



BUCKLAND SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TERM 1 NEWSLETTER 2020

INTRODUCTION

Hello, Kia Ora and welcome to the 2020 school year.

It is important to begin this update by acknowledging the challenging times we are all facing right now with regard to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Board of Trustees wishes to reassure all parents and caregivers that the health and safety of our staff and students is paramount, and that we are following the guidance and recommendations set out to us by the Ministry of Education very carefully. There is further information about Covid-19 and how it affects our school in this newsletter, and you will be kept updated as things change.

Although we are facing some uncertainty currently, we would like to recognise that students and staff have settled well into the school year and we have had a lot of exciting and enjoyable activities to date already. Middle and senior school swimming sports, junior school swimming carnival, a team entered in the Franklin Triathlon, and EOTC week for the junior school just to name a few.

The Board held its first meeting of the year on 12 February 2020. As a Board we aim to ensure exceptional student achievement, success, and wellbeing; as well as high quality employment standards. This year we will continue to advance professional development opportunities for all staff. We also want to further develop and maintain community and stakeholder relations by recognising all community input into the school and further encourage parents and caregivers to be involved in specific events that are of benefit to the school and community.

EFTPOS

We recently approved the hire of an EFTPOS machine for the school office for processing payments from parents/community members. A Policy document has been created to support this. We trust you find this new EFTPOS feature helpful.

EOTC WEEK

Many thanks to the junior school teachers for their efforts preparing, organising and delivering a fantastic action packed week of trying new things, persevering and testing resilience, teamwork and cooperation. We are super proud of the students and staff. Many thanks to all the parents, volunteers, senior students and leaders for your support to make this happen.

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

As you are all aware there is widespread concern about the spread of the Novel Coronavirus pandemic which has now reached New Zealand. The Buckland School Board of Trustees has a commitment to ensuring the health and safety of all our staff and students. Please be assured that we are taking the advice of the Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Health very seriously.

Our school pandemic plan is ready to be implemented and we will continue to prioritise good hygiene practices and increased cleaning measures. Teachers are using age-appropriate explanations for students to help them understand these changes. Hand washing and good cough etiquette are very important tools in preventing the spread of illness including colds, flu and COVID -19. It is important that any children who show symptoms of illness stay home from school.

The Board of Trustees have reluctantly made the decision to cancel all school activities which take place outside of Buckland School, including camps, sporting events and cultural events; or with other groups coming into our school. We appreciate this is disappointing however the health and wellbeing of our students and families is priority. This decision will be constantly reviewed and we'll provide updates as any changes arise.

There are a number of rumours circulating on social media sites about school closure. Please be critical of any information that has not come from either <http://www.covid19.govt.nz> or the Ministry of Health <https://www.health.govt.nz/ourwork/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>.

We are currently at an Alert Level 2 nationally and at this time school closure would only occur on an individual or case by case situation. All schools are investigating online home-learning opportunities should this option need to be activated. Again, the school will keep you informed as things change. If you are required or choose to self-isolate, please communicate this directly with the school to register student absence.

PROPERTY UPDATE

The school exterior is scheduled to be washed shortly. This will take place during school hours but with minimal disruption to learning or students.



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PTA AND AGRICULTURAL DAY 2020

Our PTA is continuing to make plans for our school Agricultural day this year and needs more parent support, specifically to run our regular stalls. Funds raised on Ag day go towards subsidising a number of important school resources and opportunities for students. Please contact our PTA to get involved and see how you can play a part in the continued success of this vital school fundraiser.

Ag Day: Saturday 26 September 2020
bucklandschoolpta@outlook.com
Anna: 021 945 524

SCHOOL CHARTER AND STRATEGIC PLAN

The Board discussed the draft charter for 2020 and approved this, and as such it has been forwarded to the Ministry of Education. These documents provide the strategic direction which underpins all of the school's activities in the coming year, and specifically set measurable goals for key outcomes. The Charter will be available for parents to view and will be loaded on the school website here when approved: [Home>BOT>Charter and Strategic Plan](#)

CONTACTING YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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.

Board Members:

- Darryl Goldsack (Chairperson)
- Dave Honiss
- Sarah Herring
- Brandon Foster
- Andrew Maunder
- Mavis Glasgow (Principal)
- Lisa Robertson (Staff Rep)

SCHOOL VALUES

We want to extend our school values into our community and remind parents and caregivers of respectful communication with teachers and each other. Respect includes celebrating the success of others, accepting differences and caring for our environment. Congratulations to all those students who have received value awards and to the parents for their support with encouraging Respect, Resilience and Responsibility.

FRIENDSHIP SEAT

The Board have been working on the design of a Friendship seat to honour Mrs Gwen Francis; an ex-student of Buckland School, a long standing friend and respected community member. The final design is almost ready for production and we are hoping to have this ready next term. In addition to functioning as a Friendship seat for students, it will also serve as a memorial to Mrs Francis. More information will be available in the school newsletter next term.

BOARD MEETINGS

Board of Trustee meetings are open meetings and parents/caregivers are invited to attend. Please be aware members of the public do not have speaking or voting rights but may at the Chairperson's invitation be invited to put their opinions to the Board members. Should the Board go 'into committee', members of the public will be asked to leave. All meetings commence at 6.00 p.m. and are held in the school board room. Dates for meetings will be advertised in the school newsletters, on the Skool Loop app and on the electronic sign.

SCHOOL BBQ AND SWIM EVENING

The Board wishes to thank everyone who attended our BBQ and swim evening on Friday 21 February. We had a great time getting to know our school community better and hope you did too.

