



BUCKLAND SCHOOL BOARD

Newsletter - Term 4 2023

KIA ORA PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Welcome to your Term 4, 2023 update from the Buckland School Board.

WORD FROM THE PRESIDING MEMBER

As another busy year draws to a close, the Board would like to acknowledge the efforts of our staff, our students and our families. We fully understand how pressured it can be, particularly with all the changes brought about by the last few years, and we know that some days are better than others!

It's been great to have a full school year with no disruptive lockdowns, giving us all some semblance of normality and stability. The Board has been hard at work in various areas to enhance the school environment, and we will continue to do so with a couple of big projects next year.

Those students leaving us this week go with our blessings and hopefully take happy memories with them of their time at Buckland School.

The Board would like to wish all of our community a safe and relaxing Christmas and holiday period, and we look forward to seeing you again in Term 1.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Thank you to our students who have been fully engaged and who have enjoyed their learning experiences this year. Your hard work has been acknowledged in your reports and you can be proud of all your efforts and involvement. Thanks to parents and whanau who have supported students to do their best and who have ensured high levels of attendance. Every Day at School Counts!

PROPERTY

We are looking forward to a couple of big projects getting under way at the school, which will benefit our students and staff alike. Firstly, there will be the refurbishment of a number of classrooms, which will modernise the learning environment and bring those classrooms in line with the rooms which were done previously. Secondly, we are underway with getting a cover over the tiger turf in the middle of the school. This will also involve resurfacing, and it will give us the ability to hold events outside even when the weather is not great.

Watch this space!!

SCHOOL BOARD VACANCIES:

There will be two casual vacancies for parent representatives on the Board beginning in Term 1 of next year. Please give this your consideration as it is an important and fulfilling role. A "casual" role simply means it is the filling of a position partway through an elected term – you still carry out the same role as the other members of the Board.

If you are interested or have questions about what's involved in being a Board member, then check out the information at the link below. You are welcome to have a chat with one of us! We are happy to help. You are also welcome to attend any Board meetings, which are advertised in the newsletter and also on the electronic sign at the front of the school.

Further information on being a Board member is available at <https://nzsta.org.nz/advice-and-support/information-for-parents/>

We farewell parent rep Stu Dunn at the end of this term. We thank him for his service to the Board and wish him all the best.

Dave Honiss will be finishing up early next year once we have replacements organised.

SCHOOL DONATION SCHEME

This was our first year operating under the School Donation Scheme, and while it took a little getting used to, we believe it made a positive difference to our families in a tough economic climate.

We were able to either fully pay or heavily subsidise a number of things, including: Athletics, Reading Eggs, StepsWeb, Technology (Yr 7/8), Ebooks, Young Leaders Day, Music, Gymnastics, and various trips and camps.

All these things help support our children's learning and development, and we're sure that parents appreciate not having to cover these costs.

A big thanks to Mrs Mills for juggling a lot of demands with this new scheme!

BOARD SURVEY

We always appreciate your comments during surveys.

Our latest survey, from earlier this term, gave some excellent feedback. To help give a better understanding of some points that were raised, check out the *Did You Know?* section below.

LAUNCHPAD/VALUES

60% of survey respondents voted to continue with the Launchpad and Values programmes, so this will continue next year.

DID YOU KNOW?

*The best place to get up-to-date information on upcoming events is the school newsletter. The website or Skool Loop. Class Dojo is only a reminder.

*All respondents want EOTC and camps to continue, with almost 2/3 wanting them annually and the rest bi-annually.

* Break times are supervised by up to 7 staff members. If a child has any kind of an issue, there is someone safe to talk to.

* The national curriculum is set by the Ministry of Education. We have little leeway to personalise it hence our Local Curriculum Document. This was designed through information given to us by students, parents and staff over the last few years and is available on our school website. Our staff work hard to maintain a balance of supporting and encouraging each individual while also meeting the Ministry's requirements.

BOARD MEETINGS

Your Board meets every month to discuss, review and plan governance-related issues. Board meetings are open meetings and members of our school community are welcome to attend as an observer. If you would like to attend or learn more, please contact us via email (board@buckland.school.nz).

Next Board Meeting: To be advised.

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 15 December - School finishes for 2023 year at 1 p.m.

CONTACTING YOUR BOARD

If you would like to contact the board regarding any queries, you can email us at: Board@buckland.school.nz. It is important to remember that there are proper channels and procedures in place for concerns and complaints, and these can be found on the school website here: [Home>BOT>Concerns and Complaints Policy & Procedures](#). If you need assistance and would like a board member to support you in following the correct processes, please do not hesitate to ask. Additionally, say hello and have a chat next time you see us at school!

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Have a great break, hopefully we get some good summer weather, and best wishes to those students who are moving on.

Your Buckland School Board members:

Darryl Goldsack (Presiding Member), Dave Honiss (Secretary), Stuart Dunn, Rhiannon Spencer, Jacinda Hughes, Christina Reddish (Staff Rep), Mavis Glasgow (Principal).

Buckland School Board

Casual Vacancy for two Parent Representatives

Two casual vacancies have occurred on the School Board for elected parent representatives. The Board have decided to fill the vacancies by selection. If 10% or more of eligible voters on the school roll ask the Board, within 28 days of this notice being published, to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy, then a by-election will be held.

Request for a by-election should be emailed by 11 January 2023 to:

Darryl Goldsack
Presiding member (chair)
Buckland School Board
Board@buckland.school.nz