

## **Board of Trustees News July/August 2016**

### **New playgrounds**

The Board hopes the two new playgrounds – around the Oaktree and the fort in the forest area – will be ready for the children very soon. The Board is extremely grateful to Polly Joseph and Ingrid Graham for all the work they have put into creating these playgrounds for the children to enjoy. They are the result of a lot of research and work with the children, staff and parents to understand what the children wanted and needed and what could be delivered on budget. We hope the children enjoy exploring and testing their capabilities on the new equipment.

### **Sports Uniform and Logo**

We unveiled the new school logo, sports uniform and teachers' jackets at assembly last week. We hope you like the new colours of the uniform and the children have a sense of pride when they wear their uniform representing Coatesville School. The uniforms will be worn for the first time in term 4. Samples are on display in the school office if you want to have a closer look. The new school hats will be ready for children to wear from the beginning of term 4. Teachers will receive their new jackets in the next month.

The Board would like to thank Jo Windust, Catriona Dawson and Tara Murray for their involvement in this project and their insights into what would work well for our children as well as what would distinguish us from our competitors at interschool events. We are also grateful to Lynley Holme, a former parent of the school, whose uniform company has worked so closely with us to produce our new sports kits, hats, and teachers' jackets.

The new school logo will be officially launched at the school centennial celebrations in October. The Board would like to acknowledge Jacci Ross-McFarlan, a current school parent, for the wonderful design. Jacci has put a lot of work into getting it just right and developing formats for clothing and paper. The design Jacci has created takes the hill elements from our existing logo and adds a wonderful tree of knowledge representing all our curriculum areas. The image reflects our rural heritage and includes our new school motto 'Aim, Strive, Achieve'. Thank you very much Jacci. The new logo is also on display in the office area.

### **Student achievement mid-year progress data**

The Board reviewed the mid-year student achievement progress data for our school. While these results are extremely positive, the Board is very impressed with the amount of work the SLT and teachers are putting in to improve this data and our children's learning even further. A number of target groups identified at the beginning of the year are showing positive progress and there is much ongoing discussion about changes and interventions which could make a difference to our students. The new learning model for Coatesville School is having an impact and the Board and staff expect to see more positive results by the end of the year.

## **Finances**

All income and expenditure is as expected. We would still welcome any contributions towards school donations. These help us provide a range of curriculum and other activities that fall outside of MoE funding but which our school community values.

## **ERO visit**

We have been advised our three yearly Education Review Office visit will take place in mid-November.

## **Health and safety**

The Board undertook some professional development on the implications of the new Health and Safety legislation for schools. Discussions have begun, and will continue, on aspects of health and safety at Coatesville School and how they can be examined and strengthened.

## **Property**

A number of new and maintenance projects were carried out over the school holidays. Heating and ventilation systems were installed in classrooms and will make a big difference to the learning environments of our children and staff. The interior of the office and administration block was painted and the principal's office received a much needed upgrade. Some external areas of the school will be painted in the next school holidays.

## **Septic system and field drainage**

The Board is planning for the new septic system to be installed over the Christmas holidays. As this will necessitate a fair amount of work on the school field, it will be combined with a project to level the school field and improve drainage so the field can be used year-round. We hope this will mean minimal or no field closures next winter.

## **School Priorities and the Rec Centre**

The new Board of Trustees is currently reviewing the strategic priorities for the school. It will include priorities already identified in the school's Master Plan as well as new and emerging priorities. This review is governed by our responsibility to prioritise initiatives that will have the biggest impact on student learning and achievement.

It will include a review of the prominence currently given to the Rec Centre. Current funding levels, combined with the level of new fundraising achieved over the last few years, indicate it will likely take 10 years to reach the funding level required to build a basic Rec Centre. Whilst no decision has yet been taken, the Board is conscious that without a significant boost in funding, the Rec Centre may not represent the best opportunity for student learning.

We will keep the school community informed of the Board's priorities at a public meeting in the next few months.

### **Policy Review**

As part of an ongoing review of school policies and procedures, the Board reviewed two school policies: performance management and alcohol policy. Some changes have been made to the alcohol policy which will affect events on school grounds as well as those held in the School's name at other venues.

The next Board meeting is on 6 September at 6.30pm in the staff room. Anyone is welcome to attend but only board members have speaking rights. Contact details for Board members can be found on the school website at: <http://www.coatesville.school.nz/board-of-trustees.html>