



Ellerslie School

EST 1877

"To be the best we can be."

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER

August 2020

WORD FROM THE CHAIR

2020 continues to be a year of the unexpected. Just as we thought things were getting back to a new normal post the first Covid-19 lockdown, we find ourselves back in round two. I would once again like to thank the school leadership team, the teachers/teacher aides and the wider staff for all their magnificent efforts in the strong, timely communications to parents, as well as the standing up of online learning. It certainly takes a collective effort to make this happen, particularly at short notice and also considering that each of our team have their own personal challenges as we enter the second lockdown.

Although we have entered a second stage of lockdown, the board continues to turn its attention to some of the work that was started in the post Covid environment. This includes working with ministry in developing the schools masterplan, the implementation of the school's new charter and focusing on educational goals set out at the beginning of the year.

COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

With the unfortunate scenario of going into a second (hopefully short) lockdown, the board would just like to reiterate some of the messages that have been coming from the leadership team.

- That our children (and parents) wellbeing is the most important consideration through these periods. The learning over the lockdown period is designed to flex with what works best your child's and family situation in an effort to ensure learning can take place, but doesn't put an unnecessary burden on our families
- That only families of essential workers are at school and that children should only attend school if they are well
- The school has created mixed aged group bubbles to minimise contact across groups and has all the safety precautions in place eg contact tracing, hand sanitiser, face masks, closed playgrounds and separate playtimes
- That if you have any concerns about your child's learning, any access issues that you contact your child's guardian group teacher or any of the other contact avenues outlined in previous school communications

- The updated Covid Alert Level 3 Health and Safety Plan for the school is on the website

NEW SCHOOL CHARTER

We are pleased to present the new school charter. Late last year we started consultation with a number of stakeholders including teachers, teacher aides, parents, our students, as well as looking at what broader schools are currently doing. Along with an online survey and reviewing feedback from last year's ERO report the board has signed off on a charter that consists of four pillars.

- Hauora /Wellbeing: nurturing health and happiness
- Whanaungatanga / Relationships: making connections to foster a sense of belonging
- Ako/ Learning: creating a culture of learning for life
- He Tangata/ Citizenship: engaging and contributing to our world

We will continue to work with the leadership team on spotlighting the charter and how it is applied through everything we do with our students.

PROPERTY

The school has recently been engaging with the ministry of education on the school's new masterplan. This is a big piece of work to be done in order to create the school's footprint for the next ten years in order to ensure that we not only accommodate the school's growing role, but also the additional infrastructure requirements that come with having more children and more teachers. The ministry has appointed a project manager and architect to help undertake this process and we are excited to see the options that come out of this process

Although the masterplan development is in place, it does not stop existing and upcoming work from continuing. The heritage block continues to make good progress and we look forward to this opening sometime in term 4. The new astroturf has been perfectly timed with all the wet weather we have had and the upgrading of the toilet block has been a real necessity.

FAREWELL JENNIFER PERRY/BOARD APPOINTMENT

It is with sadness that we confirm that Jennifer Perry has resigned from the board. Jennifer has been a board member for the last six years and with her legal background her skills and experience have proven invaluable. Jennifer has been instrumental in the strengthening of our policies and procedures and has been an excellent support in her additional role as the Deputy Chair. We thank Jennifer for all her contributions and wish her and her family well for the future.

With Jennifer's resignation, we now have four elected representatives and one co-opted representative. Our constitution requires that we have five elected parent representatives on the board meaning that the board now has a casual vacancy available that needs to be filled. The board will now take the time to consider the best approach to fill this vacancy and come back to the community in due course.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Board has many policies and procedures as part of the effective governance processes. You can find the most commonly requested forms on the Ellerslie School website under the [Forms and Information](#) section.

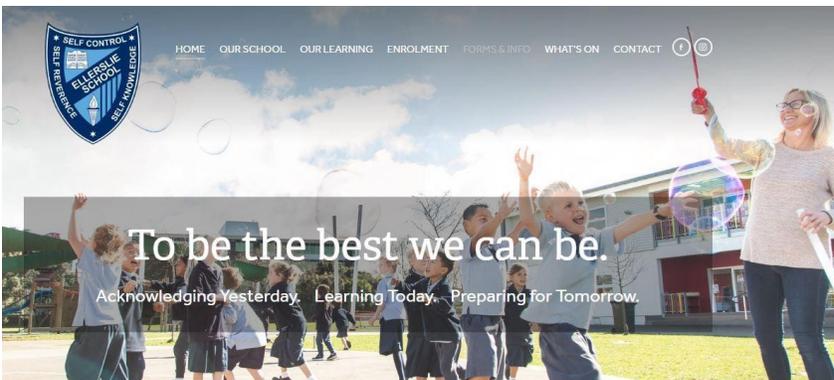
For other policies you require please request these via email: board@ellerslie.school.nz.

BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETINGS

The next Ellerslie School Board of Trustees meeting is Monday 21 September, 2020. These are public meetings. If you wish to raise an item at this meeting, please contact Rebecca our Chair prior to the meeting. Email: board@ellerslie.school.nz

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