

BUCKLAND SCHOOL BOARD NEWSLETTER

TERM 3, 2023

KIA ORA PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Welcome to your Term 3, 2023 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.

We have to acknowledge the tremendous work that has been taking place by the PTA and Agricultural Day Stall holders in preparation for this **Saturday 23 September** event. We hope that if you haven't already indicated that you can help on stalls or with set up on Friday or pack down, that you will do so over the next few days. ALL help is greatly appreciated and valued.

WORD FROM THE PRESIDING MEMBER

I would like to congratulate all of our students for their efforts during this term. Well done to all who have represented the school at sports events, including AIMS games and for the success at the Franklin Mathex competition of all our teams but particularly our Year 7 team who won the competition. A great achievement for a small school. Congratulations to all students for the hard work in the preparation of animals, projects and classroom work for our Ag Day.

We acknowledge the recent passing of one of our Launchpad teachers, Mr Sweetsur. He gave years of service to our school and local community, and he will be greatly missed. A ceremony was held at school to recognise his contributions to our students.

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 Ag Day. We hope you all enjoy your break and look forward to another busy but fulfilling Term 4.

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. Hand washing/sanitising is still a priority for everyone at school. The Ministry of Education has installed automatic air monitors in some rooms so the quality of air can be monitored and where necessary doors and windows opened.

For Term 4 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 once the weather improves. 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.

The basic subjects; reading, writing and mathematics are prioritised but we are also very aware of providing a balanced programme that caters for all students' needs, abilities and aspirations. This term there has been a focus on visual art and we hope you enjoy the displays in classrooms during Agricultural Day as students and staff have worked hard to get these completed.

Next term music will be an art priority. This will start with a musical instrument show for all students on 16 October. Our PE focus will be athletics and we hope that as many parents and whanau as possible attend the school and Franklin events. We have planned gymnastic lessons at the Pukekohe Gymnastic club for Year 0 - 2 students and these will start on 6 November.

Camps for Year 5 to Camp Adair and for Year 6 - 8 at Peter Snell, Whangaparaoa will also be highlights for students.

Individual reports will be sent home again at the end of the year. Parents are encouraged to contact your child's teacher if you have any questions/concerns.

POLICY UPDATE

A reminder that our school policies and procedures are 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".

FINANCE

The School's Annual Financial Report for 2022 and supporting reports have been placed on our website in the Board folder for community viewing.

PROPERTY

Planning has begun on the refurbishment of a number of classrooms and the Board is also investigating the option of a covered turf area.

Watch this space!!

SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY:

There will be a casual vacancy for a parent representative on the Board beginning in Term 1 of next year. Please give this your consideration as it is an important and fulfilling role.

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/>

BOARD SURVEY

We always appreciate your comments during surveys or hui.

Early in Term 4 you will be receiving a link to a Board survey that will assist in our planning for 2024. It is important that we gain the views of our parent community so PLEASE take the time to complete this and give us your feedback.

USE OF BUCKLAND HALL

As you will be aware, the Buckland Community Hall was closed for some time due to structural safety issues. The Hall Committee have made a concerted effort recently to reopen the hall and bring users back in. The Board has carefully considered the use of the hall but, while we applaud the Committee's efforts and fully agree with the desire to have a hall to use, we are not satisfied that the hall is yet at a safe standard for our students to use.

When the identified structural issues have been addressed, the Board will happily reconsider using the hall.

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: 18th October 6pm in the Boardroom.

IMPORTANT DATES

Ag Day Saturday 23 September

Monday 9 October: First day of Term 4

Tuesday 24 October - Day in Lieu

Friday 24 November - Teacher Only Day (MOE allocation)

Friday 15 December - School finishes for 2023 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!

Have a GREAT break from school routines.

Your Buckland School Board members:

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