



# West Melton SCHOOL

Te Kura o Papatahōra

Driving a Passion for Learning

## Board Newsletter

Term 2 | June 2023

Kia ora koutou whānau,

As we head into the mid-winter school holidays, and marking the halfway point in our 2023 school year, there is plenty to celebrate our year to date, as well as highlight key projects and upgrades nearing completion.

The Board acknowledges the disruption from the Primary Collective negotiations and appreciates the patience and support our kura and staff received from our community during these times. We are all however pleased an agreement has been reached.

There is plenty going on in the property space, with the Tī Kōuka project progressing well, and the pool refurbishment and winter maintenance planning well underway. See our property corner section for more on these projects.

A number of acknowledgements and celebrations within the team are highlighted below, although a special mention and sincere thank you to Bruce Russell is needed. Bruce has been an integral member of our wider community for over 16 years and has now made the well deserved decision to farewell the excitement, energy and noise of our school bus routes and retire to perhaps a quieter environment across the hours of 7:30-8:30 am and 3:00-3:45 pm weekdays.

The 2023 West Melton Fete, was another step up from previous successful events, with a very special thank you to all those involved in organising, volunteering their time as well as our wide range of sponsors who generously supported this major fundraiser for our kura.

Earlier this year the Board reviewed the school Charter which was approved by the Ministry of Education. The Charter covers the school's commitment to learning, wellbeing, partnerships and the environment. This document details our key objectives, measures and successes. You can find the [Charter](#) on the school website.

On behalf of the full Board, Lissa Birse, Jo Buckenham, Tracey Riley, Andrea Innes, Steve Hooper, Joe Gradwell and I, thank you for your ongoing support within our school community, and we look forward to seeing you all back in Term 3.

Ngā mihi,

JOHN WILLATS

Chair

### HIGHLIGHTS OF TERM TWO!

Staff Only Day



ANZAC Day



Year 5 & 6 Hanmer Springs Camp



Mihi Whakatau



Celebration of Learning



Year 4-6 Rugby Fun Day



Pink Shirt Day



New Entrant Parent Presentation



Whole School Cross Country & Splash and Dash



Year 5-8 SCZ Basketball



Halberg Top Team Competition



Ako Conversations



Year 5-8 Activation Spectacular



SCZ & Canterbury Cross Country



National Young Leaders Day



King's Birthday Weekend



Canterbury Artistic & Rhythmic Gymnastics



WMI Open Evening



Casual Clothes Day for  
Laura Fergusson Brain Injury Trust



Canterbury Boccia Championships



# Acknowledgements

## Welcome to new staff

This term we welcomed Sam Holt as Caretaker following the retirement of John Blondell. Sam has had a busy first term getting to know the mechanics of the school while assisting with locating and managing the utility services which terminate in the Ti Kōuka block which is under renovation. Welcome Sam, and thank you John for your many years of service.

We also welcomed Annabelle Cloudesley who has joined the Manuka community for the remainder of the year while Clarissa Hurihanganui is on parental leave.



## Farewell to Bruce Russell

This term we had a special celebration to thank Bruce Russell for his 16 years service to our school transport, driving the Newtons Road bus. Bruce has been a large part of the daily routine for many West Melton children and families and we wish him all the best in his retirement.

## Primary Collective Agreement settled

We very much appreciate the patience and support of families as teachers worked through the negotiations of the primary collective agreement.

## Ako Conversations

Celebrating learning and the opportunity for children to share their work with parents and caregivers is extremely valuable. It's also a great chance for parents, caregivers and teachers to connect. We appreciate the large number of families who took part in Ako Conversations this term. Thanks to Mark Maddren for his work in transitioning the booking process over to Hero.

## Supporting WMI camp fundraising

This November, the Tōtara community are travelling to Rakiura Stewart Island for their camp. It is a large undertaking for the team and they wouldn't be able to do it without the support of our community.

Whether it's buying a hotdog for lunch on a Tuesday or supporting other fundraising initiatives being undertaken by parents, the Board and Tōtara team are very grateful for your support. Special thanks to Merivale Fresh Choice for supporting the hotdog fundraising and all the sponsors who supported the very successful Quiz Night.

# Celebrations

## Achievements outside of school

Term two is a busy time of year with winter sports getting underway and students participate in a wide range of activities outside of school.

A few highlights from the term include two students from the Tōtara community taking part in the Lincoln Rotary Quiz night, 39 children competing at the Selwyn Central Zones Cross Country with 16 qualifying for the Canterbury Cross Country, and 11 children participating in the Canterbury Artistic Gymnastics competition.

Our children represent their school with pride and it's pleasing to see them displaying our DRIVER values in the community.

## New arrivals

### ***Kowhai baby news***

Congratulations to Nicole Dunlop (Allchurch) and her husband Brad on the arrival of their second child, Harper.

### ***Manuka baby news***

Congratulations also to Clarissa Hurihanganui and her husband Thomas on the birth of Poppy.

## Special thanks

A special mention to everyone who played a part - big or small - in bringing together the 2023 West Melton Fete. Thanks to the team and the support of the community the Fete raised \$45,000 for the school which has gone towards upgrades to our much loved swimming pool. We also extend our thanks to the sponsors and stallholders.

A big shout out to our amazing teaching and support staff for a fantastic two terms. It's the first time in a couple of years with only minimal covid disruption which has provided some much needed continuity and certainty. Enjoy a well-deserved term break.

## Property Corner

There is quite a bit of action happening in the property space.

### Ti Kōuka Renovation

We are now well underway with the renovation of the oldest permanent block in the school. Originally built as two classrooms in the 1960s and extended in the 1970s to add a third classroom, the renovation will see the block wholly updated as a fantastic modern space for our ākonga.

The start of term three should see the double-glazed windows fitted and start the installation of the interior linings. Construction work is on schedule for term four completion, and we aim to minimise the disruption to the Ti Kōuka cohort and teaching staff - thank you all for being cooperative, we are sure it will be worth the wait!

Many thanks to the students, staff, parents and grandparents who helped remove the old sandpits behind Ti Kōuka to accommodate the construction (never underestimate how heavy wet sand can be).

Planning is underway for exterior landscaping and relocation of the sandpit for the junior school. Additionally, cyclic maintenance painting for the interior of the Kaurapa/Tōtara block is planned for the Christmas holidays.

### Swimming Pool

We are past the shortest day, so summer is on its way! Work is about to commence for sandblasting and repainting of the pool and completion of the pump sheds before the start of the new season - many thanks to the FoWMS for their significant funding contribution towards this project.

The pool is a fantastic asset for the school and the wider community. We are working through a plan to maintain and enhance this asset in the future.

As we move into spring, we will arrange some working bees for general grounds and garden maintenance - we would love your support where possible. It is a great way to help the school and connect with other families in the community at the same time.



## Traffic safety and intersection upgrade

We are extremely pleased to have the upgrade of the intersection at Weedons Ross Road and State Highway 73 West Coast Road complete. We trust this is providing a much safer and easier commute to and from school for everyone.

Traffic management continues to be a strong focus for the school, ensuring that there are safe routes to and from school in all directions. Thank you for working with us to help minimise traffic around the school, particularly at pick up and drop off times.

Thanks also to the families who have recently completed the Selwyn District Council's school travel plan survey. We will be working with them to ensure we have the safest access to school whether it be by car, on foot, by bike or scooter.

We appreciate your support in encouraging children to wear the safety vests provided. With darker, dull days during winter it can often be tricky to see children, so vests ensure an added level of visibility. Our thanks to Wilshire Construction for providing the vests to all children this year.