



BUCKLAND SCHOOL BOARD

NEWSLETTER

TERM 4, 2022

KIA ORA PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Welcome to your Term 4, 2022 update from the Buckland School Board.

With the end of the year looming and Christmas racing up on us, it's good to reflect back on a significant year in our school. Finally getting back to some sort of normality after the Covid absences has been very welcome, and it's great to see some stability back in our kids' lives.

WORD FROM THE PRESIDING MEMBER

The 2nd half of this year seems to have flown past and once again we are in our final week.

Firstly, to our students who have committed themselves to their learning to the best of their ability, congratulations on your achievements this year. I'm sure this effort has made your teachers and parents very proud.

The Board would like to thank Mavis and the full staff for their efforts and hard work this term and throughout the year. To the staff that are leaving we thank you for your time at Buckland and wish you the very best in your endeavours.

And to our school community, thank you for supporting the school in the education of our students and for taking the time to fill out the surveys that we send out from time to time. To those families leaving, especially those who have been very active in helping the school with many events, you will leave a big hole to fill and will most definitely be missed.

Finally, we hope you all have a great Christmas, Happy New Year and a holiday spent with family and friends. We look forward to seeing you all again next year.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Sun protection is a priority (and also will be in Term 1) as we have more outdoor activities – just a reminder that sun hats are required at school when outdoors and rash tops are mandatory for swimming. A small number of tops are available for an emergency loan, however children need to bring their own as part of their swimming gear. Also please make sure that your child uses sunscreen each day.

Covid hasn't gone away yet so, as always, please keep sick children at home to avoid any spread of infections, and remember to follow the new rules for any Covid cases.

Hand washing/sanitising is still a priority for everyone at school. The school will support anyone who still wishes to wear a mask in school buildings or grounds.

Use of Playgrounds over the holidays – You are welcome to use these over the holidays but please respect them. Children should be supervised when on playgrounds and the flying fox.

POLICY UPDATE

A reminder that our school policies and procedures are now hosted by SchoolDocs. These are available to our school community to view and we invite you to visit the site <https://buckland.schooldocs.co.nz>. Our username is "buckland" and password "george72".

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS:

There is a vacancy for a parent representative on the Board. This is a "casual" vacancy, meaning it will run until the end of the current Board term (mid 2025), but it is otherwise a normal position.

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/>

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). Board meeting minutes are public documents and available to view on our school website.

Next Board Meeting: To be advised for Term 1, 2023.

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 16 December - 1.00 p.m. - School finishes for 2022 year.

Wednesday 1 February – School opens for the 2023 year.

AG DAY

A big thank you to the PTA and staff for organising and running Ag Day this year, it was our first full one since 2019 and was a great success despite the weather. Please support the PTA. They work for the betterment of our school and could always do with more help.

PROPERTY UPDATE

The extension/upgrade to the staff room will continue through to February; thank you for your patience with the disruption this has caused. The new Senior Playground opened this term, and we're very proud to have such a wonderful new addition to the school. Thank you very much to the Playground Committee who made this happen (Sarah Herring, Brandon Foster, Lisa Robertson and Dave Honiss). Further property developments are scheduled for next year and we'll keep you updated on this.

FAREWELLS

We would like to acknowledge the departures at the end of this term of Mrs Twomey, Miss Pyne and Mrs Gerritsen. Mrs Twomey has been a stalwart of the school for five years and has had a significant influence on many young lives. She is a great character and a trusted colleague, and her retirement is very well deserved. Miss Pyne started her teaching career here at Buckland as a new graduate and is off to a great start. Completing her OE will be a great experience. Tamsyn and her family are moving to the North Shore after a trip back to South Africa. Tamsyn also started her career at Buckland School and has been a valuable staff member. All the best Joh, Sophie and Tamsyn, we wish you well.

We would also like to thank Mrs Robertson who is standing down at the end of the year as the Staff Rep on the Board. Over the last 7 years she has made a great contribution to the school community, and is an excellent advocate for the staff. Mrs Reddish has been elected by the staff to replace Lisa on the Board and will take over next year.

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!



**All the best for the Festive Season
Buckland School Board**