



BUCKLAND SCHOOL BOARD

NEWSLETTER

TERM 3, 2022

KIA ORA PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Welcome to your Term 3, 2022 update from the Buckland School Board.

There has been plenty happening at the school this term and, if you haven't managed to make it to any Board meetings, this is the best place to hear what's been going on. As you know, schools are busy places and your Board works hard behind the scenes to make things happen for the enjoyment and development of our students and staff.

WORD FROM THE PRESIDING MEMBER

This term has been a busy one and it seems to have flown past, but we are looking forward to the first full Ag Day in a few years and some exciting projects happening during the holidays and Term 4.

We would like to congratulate all of our students for their efforts during this term, for the excellent results of those that went to AIMS Games, and the hard work in the preparation of animals, projects and classroom work for our Ag Day.

We acknowledge the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, who was not only the monarch but was also an inspirational leader who set a fine example for those who will follow in her footsteps.

Thanks to the PTA and staff who have been working hard to plan for this day, and we would like to encourage you all to get involved in any way you can by manning a stall and assisting in the setup and pack down on the day. Many hands make light work!

Thank you also to our staff, including support staff, for their hard work during this term, keeping as much face time as possible through winter and for your work in preparing for our current ERO cycle. We hope you all enjoy your break and look forward to another busy but fulfilling Term 4.

DAY IN LIEU OF AGRICULTURAL DAY

The Board decided at last week's Board meeting that **Friday 21 October** would be a day in lieu of Agricultural Day so the school will be shut for this day. Saturday 1 October will be classed as a school day and class rolls will be taken at 9 a.m.

EQUITY INDEX FUNDING AND OPT-IN DONATION SCHEME

You may be aware that the school decile scheme will no longer be used from 2023. This has been replaced with an equity-based funding scheme. We have just received our 2023 EQI number which is 438. This EQI now allows the Board to opt into the School Donations scheme. By opting into this scheme, the Board will agree to not ask parents and caregivers for donations, except for overnight camps. This initiative is designed to alleviate the pressure and expectation on parents and whanau to provide donations. The Board wish to consult with our parent community as to whether you would like to join the scheme or not. **Please email the Board (Board@buckland.school.nz)** any thoughts on this issue prior to our next Board meeting which is on 19 October when a decision will be made. For more information about the Donations scheme visit the Donation's page on the Ministry of Education website: <https://www.education.govt.nz/school/funding-and-financials/fees-charges-and-donations/>

HEALTH & SAFETY

Covid-19 is still in the community and we will continue to be affected by it for some time. Thanks for your continued efforts in keeping our staff and students safe and well. 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 and good ventilation 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.

Coming into the warmer months of spring and summer, colds and flu should drop off, but please be aware that immunity may be low. Sun protection is a priority as we have more outdoor activities – sun hats are required at school when outdoors and rash tops are mandatory for swimming which will commence again in Term 4. 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.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

We are happy to report that for those students whose attendance is regular, we are seeing excellent engagement in their learning and this engagement is helping them to make steady progress.

Teachers are prioritising the basic subjects; reading, writing and mathematics daily so that gaps due to Covid-19 lockdowns/isolation from the last two + years can be filled.

Individual reports will be sent home again at the end of the year. Parents are encouraged to contact your child's teacher to discuss any progress/academic concerns.

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://www.schooldocs.co.nz/> Our username is "buckland" and password "george72".

FINANCE

The School's Annual Financial Report for 2021 and supporting reports have been placed on our website in the Board folder for community viewing. The Board appreciates those families who have made school donations as these help us provide extra resources for our students.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

Elections were due in September this year however, due to there being less nominations received than available positions, no election was required and a new Board commenced in August 2022.

We would like to welcome Mrs Rhiannon Spencer and Mr Stuart Dunn as new Parent Representatives, with Mr **Darryl Goldsack and Mr Dave Honiss returning as Parent Reps and Mrs Lisa Robertson as the Staff Rep. We know** that they will make a valuable contribution to our school community.

We would also like to thank the three Parent Representatives who have completed their term on the Board – Mrs Sarah Herring, Mr Brandon Foster and Mr Andrew Maunder. Your efforts have been greatly appreciated and we wish you well going forward.

There is a casual vacancy for a parent representative on the Board. The Board has decided to fill the vacancy by selection. If 10% or more eligible voters on the school roll ask the Board, within 28 days of the first notice, (by 30 September) to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy then a by-election will be held. Requests for a by-election should be sent to: Presiding Member, Buckland School Board, 72 George Crescent, RD2 Pukekohe 2677.

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://www.nzsta.org.nz/advice-and-support/information-for-parents/>

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

Next Board Meeting: 19th October 6pm in Kea room (Year 7/8 classroom.)



IMPORTANT DATES

Ag Day Saturday 1 October

Monday 17 October – First day of Term 4

Friday 16 December - School finishes for 2022 year.

AGRICULTURAL DAY

The PTA are working hard to get our Ag Day 2022 up and running, and we really appreciate their efforts. It's a great day for the school and one that we have sorely missed for the last couple of years, so please help out by filling the available slots on the stalls. Everything raised from Ag Day goes back into the school, for the benefit of our kids.

PROPERTY UPDATE

A long-awaited extension/upgrade to our staff room is scheduled to begin during the Term 3 holidays and will run through to February next year.

We understand this will cause large disruption to the way the office area runs but we are working to minimise this in any way we can. We will keep you updated via the weekly school newsletter of any changes to this area. This along with the following new playground installation means that the school will be a busy site especially over the school holidays, please keep well clear of all fenced off zones and be mindful of vehicles using the driveway. This will be closed as necessary throughout term 4.

The Board's Playground Committee worked hard in the early part of the year and we are excited to let you know about the new Senior Playground! Installation also begins during the Term 3 school holidays and will be completed during the first week of Term 4. The new playground will be on the site of the old one and will provide our kids with plenty of new challenges, learning and development opportunities and, most of all, heaps of fun.

A flying fox will be located beside the rear court; no doubt this will be a star attraction!

Stage one of a Property Modification project has been completed this term, with ramps and handrails installed to allow wheelchair access to all areas of the school. Stage two is a new accessible bathroom which is currently getting consent and is scheduled to start in Feb/March next year. Thanks for your patience, we know this was a disruption.

Planning is beginning on the refurbishment of a number of classrooms and we are also investigating the option of a covered turf area.

Watch this space!!

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: https://www.buckland.school.nz/6/file_sets/37-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:



(L-R): Dave Honiss (Secretary), Darryl Goldsack (Presiding Member), Rhiannon Spencer, Lisa Robertson (Staff Rep) Stuart Dunn, Mavis Glasgow (Principal)