to everyone recharging over the break and ready for Term 2.

Ngā mihi nui

Andrea Peetz, Principal

Jono Weir, Presiding Member