



# West Melton SCHOOL

Te Kura o Papatahōra

Driving a Passion for Learning

## Board Newsletter

Term 4 | December 2023

Kia ora koutou whānau,

December is often a time to reflect on our activities and achievements from the year, and for us the West Melton School ākonga, teachers and community have given us a lot to celebrate and be proud of this year.

Back in March, we kicked off the year with the fourth West Melton Fete - an event that has gained a reputation as a 'must attend' for the community. Thanks to the incredible efforts of the FOWMS (Friends of West Melton School) and the Fete organising committee, \$45,000 was raised towards upgrades to our school swimming pool. Fast-forward to December, and we have a freshly painted pool and improved surroundings to enjoy - though the weather will need to improve a little before so we can take full advantage of this amazing asset!

We have also completed the refurbishment of Tī Kōuka and the teachers and students are thoroughly enjoying the updated space. There is further work to be completed in the pool area to improve the sheds and the changing rooms and we will keep you updated on plans in the New Year.

We continue to be enormously thankful for the support and efforts of the parents who give their time through the FOWMS to drive fundraising for the school. In July they hosted a Walkathon, funding in excess of \$12,000 to go towards resources and beautification of the school library. Ākonga are also now proudly representing our school wearing new sports uniforms which arrived this term. Also a big thank you to the community for turning out to support our working bee in rather questionable weather, ensuring that our playgrounds are refilled with bark and gravel, and the gardens tidied.

This year, our students have made significant contributions to the West Melton School community and personal achievements that they should be very proud of - far too many to mention in this short message. Hopefully you've been able to keep up with all the successes via the school's Facebook page and newsletter.

One highlight to note is the WMI camp to Rakiura Stewart Island this term - a first for the school. This was an incredible learning opportunity for our ākonga and one that would not have been possible without the vision and energy of the Tōtara staff and the support of the community.

It's also wonderful to see the school acknowledged through Elmer's Ōtautahi Elephant Trail. What a wonderful display of art and fundraising. You can find our Elmer at the Selwyn Aquatic Centre in Rolleston.

As we look to wrap up the year, the Board is in the process of finalising the Strategy Plan for 2024-25 (previously known as the School Charter). Thank you to the community for your contributions to this plan via the recent survey. We look forward to sharing the Plan with you in the New Year.

A big shout out to our amazing teachers, learning assistants and support staff. 2023 is the first time in a couple of years with only minimal Covid disruption which has provided some much needed continuity and certainty. We thank you for your commitment and tenacity, and trust you enjoy a well-deserved term break.

### TERM 3 + 4 HIGHLIGHTS!

Matariki breakfast



Walkathon



Mihi Whakatau



Celebration of Learning



Year 7 & 8 Stewart Island camp



New Entrant parent presentation



Canterbury duathlon



Koru Games



Ako Conversations



Year 5-8 Activation Spectacular



National Young Leaders Day



West Melton's Got Talent



Canterbury gymnastics



Canterbury zones rugby & netball



ICAS assessments



Jump Jam South Island Nationals



Te Wiki o te Reo Māori



Children's University graduation



Canterbury zones & regional athletics

Junior school Run, Jump & Throw



Fundraisers for Radio Lollipop &  
Laura Fergusson Brain Injury Trust



As we head into the break, we wish Vanessa Adams all the best for the arrival of her second child early next year. Annabelle Cloudesley will stay on with us for 2024 as parental leave cover. Clarissa Hurihanganui has decided to not return next year after her period of parental leave and we welcome Liz Griffiths to the team next year in a permanent capacity. Thank you to Kathleen Brentwood and Janette Bowen who have been part of our teaching team and are moving on. Your contribution and effort has been really appreciated.

To our students and families that leave us this year, we wish you all the very best for your learning journey. To those of you returning in 2024, we look forward to welcoming you back in February for another exciting year.

On behalf of the full Board, Lissa Birse, Jo Buckenham, Tracey Riley, Andrea Innes, Steve Hooper, Joe Gradwell and myself, thank you for your ongoing support. We wish you a safe, restful and fun Christmas and New Year break.

Ngā mihi nui,

**JOHN WILLATS**  
Chair



