



The Ngaio School Board of Trustees Update

Term Two: July 2020

Kia ora koutou,

The Board would like to warmly welcome all new families who have joined the Ngaio School community since our last update - it's great to have you as a part of our school community.

During the COVID-19 lockdown the Board's priority was ensuring the school had appropriate policies in place for online learning delivery and for the wellbeing of our children, staff and whānau. We hope that everyone is going ok after lockdown and that you and your children are getting back into the swing of the 'new normal' at Level 1.

We are proud of the way everyone has supported each other through such an unusual experience.

The Ngaio School staff have done amazing work, before, during and after lockdown, and over the last few weeks have continued to support the children and families with settling back into school life. We hope they all enjoy a restful and very well-earned holiday break!

RECENT EVENTS/INITIATIVES:

- The **Portal App** is now up and running to strengthen communication between school and home.
- We are applying for a grant to redo the school's **Astroturf**. If we are successful this will be exciting news for the netball and hockey teams who use it for practices, and of course for all the kids who enjoy using it before, during and after school every day.
- **Family Donations and Activity Donations** help support areas that will enrich childrens' learning but are not covered by the Ministry of Education's funding. We know that 2020 has been especially challenging, but If you are able to pay this we greatly appreciate your support.
- **Kia ora!** Acknowledging members of our school and local community for their special contributions.

The Board would like to make special mention of the mahi and commitment that **Christian Hawkesby** has delivered as the last Chair of the Board. Over his time as Chair he has overseen some significant events at our school. We are very pleased to have his ongoing input and guidance as part of the current Board.

We also extend our gratitude to **Abby Smalley**, Year 3, Room 10 teacher and IT leader at Ngaio School. Thank you Abby for your amazing efforts in supporting staff with their online/digital preparations and also for preparing and arranging the delivery of school devices to families during lockdown.

Ralph Johns and family have been undergoing a special project in the boundary area between their backyard and Ngaio School - they have been removing rubbish, clearing trees and planting new native plants to create an amazing space that enhances the natural environment. Thank you to them for all their hard work.

The school's **PTA** members organised a recent clothing drive to donate clothing to children at other schools who need extra help staying warm and dry this winter after the effects of COVID-19 on their community. Ngaio School families have responded with generous contributions. What an awesome way to model the ROCKET values of empathy and kindness. Kia ora to everyone involved.

A big thanks to all the **essential worker** parents and caregivers within our school whānau who kept going out to work where they were needed during lockdown.

CONTACT:

We are always happy to hear feedback from the community - parents/whānau, children, staff - regarding the governance of Ngaio School. Please feel free to attend our monthly meetings advertised in the school newsletter and on the website, or you can contact us directly via the Chair at: botestelle@ngaio.school.nz

The Board would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday break.

Ngā mihi nui

Estelle Jaine, Chairperson

On behalf of Clinton Geeves, Mark Palmer, Sarah Sims, Sarah Smart, Christian Hawkesby and Raewyn Watson.

