

## Coatesville School Board News December 2021

Kia ora tātou and welcome to the end of the school year for 2021. It has been wonderful to see so many children back enjoying onsite learning over the last few weeks. After a challenging and interrupted year, having our staff and students back at school has been very welcome. Children and staff have enjoyed reconnecting and learning kanohi ki te kanohi, face to face, once again.

We would like to thank all parents and caregivers for your support throughout 2021, particularly during a long period of distance learning.

### *Property*

Over the course of the year we have completed a number of projects around the school, including the addition of the Astroturf outside the junior classrooms and in the assembly area. Over the summer holidays, our next big project will begin – a renovation of the administration block, including a new sickbay, renovated welcome area, new bathrooms for staff, updates to the kitchen and improvements to the indoor/outdoor flow from the staffroom. This project has been made possible by a one-off school investment funding package which enabled Boards to spend money on projects that wouldn't normally be prioritised. The works should be completed before we return to school in February. There will also be some remedial works done to underground pipes during the holidays.

### *Board elections*

Every three years elections are held for parent and staff representatives on our school Board. The next elections will be held in September 2022. Of our five current parent representatives, one will be leaving early in the new year and another will not be standing for re-election. The Board is responsible for governing the school, ensuring all children have opportunities to learn to the best of their ability, as well as oversight over school finances and property maintenance. If you would like to find out more about what is involved, please feel free to contact Belinda Finlayson on 0210557273 or [bell.fin@gmail.com](mailto:bell.fin@gmail.com).

### *Finances*

The Board is responsible for overseeing all school income and expenditure. We continue to welcome donations from all families, in part or in full. The funds raised are used for the direct benefit of the children in our school. The Board has agreed to keep the current donation rate of \$352 per student the same for the 2022 school year. We recognise this has been another challenging year for families and businesses.

### *FOTS*

Our Friends Of The School (FOTS) team work hard every year to ensure the children have activities to enjoy and also to raise valuable funds for our school. This year has again been a challenging one for FOTS but early in the year FOTS ran a very successful movie night at school and an amazing disco at

the Coatesville Settlers Hall. Early in the 2022 school year, we will farewell two key members of our FOTS team, outgoing treasurer Megan Farrington and outgoing Chairperson Roslyn Sentch. Both Megan and Roslyn have contributed an enormous amount to FOTS and our school community throughout their many years at the school including through sausage sizzles, organizing Ag Days and just helping out wherever they could. Thank you both for all you and your families have done! We hugely appreciate it. If you are interested in joining the team, want to help out at one-off FOTS events, or just want to find out a little more about what they do, please come along to the FOTS meeting early next year.

#### *Farewell to our year 6s*

We would like to wish all our year 6s well as they finish at Coatesville School and prepare to embark on the next stage of their learning journey. It has been a privilege to watch you all grow, develop and try new things during your time at Coatesville School. Each of you has contributed to our school in your own way and we look forward to following your progress. A huge thank you to those families whose last children are leaving Coatesville School this year. Thank you for entrusting your children to our care and for your support of our school. As always, we look forward to welcoming past students and their families back at any time.

#### *Farewell to some staff*

At the end of this week, we will be farewelling some of our staff. Some are taking time off to have children, others are leaving for new opportunities elsewhere in the country and others for a change in lifestyle. Thank you for all you have done during your time at Coatesville School. We wish you all the very best.

A final thank you to all our families for your support throughout 2021. We hope you all have an enjoyable summer break and we look forward to welcoming returning families back in 2022.

Coatesville School Board