



8<sup>th</sup> April 2019

***Tēnā koutou katoa, Assalamualaikum, Talofa lava, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Mālō e lelei, nǐ hǎo and greetings from the Whenuapai School Board of Trustees***

*Hutia te rito o te harakeke,  
Kei whea te kōmako e kō?  
Kī mai ki ahau,  
He aha te mea nui o te ao?  
Māku e kī atu,  
He tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata!*

*If the heart of the harakeke was removed,  
where will the bellbird sing?  
If I was asked,  
what was the most important thing in the world?  
I would be compelled to reply,  
It is people, it is people, it is people!*

Term 1 is almost over! Yes, for those parents and caregivers in disbelief, the school holidays are upon us. We have had a cracking start to the 2019 school year with students experiencing some exciting activities such as the family fun evening and the school disco. Many thanks must go to our amazing PTA for their tireless efforts to support our school community.

Recently we celebrated how unique and diverse our community is through participating in Culture Week. It was great to see everyone come together to show off their history and culture at the Culture Parade. I'm sure you will all join me in thanking our awesome teachers and staff for putting on such a great week of fun and interactive activities in a truly inclusive learning environment.

By now you would have heard that we, along with the leadership team, commissioned a health and safety audit on our playgrounds. Unfortunately, at the 27<sup>th</sup> March board meeting, we had to make the decision to close the playgrounds due to health and safety risks identified. We are supporting and working closely with the leadership team and the PTA in finding a speedy solution.

Over the Christmas break, we had contractors on-site conducting maintenance to the drainage, electrical systems and roofs. Construction has continued in the junior school with classroom refurbishments and all going to plan these should be up and running for the start of term two. We will continue to see more mini construction sites pop up around the school as contractors make their way through the rest of the classrooms. Funding for these refurbishments came from the Ministry of Education (MOE) Five Year Agreement (5YA) grants. The MOE restricts these grants to the continued maintenance and improvement of fixed assets (i.e. buildings and classrooms etc). Unfortunately, these grants cannot be used to repair or replace our playgrounds.



Many of you may be aware that RNZAF Base Auckland has recently opened its new weapons range. The range will be used to allow RNZAF personnel to maintain their weapons proficiency and will be in use from 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019. We have been kept fully informed by the Base Commander of the developments, and it's envisaged that due to the range's location on base, there will be no direct impact to the school. All staff are fully aware of the situation and will monitor the children closely if range noise is detected.

In term two, we will be holding our triennial Board of Trustees election on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019. The nomination period for this election will be from 10<sup>th</sup> May to 24<sup>th</sup> May. If you would like to find out more information about becoming a board member or what it means to be on the board, please feel free to either come along to our next meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May or visit [www.trustee-election.co.nz](http://www.trustee-election.co.nz).

On behalf of the Whenuapai School Board of Trustees, I would like to offer my sincere thanks for all your continued support. What makes Whenuapai School amazing?  
*He tangata, he tangata, he tangata! (It is people, it is people, it is people!)*

Yours sincerely

Mike Leonard  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees  
Whenuapai School  
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