



# Elstow-Waihou School

## A message from the PTA.....

Wow what a year we have all had. It certainly has been different, and everyone has adapted quickly which has been incredibly satisfying to see. Despite what 2020 has thrown at us we still managed to continue to support our wonderful tamariki and school by fundraising at all school events. Along with our Oxford Pies/Pasta and hot lunches which have been a hit! Our main project this year has been the pouwhenua for the year 8 and they are looking amazing and we will be continuing this again next year and the years to come. If you happen to be at the school head over the field and check them all out. Our fundraising efforts have yet again provided, and we are happy to say we are sitting comfortably heading into 2021. One last thing from us is just a huge thank you for all the support from the parents and the wider community. As the saying goes many hands make light work. Have a safe and happy holiday and we will see you all back again in the new year.



## And the Board of Trustees.....

To the many parents, caregivers, whanau and community members who have supported our school in so many ways this year, we would like to thank you for your contribution to our great little school - all that you do is appreciated and we couldn't do it without you.

The Board is really pleased with all we have been able to achieve this year and we would like to take this opportunity to recap the 2020 year.

We started the year with small classroom sizes as the Board was able to fund an extra teacher to allow this until ministry funding kicked in halfway through the year. The Board also funded some teacher aide hours. We supported the Accelerated Literacy Learning program. This was led by Wendy Oliver and focused on improving literacy for our priority learners.

All schools received some one off funding from the Government this year to spend on property. Our school received \$94,000. This was a huge bonus to our school as we were able to spend this on some much needed projects such as upgrading the toilets by the old Steam classroom, upgrading the staff toilets, purchasing heatpumps for the staffroom and library, building an accessibility ramp, re-fencing the boundary of the school by the native grove and autexing (wall coverings) some of the classrooms. While these projects have all been approved work won't start on them until early next year. We also have some major work being undertaken on our sewerage system (funded by the Board). This

sewerage system has been an ongoing problem and expensive to constantly maintain. We are hopeful this will finally fix the issues. We have applied for a grant to re-fence the boundary along Tautiti Road from the pool down to the cricket nets.

Part way through the year we welcomed Amy O'Brien to the team as our Gardener. Amy has already made huge improvements to the school grounds and the school is looking great.

With our extraordinary roll growth we have come to a point where we don't have much classroom space left. We have looked at our options and the Ministry has advised we aren't eligible to receive any more classrooms on our school site. The Ministry has met with the Board and discussed the option of zoning our school. We are in the very early stages of this process and will work through this with the Ministry next year. There will be full community consultation as we start working more through the process.

We received a very generous donation from the PTA of \$5,000 which was spent on new ipads for the classrooms to support our children's learning. We would like to acknowledge the support the PTA gives the school and all the work the committee members put in to help fundraise for the school.

Thank you also to all the parents/whanau that help out with our hay pickup/silage stack covering and to those that raised a calf for our school. These are major fundraisers for our Board and help us out immensely financially.

With Sandys resignation we will work on recruitment of a new Principal to start in term 3 2021. Wendy Oliver has taken on the role of Acting Principal for terms 1 and 2. Wendy has undertaken this role for us in the past and we thank her for doing this for us again.

To our Year 8 STAR students we wish you all the best as you take on your next adventure. Go on to college with your STAR attributes and there will be no stopping you. We are sure you will take with you many great memories of friends, teachers and experiences during your time here at Elstow-Waihou School.

To all our families that are leaving our school this year, thank you for being part of our school and all that you have contributed. We hope you have enjoyed your time with us.

On behalf of the Board we would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a wonderful holiday with family and friends. We look forward to seeing you again in 2021!

**Deb, Tash, Tania, Andrew B, Andrew S, Wendy and Sandy.**

