

BUCKLAND SCHOOL BOARD

NEWSLETTER

TERM 1, 2022

KIA ORA PARENTS AND WHANAU!

Welcome to your Buckland School Board update for Term 1, 2022. The purpose of these newsletters is to communicate the work of the Board back to our school community. We want to share with you what we are doing, how and why we are doing it, and most importantly how our school is progressing.

WORD FROM THE PRESIDING MEMBER

As we close out the first term of 2022, we would like to thank our school community for trusting in the schools processes to get our students back in front of their teachers, and to our staff who have been working hard to make up for lost time. It is very encouraging to see the results start to show this commitment. We hope that term 2 will continue this upward trend.

We are trying to make things happen for the students this year and so it was great to see and hear what a great time was had by all at Kawau Island camp. We hope to continue to run all planned events again this year.

We would like to thank our outgoing PTA members for their hard work especially through the last couple of Covid years, and would like to welcome our new members who have just been elected: Co-Presidents Stephanie Adams & Delphina Helmbricht Galvin, Secretary Rebecca Cook, and Treasurer Nadia Retzlaff. The PTA makes significant contributions to our school, not just financially but in time, items and events for the benefit of all our students, so we would encourage all of our families to attend and assist as and where they can.

We look forward to a few changes and exciting projects this year and welcome your views and input along the way.

Thanks,
Darryl Goldsack

COVID-19 DELTA OUTBREAK / HEALTH & SAFETY

We appreciate that the start to this school year has been difficult with the ongoing pandemic restrictions. We wish to thank all our staff, students and parents/caregivers for their efforts in continuing to follow the school's health & safety plan. It has been heartening to be able to relax some of the restrictions in school slightly to allow more freedom of movement for the students around the grounds. We appreciate your understanding and look forward to reconnecting our school and community as soon as we can do so safely.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

The teachers have been enjoying getting to know their students and are really pleased with the engagement students have shown in class. They have also been busy testing children to find out more about their students and their next learning steps. Teachers would also like to thank the parents for their contributions in getting to know your children and for their attendance at the parent meetings. We look forward to building these relationships with families and value your input into our school.

IMPORTANT DATES!

- Thursday 14th April: Last day of Term 1
- Monday 2nd May: First day of Term 2

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS 2022

Becoming a board member is one way parents and caregivers can play a crucial role in helping children reach their highest educational potential, and actively support their school.

School boards must hold elections for parent and staff representatives every three years. The next school board elections will be taking place this September. If you are interested in becoming a board member or have questions about the election process, then check out the information at the link below. Or, have a chat with one of us! We are happy to help.



For really useful information and resources that explain the role of school boards and information about how to become a school board member, visit: <https://nzsta.org.nz/advice-and-support/information-for-parents/>

PROPERTY UPDATE

We are pleased to confirm that our library decking and seating project has now been completed. This provides teachers and students with much needed additional space to use during library visits, as well as an extra outdoor seating area for students at break times. We hope to further improve this area with some shade in the future.

A long-awaited extension/upgrade to our staff room continues to progress through the planning stages and we hope to have Ministry of Education approval for this soon.

We are excited to confirm that planning for a new senior playground is underway, and look forward to seeing this come to life. We will keep you informed as this project progresses.

Early investigation into potential coverings for one of our turfed courts has also begun. This would be a really beneficial addition to the school in terms of allowing assemblies and outdoor activities to take place in all weather conditions.

Plans for upgrading seven of our classrooms remains an ongoing project. We are working with the Ministry of Education to finalise the details and we will keep you updated.

A Property Modification project to allow wheelchair accessibility to all areas of the school will begin this week, with the bulk of the first stage to take place during the school holiday break.

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. In the event of lockdown, the meetings are held remotely, online. 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: April meeting to take place on Wednesday 4th May due to school holidays.

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!

Your Buckland School Board members are
(left to right in photo):

- Sarah Herring (Secretary)
- Andrew Maunder
- Mavis Glasgow (Principal)
- Dave Honiss
- Brandon Foster
- Darryl Goldsack (Presiding Member)
- Lisa Robertson (Staff Representative)



POLICY UPDATE

As you know, our school has been working with SchoolDocs to create a website for our policies and procedures. **We are excited to announce that the site is now live and available to our school community!**

The school works on a subscription basis with SchoolDocs to maintain, update, and review our policies. SchoolDocs provides us with a comprehensive core set of policies, which have been well researched and follow the Ministry of Education National Administration Guidelines. The policies and procedures are tailored to our school, and the school supplies specific information such as our charter, and procedures for behaviour management, reporting to parents, etc.

SchoolDocs updates, modifies, or creates policies in response to changes in legislation or Ministry guidelines, significant events, reviews/requests from schools, and regular reviewing from the SchoolDocs team. Our school board has the opportunity to view changes/additions and comment on them before they are implemented. We will advise you when policies are up for review and how you can take part in the review.

We invite you to visit the site <https://buckland.schooldocs.co.nz>
Our username is "buckland" and password "george72".

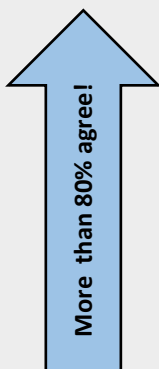


COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS: 2021

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2021 community survey. We appreciate all the feedback and helpful comments, and we are listening to what you have to say. The information received in our community surveys is very important because it helps the board decide on the direction Buckland School will take going forward, and is incorporated into the new school [Charter and Strategic Plan](#).

Following are some key takeaways, as well as answers to questions that were raised in the survey comments. The results were generally very **positive** and we noticed a significant increase in the "agree" and "strongly agree" responses in many categories compared with our last survey in 2019, which reflects the continued hard work of our staff here at Buckland School. We focus on continued improvement, so while we celebrate the successes, we also acknowledge areas for improvement. Thanks again to everyone who took part!

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS:



- Education Outside The Classroom (EOTC) activities are appropriate and provide good learning opportunities for students.
- The amount of time spent on sport/physical education is appropriate.
- School Reports give a clear picture of how children are doing at school.
- School supports children to manage relationships.
- Te reo Maori and tikanga Maori (Maori language and culture) are visible and well-integrated in the classroom and the school.

(The above categories returned over 80% Strongly Agree or Agree responses, AND showed a significant improvement vs 2019. Therefore they are areas worth celebrating!)

SOME ISSUES RAISED, THAT THE BOARD IS KEEN TO HELP WITH INCLUDE:

- **Health lessons** covering mental wellness, nutrition and personal growth (e.g. puberty) are adequate and effective.
We will work to improve on delivering these aspects of health lessons to students.
- There are a good variety of **Art & Creative opportunities** for students (eg. dance, music, performing arts).
We appreciate that this is an area for improvement. Students have previously enjoyed taking part in activities like school productions and dance classes, however Covid restrictions over the last two years have made these impossible. We look forward to reintroducing more arts and creative opportunities for our students moving forward.
- **Conflicts** are managed effectively by staff.
In the modern education environment, the demands on the school and staff are high and increasing. We continue to strive to create an environment where our school values of Respect, Resilience and Responsibility are supported by all parties in the school and community. We acknowledge that there is still work to be done here and will continue to make effective conflict management a priority. The school is addressing this by undertaking the introduction of the Cool Schools mediation programme and a programme called Pause, Breathe, Smile.

YOUR COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS AND FAQ'S ANSWERED:

PROPERTY PROJECTS

We received a number of requests for a **new senior playground** and hear you loud and clear! This project is now underway, beginning with student consultation. We look forward to this progressing and will keep our community updated.



BIBLE IN SCHOOLS

Based on the survey results, **Bible in Schools** will continue to be offered as an opt-in programme. A further community review will take place in 12 months.

PAUSE, BREATHE, SMILE

We are very pleased to be implementing this mindfulness programme at Buckland School. **Pause Breathe Smile** helps kids learn important emotion regulation skills, develops self-awareness and kindness. It builds emotional literacy, resilience and helps our kids to develop a positive sense of connection to themselves, others and the natural world. Evaluation of the programme shows improvements in calmness and reduced stress, attention, behaviour and compassion for self and others.

COOL SCHOOLS

The **Cool Schools** Peer Mediation Programme is a whole school programme that teaches essential life skills for peaceful conflict resolution. We look forward to achieving great outcomes with this at Buckland School.