



10 March 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our Muritai Families to the 2020 school year.

We had our first Board meeting for 2020 on 25<sup>th</sup> February. The first meeting of the year is always a busy meeting and requires the election of a chair. With Jeremy deciding to step down we have a new Board Chair, Andrew Saunderson, and Deputy Chair, Kaye Sherwin. The board thanked Jeremy for his time as Chair and look forward to his continued efforts as an ongoing board member.

The board is also delighted to welcome and congratulate our two new trustees. Lisa South is the newly elected parent trustee and Felicity Lovell is the newly elected staff trustee. We welcome them both to the board for the remainder of the current board term.

At our first board meeting of the year it also presents an opportunity for the board to discuss the focus of the year from a board perspective. Whilst student achievement and well-being are always a focus, the board recognises that in order to maintain momentum and improvement it's been helpful to provide a key focus to guide other activity. In recent years the board has focused on aspects like staff well-being, student wellbeing, behaviour and anti-bullying, or improving our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

This year the board has agreed to focus on communication and community engagement.

2020 is also the year when the board reviews and refreshes our strategic plan and charter so it ties in nicely. We're not sure what the engagement activity will look like yet but we're committed to finding appropriate ways to have it and recognise that all should have the opportunity to feed into that process whether that be through meetings with the board, or responding to online surveys.

We also want to use the opportunity to organise an event to meet the board. This will be a good chance for further engagement with our community. Details will follow in future comms and will give plenty of notice so it can go into diaries early.

The board would also like to draw your attention to the Education review office visit that occurred late last year. The ERO report is available on their website (you can find the ERO report at <https://www.ero.govt.nz/review-reports/muritai-school-25-11-2019/>)

As a board we are very proud of the positive report which is a reflection of the hard work put in by all of our staff at school and ultimately through the dedication of our Muritai learners demonstrating they can be the best they can be.

As a small token of appreciation before the school year started the board took the opportunity to host a barbecue with staff to thank them for their efforts. The Muritai board has always recognised that student achievement is built on having dedicated and quality teaching and support staff, and as a school we continue to be fortunate enough that this remains the case.

We currently track the progress of all students at Muritai and we as a Board look forward to seeing the great learning results continue from 2019 into 2020. We will be using in-depth analysis of all students individually, as groups, and as a whole school in order to ensure our children progress and achieve the best they can be.

Please also note that all parents and caregivers are welcome to attend our board meetings. The dates are already set for this year and these are always listed in our school newsletter and on the school website calendar. Meetings are held in the school staff room starting at 6.15pm.

You will have also seen in recent school communications the request for school donations. Again for the 10th year the board has decided to keep donations at current levels. The income from donations is important to the school and it allows us to provide the additional things that wouldn't otherwise be possible through government funding alone. This along with the great fundraising efforts from the home and school committee throughout the school year is what allows us to provide the environment to allow Muritai learners to be the best they can be.

As you can see 2020 is already shaping up to be a great year. We are grateful to you, the Home and School committee, and others for your continued support.

From your Board – Andrew, Kaye, Jeremy, Kurt and Bec (and soon Lisa and Felicity)