



West Melton SCHOOL

Te Kura o Papatahora

Driving a Passion for Learning

Board of Trustees Newsletter

Issue 2
July 2018

Kia Ora Whanau!

Winter is here and we've reached the end of Term 2. We hope you are keeping warm and well!

Today, many of you will be coming into school to visit your children's learning communities and take part in student - led conferences. This is a great opportunity to find out first-hand how your child has been progressing and chat with their pod teachers. Best of all, this is a wonderful opportunity for our students to step-up and present themselves as active learners. We hope you enjoy these moments with your children.

It's feedback which drives improvements throughout the school. Last year's self-review was thorough, addressing our learners, staff and community. We picked up a dominant theme relating to communications, primarily between the school and home. We're wondering how we're doing? Have you noticed our new newsletters? What about these new, student-led conferences? We're keen to hear how we're doing.

As always, there's plenty of changes happening at our school. A new playground going up these holidays, acoustic baffles in two of our learning environments and coming soon, the demolition of the old office block and a refresh of our school pool, including a new paint job.

We look forward to seeing you back in term three, with the grand opening of our playground.

Ngā Mihi

Sara Paris (BoT Chair)

Our congratulations to ...

- **Chloe Cull and Pam Berry-Mason** winning permanent teaching positions at West Melton School
- **Amy Robinson (Physical Education teacher) and Anna Bray (Drama teacher)** joining our FAB 5 team delivering 'The Arts' curriculum on Thursdays
- **Congratulations to Henrietta Haskell, the winner of the 2018 West Melton School Scholarship**

Kāhui Ako - Ngā peka o Tauwharekākaho

Otherwise known as 'Communities of Learning', this initiative is one of the main components of the Ministry of Education's *Investing in Educational Success*. In Rolleston, our Principal, Sue Jackson has been appointed a joint leader of this local initiative along with Burnham School's Principal, Sandra Keenan. We're thrilled Sue has won this position, and we're looking forward to the benefits of across-school collaboration the Kāhui ako initiative will bring, through new inquiry time and shared achievement challenges.

Student Behaviour

Our learner's behaviour in our classrooms, playgrounds and sport-field is an important part of schooling and something we monitor and discuss as guardians of our school. We know that problems with behaviour can rapidly impact all aspects of the school experience, our primary concerns being student safety & learning.

More recently we've noticed some patterns in reported student behaviour which we are 'front-footing' to correct. This behaviour is limited to a small minority in our community, but we know the actions of a few can affect many in their relationships and learning.

Be assured that we take learners' behaviour seriously. Our school policies are built to protect children's learning environment and they address bullying behaviour specifically. We encourage parents to take the opportunity to discuss behaviour with their children.

Property update

New Wharenui AV System

At the beginning of the year we upgraded our Wharenui AV system, to include two new speakers, three microphones, and a digital mixer. We're grateful to KBB Music and the Rockshop for their advice and expertise. We're looking to add some mic stands and music stands in the coming weeks, using their reward system from our earlier purchases.

We also upgraded our projector to an ultra-short-throw model, meaning a **much** larger, clearer and brighter image. We took advantage of the opportunity while we were upgrading to shift the switching of our lights (no more gesturing to the people at the back of the hall to turn the lights off!), and also have a fancy new cupboard to ensure all our equipment is stored securely. Our sincere thanks to Jarrod Owens from One Vision Ltd for his hard work and response to all of our needs.

Our new projector and sound system are used regularly - each Friday morning for school-wide Jump Jam, and each Celebration of Learning. They're also used by learning communities who may use the Wharenui at times, and our teachers and children are all benefitting from having modern and up-to-date equipment. We've trained a group of Year 4 - 7 technicians who are able to (almost!) independently connect mics, monitor levels, switch AV displays, and control everything else needed to be sound technicians!

We've also purchased some new sound gear for our school band - speakers, speaker stands, more microphones, and another small mixer. This system is portable, and is used each week by our band members (under the guidance of their guitar and drum tutors). It's also used for external school events (provided the weather is good!)

Swimming Pool

Our wider community gets great use of this facility over the hot summer months. With the extremely dry and hot finish to last year the pool reached a whopping 31° on a couple of days. We would like to thank the volunteers who take off and put on the covers (even on Christmas day) each season.

Due to usage, the pool is needing some TLC, with the pump growing tired and the pool needing painting before the summer.

This is a large cost for our school to bear, making this a good time to mention the pool key system and the importance of your financial support for this resource.

The board are looking to have the pump replaced and pool repainted before the summer season this year, and Friends of West Melton School are also looking at completing some maintenance on the spectator areas.

The Eagles Lair

We are thrilled that the new Eagles Lair playground will be installed these holidays. It'll go up in the area between the pool and Kōwhai community. We are very thankful to the Friends of West Melton School, our community and the generous businesses and public who helped fundraise for this. We hope that the learners will enjoy an exciting new area at the school. We ask that people avoid this area during construction (it will be fenced) as there will be heavy machinery working in the area.

Acoustics in TĪ Kōuka & Tōtara

This term break we'll be installing new acoustic panelling on the ceilings of our TĪ Kōuka and Tōtara Learning Communities. This action stems from feedback from learners, staff and parents during last year's self-review. The building schedule will see the entire TĪ Kōuka block fitted out by the beginning of Term 3 and we expect partial fit-out of Tōtara to be completed with remaining panels going up during evenings in term-time. We're looking forward to these learning spaces becoming a lot quieter and far less resonant from next term.

2019 Term Dates

At the July board meeting we confirmed the term dates for 2019. This sets out our start and end dates for the year as well as scheduled teacher-only days. These dates align with other schools in our Rolleston Community of Learning. They are available on the shared school community calendar. ([Google Calendar](#)).

	Start	End	Total Days	Teacher-only days
TERM ONE	Wednesday January 30	Friday April 12	52	Teacher-only days Jan 28 & 29
TERM TWO	Monday April 29	Friday July 5	49	
TERM THREE	Monday July 22	Friday September 27	50	
TERM FOUR	Monday October 14	Tuesday December 17	44	Teacher-only day Nov 18

Roll Growth

Our school roll continues to grow, but not quite to the extent it has in the past. We currently have 466 enrolled students and we expect to finish the year with 490. This time last year, our roll was 444. We've noticed roll numbers beginning to plateau, as our town's new subdivisions fill up. We are aware of two other smaller developments in the town, which have us going back to revisit our models however. We also expect the WMI classes to fill-out somewhat over the next 2 years as our first 'bubble of students' reach their intermediate years. Earlier this year the enrollment zone was reviewed, and we opted to maintain the current zoning.

Letter from Parliament

New Zealand's Minister for Education, Hon Chris Hipkins, recently wrote to our school, to congratulate us on our ERO review. We have attached his letter below. If you're interested, the 2017 ERO Review for our school is now [available online](#), it's worth taking a couple of minutes to read it. We can all be very proud of this!

Our gratitude and thanks go to the people who contribute each day to such a great educational setting. Our very talented teaching teams and support teachers, our executive team and school leadership, our staff, our Friends of West Melton School, our learners and our wider West Melton Community.

We wish all our staff a time of relaxation and recuperation over the holiday break. We look forward to seeing you back on deck, well rested, and ready to go for Term 3!

We wish our learners and their families a safe and fun-filled holiday, and look forward to welcoming you back in Term 3!

Office of Hon Chris Hipkins



MP for Rimutaka

Minister of Education
Minister of State Services

Leader of the House
Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

Corey Woodward
Chairperson
Board of Trustees
West Melton School
743 Weedons Ross Road
WEST MELTON 7618

Dear Mr Woodward

I have been informed by the Chief Review Officer that West Melton School has recently been reviewed by the Education Review Office and that the review report has been confirmed with the decision that ERO will next review the school in four to five years. He has sent me a copy of that report for my information.

I am aware that the criteria leading to this decision by ERO are demanding. I congratulate all involved for the work you are doing to ensure your school is providing a high quality of education for its learners.

This must be very encouraging for you and I commend you, your Board and the Principal, Susan Jackson, for the leadership you have all shown, and the staff for their focus on learner achievement. In particular, I note the positive impact the school is having responding to children whose learning and achievement need acceleration.

Thank you for the important contribution West Melton School is making to the education of New Zealand's young people.

I have included a copy of this letter for Ms Jackson.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CHIPKINS'.

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

CC: Ms Susan Jackson
Principal, West Melton School