

2 March 2021



Hello Muritai Families

The Muritai School Board of Trustees held its first meeting for 2021 this week and wish to update you on the outcomes.

### **Playground Update**

You will have noticed that the playground refurbishment is well underway with the repairs being undertaken, and the addition of spin bars, the Pencarrow lighthouse and a fantastic new slide in place. It is wonderful to see the children's design taking shape and we know they will be excited to get in there and try out the new equipment. We hope to have all of the soft fall bark delivered early next week, and to have the playground opened once this is placed under all equipment. We will continue to further develop this space, with more additions and inclusive equipment that the children designed.

### **Donation Information**

You will be receiving your school donation and activity fee communication soon. As you are aware last year was very challenging for many families and continues to be so. This year we are introducing an option to make an additional contribution and any help you may be able to give will be greatly appreciated by the Board of Trustees and the wider school community.

### **Achievement Targets 2021 - Mathematics**

Maths continues as our key focus area for 2021 both in professional development and as our achievement targets to closely monitor. We continue to monitor all children's progress in Reading, Writing and Maths, however for 2021 we will be looking closely at Mathematics with our targets as follows:

1. Our goal is to accelerate the 17% of our students in Year 2-8 that are not yet achieving their end of year expectation in Maths (65 students)
2. Our goal is to accelerate the 27 % of our students in Year 4, and the 28% of our students in Year 8 that are not yet achieving their end of year expectation in Maths (Year 4 = 14 students/Year 8 = 13 students)
3. Our goal is to accelerate the 30% of our students who identify as Māori in Year 2-8 that are not yet achieving their end of year expectations in Maths (9 students)
4. As part of our strategy in achieving these targets the teaching staff continue to work hard on their own Mathematical knowledge, understanding and practice too! An

outline of the professional development focus with our teaching staff in Mathematics in 2021 is:

- Upskilling our new and part time teachers in Term 1
- Further building staff ability to connect knowledge into their classroom lessons
- The Maths team sharing examples of collaborative planning
- The Maths team looking into Video analysis of maths practice for teachers
- Staff setting new maths goals for term 1 from the 'Muritai Maths Teaching Matrix'
- Staff further developing their strand concept knowledge
- Using the Maths Progressions created in 2020 to guide our own practice and use them alongside children to allow them to have knowledge of what they have learnt, what they are learning and what they are still to learn.
- Noticing and Responding - Capturing progress and the effective use of formative assessment

### **Election of Board Chair**

At the start of every year we elect a new Chair to act as our presiding member - except for the year when there are Board elections. This year we congratulate Kaye Sherwin as she takes the role as our new Board Chair. As our Board elections will take place next year, Kaye will remain our Chair right through until the new trustees take office. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Andrew Saunderson who has been our Board Chair for the last twelve months for his service and contribution to our school. Andrew will now be our Deputy Chair.

Finally, although the year has started with some uncertainty we wish to acknowledge the calm and confident way the Muritai Staff have navigated the transitions in and out of Level 1 and 2. We are so fortunate to have such an amazing team at Muritai School who are working very hard to develop positive, supportive learning environments. It is a good time to reflect on how lucky we are here in New Zealand and respect the guidelines of the levels to keep our community and country safe and healthy. Above all remember to look out for one another - be kind.

Warm wishes

Muritai School Board of Trustees

Kaye, Andrew, Bec, Jeremy, Kurt, Lisa and Felicity.

