



West Melton SCHOOL

Te Kura o Papatahora

Driving a Passion for Learning

Board Newsletter

Issue 2 | July 2021

Kia ora koutou Whānau,

With winter now well and truly here, we have reached the end of term 2. Take care on the roads and keep warm during the icy mornings that tend to extend into icy afternoons; keep well and safe during the term break.

The last weeks of school included our mid year Ako conversations, a perfect way for your tamariki to showcase their work, discuss key points with their teacher and affirm goals and Term 3 focus areas. These discussions also enabled us to share the latest addition to our school App Hero, showing your child's learning progress at the mid-year stage.

If you haven't already, please download and sign up. This is a great tool to connect to the latest school activities, and your ākonga's progress from learning updates and showcasing pieces of work to their community activities and the latest school news.

The West Melton School Charter sets the direction of the school and identifies priorities and is the key planning document for our school. This document includes strategic aims and annual plans which collectively reflect the goals and aspirations of our community for WMS and our ākonga, outlines how we are implementing the government's priorities and requirements. It aims to ensure the continued progress and achievement milestones of everyone of our ākonga. The current charter is available on our school website.

As part of our review process, the Board will be conducting consultation sessions with our community, ākonga and staff during the rest of the school year. It is important as a Board and a Kura, that we are able to step back, and review the hopes and aspirations contained in our charter, are still relevant to our kura, ākonga and community.

Please enjoy this edition of our Board newsletter, there is plenty to read from our next stage of property upgrades, to celebrating our fabulous whanau across the sports fields, academic excellence and student executive led initiatives.

We look forward to seeing you all back in Term 3.

Ngā mihi,

JOHN WILLATS (BoT Chair)

HIGHLIGHTS OF TERM TWO!

Mihi Whakatau



Rugby Fun Day



Senior Cross Country



Kids Can Casual Clothes Day



WMI Open Day



Pink Shirt Day



Celebration of Learning



Staff only day



Zones and Canterbury Cross Country



Queen's Birthday Weekend



Canterbury Artistic Gymnastics



Tī Kōuka went to Orana Park



Canterbury Boccia Championships



Kāhui Ako Matariki Celebration



SCZ Football and Hockey



Pyjama and Teddy Bear Day



HERO

Hopefully you are aware of the second phase of our HERO communication tool rolling out across all students now. Teachers have been adding in detailed information on our child's learning goals, curriculum achievements and this information will continue to grow throughout the year.

There are many benefits of using HERO if you haven't already gotten into the habit. All school information is easy to find - in one place. You can even submit absence notices or buy subway lunches! And by having notifications switched on you will get up to date info as you need it.

For this to really benefit the school community we need whanau to:

1. Check you have downloaded the app and all of your tamariki are showing in the app
2. Check you have notifications turned on for the app
3. Check your contact details are correct
4. Grab a cuppa and have a play and get used to the different features available in HERO

Any issues please contact the school office for support.

Celebrations

- Congrats to Jo Buckenham, one of our wonderful Kowhai Teachers, who has taken up the role of PB4L Within School Lead for the Kahui Ako.
- Well done to Pippa, who won the top prize "Walk & Wheel Challenge"
- Canterbury Artistic Gymnastics
 - Amelia - 2nd in All Round Ranking in Step 2
 - Jack - 2nd in Bronze Uneven Bars
- Well done to the Student Exec and all who were involved in Toot for Tucker - a wonderful initiative
- Have you seen the new glass panels up on the deck at Mānuka?
- Well done to Liam and Olivia who represented WMS at the Rotary Quiz at Lincoln University and came joint 5th!
- Great work to our Basketball team - placing 4th in the Selwyn Central Zone Basketball.
- Thank you to everyone who participated in the Student Exec KidsCan Casual Day which raised \$601.90.
- Congratulations to our 2021 Cross-country Champs!
 - Senior Boys - Cam, Senior Girls - Riley, Junior Girls - Sophie, Junior Boys - Ethan
- Did you hear the school has adopted a Rhino?? The Student Exec have worked with the Friends of West Melton School to donate some of the Fete funds to Orana Park and adopted a Rhino!

Property Corner

With winter approaching the new fields are surviving well but as the grass is still very young, quite soft and susceptible to damage by foot and bike traffic especially during wetter weeks. When moving through the school we encourage the use of our paths to avoid wear and tear.

Two main projects completed this year have included:

Learning Support Centre upgrade - including an accessible ramp. This space allows for a purpose built environment for Jeanette Neal and our learning assistants, as well as our ākongā with additional needs.

Mānuka Deck glazing - Providing our learners another all weather space, out in the fresh air while providing shelter from the extreme Northwest winds.

Looking ahead, we have recently finalised with the MOE our next 5 year period for building maintenance and upgrades to our teaching spaces. This is very exciting as we are now working through the design process to upgrade several learning spaces around the school. Some of the projects are;

Tī Kōuka - This will include completing the acoustic ceiling, upgrading the toilets, installing wet areas, more breakout spaces, new carpets and heat pumps. This should further transform the area into a modern space that will ensure learners have the best environment in order to do their best work.

Construction of this project will commence during the 21/22 Christmas holiday break ready for the 2022 school year.

Kōwhai and Mānuka - Additional glazing and additions to improve the usability of the internal and external learning environments, adaptable for all ages.

Shade Sails - We are working with the Friends of West Melton to add shaded areas around the school so learners can comfortably use these areas during the warmer summer months. The first area we hope to have some installed is the wooden steps by the green slide so the junior school can eat their lunch under cover and have a space to be able to sit in the shade.

Admin Area - Installation of additional glazing to separate the staff room from the admin area and provide our staff with additional heat pumps to cool these areas on the hot summer days we get.

Fete Project - We are currently working through the concept ideas to provide additional outdoor learning and play spaces that will be supported using the funds raised by this year's Fete. Thanks to FOWMS and the hundreds of volunteers that made this event so successful and of course the community for supporting it.

Ako Conversations

Thank you to teachers and whanau who attended Ako conversations this term. We acknowledge these meetings are at the end of a long working day for parents and teachers alike but they bring so much value. Kudos to the teachers for keeping things on time and making it a seamless transition for everyone.

Matariki - Kāhui Ako

Nau mai ngā hua. Nau mai ngā pai. Nau mai kia nui. Kia hāwere ai

Ka pai to our Kapa haka learners and the teachers who supported them for a wonderful performance at the Selwyn Sports Center last week. It was an amazing Kāhui Ako event and well supported by our school and schools across the district. We are proud of you!

