

## **Board Update September 2025**

Tēnā Koe

We're pleased to welcome our new Board members: Ross Lucas, Helena de Kok, and our new staff representative Emma Chapman. Their fresh perspectives and enthusiasm will be a valuable addition to our school community.

Our first meeting under the new Board structure was held last week, and it was a pleasure to officially welcome Ross, Helena, & Emma. During the meeting, Richard was elected as the Presiding Member for the remainder of the school year — congratulations to him on this new role.

Board portfolios have now been allocated as follows:

- Health and Safety - Helena
- Policy - Helena
- Community and Communication - Katie
- Finance - Ross
- Property - Ross
- Playspace - Jane

## **ERO Update**

The Education Review Office (ERO) will be onsite for our school review on Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th November. We'll be working with Andrea Rodley (Evaluation Partner) and Melanie Dean, Principal of Lyall Bay School (Leadership Partner).

As part of the review process:

- The Board Assurance Statement and Self-Audit Checklists will be completed by the Presiding Member in collaboration with Andrea.
- The School Improvement Framework (SIF) is being used to guide the review. This framework ensures consistency and clarity around ERO's expectations.

The Senior Leadership Team has completed the relevant sections of the SIF, with staff contributing to the Teaching, Learning, and Curriculum components.

The Board will now complete the Stewardship and Governance section ahead of the review.

## **Annual Plan Progress Update**

We're pleased to share that key actions across our strategic Pou are well underway, with steady progress being made.

## ***Ako – Learning***

- We've applied for additional staffing to support Structured Literacy in 2026, building on the success of this year's programme.

- Reviews of English and Maths have provided clear next steps for consistency across the school.
- Our Maths leadership team is refining the long-term plan for Term 4.
- Students have actively participated in enrichment opportunities including Mathswell, Otago Problem Solving, and the NIWA Science Fair, where several prizes were awarded.
- Assessment data across Maths, Reading, and Writing is being analysed to inform teaching and support strategies.
- Mid-year data shows promising progress in Year 3, 6, and 8 cohorts against revised curriculum benchmarks.
- The LEAP enrichment programme continues to receive positive feedback.
- Year 3 and 4 students performed at Artsplash, with choreography led by Year 8 students.

### ***Professional Development***

- Staff have engaged in targeted PLD in Maths and Structured Literacy, with growing confidence in curriculum delivery.
- Weekly Te Reo sessions continue for all classroom teachers.
- Staff have participated in Kāhui Ako collaboration, SENCO development, and curriculum leadership initiatives.
- Andrea and Judith completed training in Neurosequential Modelling, with plans to expand staff capability in 2026.

### ***Whanaungatanga – Relationships***

- Year 8 transition visits to colleges are underway.
- Learning Conversations were well attended, with 90% family participation.
- A review of te ao Māori implementation shows positive progress.
- Team newsletters were shared via HERO, and several families attended open mornings.

### ***Oranga – Wellbeing***

- Acknowledgements for Northland Champ expectations are planned before term's end.
- Senior students are leading various initiatives including Kapa Haka, sports, reading club, and lunchtime activities.
- Behaviour data is being reviewed by the PB4L team, with a focus on break-time incidents.
- The Seasons for Growth programme continues to support students through change and transition.

### **School Term Dates & Holidays for 2026**

In support of strong community engagement and forward planning, we're pleased to share the confirmed school term dates, holidays, and Teacher Only Days for the year, helping families and staff stay informed and connected throughout the school calendar.

#### Term 1

- Start: Monday 2 February
- End: Thursday 2 April
- Holiday:
  - Waitangi Day – Friday 6 February

#### Term 2

- Start: Monday 20 April
- End: Friday 3 July
- Teacher Only Day – Friday 24 April
- Holidays:
  - ANZAC Day (observed) – Monday 27 April
  - King's Birthday – Monday 1 June

#### Term 3

- Start: Monday 20 July
- End: Friday 25 September
- Teacher Only Day (TOD) – Monday 24 August

#### Term 4

- Start: Monday 12 October
- End: Tuesday 15 December
- Teacher Only Day (TOD) – Tuesday 27 October
- Holiday:
  - Labour Day – Monday 26 October

### **Attendance & holidays**

The Board of Trustees would like to highlight the importance of regular school attendance for all students. Being at school consistently supports not only academic progress, but also each child's wellbeing, sense of belonging, and connection to our school community.

Daily attendance helps students stay engaged with their learning, build strong relationships with teachers and peers, and maintain momentum across the curriculum. Even short absences can interrupt learning, particularly in key areas, so we encourage families to prioritise attendance wherever possible.

We understand that there may be times when families need to travel during term time. If you're planning a holiday or extended absence, please email Andrea in advance. This allows us to keep accurate records and enables teachers to support your child's learning before and after their time away.

Thank you for your continued support in fostering a positive, consistent, and inclusive learning environment for all our tamariki.

## **Learning Conversations**

The Board would like to thank all teachers for the recent Learning Conversations. These meetings are a valuable opportunity for whānau to connect with classroom teachers, understand how their children are progressing, and set shared goals for the term ahead. We know how important it is for families to feel informed and supported in their child's learning journey, and we appreciate the time and care staff put into these conversations.

The continued use of the HERO app and the sharing of learning stories also provide meaningful ways for families to stay engaged with their child's progress and celebrate achievements throughout the year.

## **Acknowledging Staff**

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to all staff for their hard work and dedication throughout Term 3. The learning experiences, care, and commitment you bring to our tamariki make a real difference, and we are grateful for everything you do to create a positive and inclusive school environment.

## **Thank You to Parents and Whānau**

We also want to acknowledge and thank our parents and whānau for your ongoing support, engagement, and partnership in your children's learning. Your involvement helps strengthen our school community and contributes to the success and wellbeing of our tamariki.

We wish everyone a restful and well-deserved break over the school holidays, and we look forward to an energised start to Term 4.

Ngā mihi nui

Katie and Andrea on behalf of the Board