



ON BOARD

The Ngaio School
Board of Trustees Update

TERM 2 2023

And just like that it is the end of Term 2!

It has been great to get back to Hui and performances in the school with parents along to watch, and we are all looking forward to the Matariki event on 20 July. The Board will be there, helping out (and trying not to get in the way) and will make ourselves visible. We always love hearing from other parents, so please come along and chat to us.

What's been happening at the school?

Piki ki te Tūi Mural

It was fantastic to see the whole school performing together for the official opening of the Piki ki te Tūi mural on Monday and we look forward to many more opportunities for the school and community to come together.

The mural itself is a wonderful addition to our beautiful school. It tells the story of our waiata Piki ki te Tūi, and our children's journey from Kōwhai through to Tūi, while also incorporating our school's ROCKET values.

We reiterate our thanks to Christen Stewart for her superb leadership and visions, Creatives in Schools funding for making this possible and of course to the staff and ākonga for all of their wonderful ideas.



Action by Primary Teachers and Principals

You will be aware of the ongoing discussion that the primary sector teachers and principals have been having with the Ministry. Teachers and Principals have since voted to accept the latest Ministry of Education collective agreements. While the recent strike actions are disruptive and affected us all, we do acknowledge and support our leaders' and teachers' desire to improve the learning environment for both teachers and students. We would also like to acknowledge the support they give to students and families during these events to ensure children are looked after.

Principal's Sabbatical

In case you missed it, we once again congratulate our principal Raewyn Watson who has been granted a Primary Principals' Sabbatical for the 10 school weeks in term 3.

Read more about the sabbatical and the acting arrangements for term 3 [here](#).

Further to this, we can confirm that Michelle Pontifex will take on the acting Deputy Principal's role. Michelle will continue to be in her classroom Monday to Wednesday each week and will be released on Thursdays and Fridays by Caroline Dinniss (Miss Summers).

Teacher Representative on the Board

You will have seen in the school newsletter that the staff representative on the Board of Trustees - Dan Byrne - is away for the rest of the year. Dan will resume his position when he returns in 2024.

To make sure we still have a teacher's view at our meetings, different teachers will be taking it in turns to attend our meetings for the rest of the year, starting with Michelle in Term 3's first meeting in week 3 - Thanks Michelle!

Health and Safety at School Events

Everyone will have heard about the Abbey Caves incident and the tragedy that unfolded. This has put renewed focus on safety and the responsibility the school has to review and ensure a safe environment for its students, both at school and during external events.

The Board's role in health and safety

A primary objective of the board of Ngaio School is to ensure that the school is a physically and emotionally safe place for all students and staff, as required by the Education and Training Act 2020 (s. 127) and in support of the Statement of National Education and Learning Priorities (NELP: Priority 1).

The board is required to regularly review how well it implements key legislative and regulatory requirements, including those related to health, safety, and welfare, and takes steps as required to address any gaps in implementation.

SchoolDocs advisories are issued 2-3 times per term and provide information on policy or procedure changes and provide information about upcoming reviews and Board Assurances. The Ngaio School board reviews policies highlighted in each advisory and advises the principal and school community of any significant changes.

For more specific information on [Health and Safety at Ngaio School](#) including [Safety On and Off school grounds](#) and [Board Responsibilities](#) please use the links or please visit our SchoolDocs site [SchoolDocs](#).

What is the Board Focusing on?

Annual Plan Update

Each year, the Board sets some goals for the school as part of our strategic planning. These goals are not for the everyday core business of the school, we expect that to happen anyway, but for extra things that lift the practices at the school and push us forward.

At the halfway stage, we are confident that the school is making great progress towards achieving the objectives set out in the annual plan. Areas where the school has made significant progress to our objectives in the first two terms include:

- Creatives Project

We were thrilled to 'open' our Piki ki te Tūi mural this week. Thank you to Christen Stewart who

worked closely with the school to achieve this amazing masterpiece. Check out the article in this week's Independent Herald. https://issuu.com/mail-wsn.co/docs/29_june_independent_herald_s

- PB4L
The PB4L team has been attending professional development sessions and leading the wider staff in this development. They are currently gathering ākonga voice about our school's ROCKET values which will help inform their work around defining the values. We look forward to more opportunities for the community to engage with this work.
- Te Reo Curriculum and PLD.
We have seen good progress in this annual plan goal, with Hayden and Wendy engaged in Kura Ahurea, a cultural support programme for schools. The programme has been designed by Wellington mana whenua and provides a Te Āti Awa ki Te Whanganui a Tara / Taranaki Whānui perspective on local historical narratives, tikanga and kawa. Teachers continue to embed the revised Ngaio School Tikanga and Te Reo progressions in their classroom programmes.
- The Clinic
The Clinic is back up and running. After a few years without The Clinic, we set a target of restarting The Clinic and running two sessions a term from term three. Thanks to amazing community volunteers, we have exceeded that target, running at least two sessions per syndicate in both Term 1 and Term 2!

A full summary of progress will be provided at the end of term 4.

Digital curriculum

This term the Board heard a presentation from the school's digital lead Tessa Gatenby. Digital literacy should be an essential part of children's growth and development at Ngaio School with use of technology integrated into other learning areas as well as specific teaching of computational thinking as children progress through the school.

There are two technological areas related to Digital Technology in the New Zealand Curriculum:

- computational thinking, where students develop an understanding of computer science principles that underlie all digital technologies. Students learn core programming concepts so they can become creators of digital technology, not just users; and
- designing and developing digital outcomes, where students learn how to design quality, fit-for-purpose digital solutions

Ngaio School is currently unable to reach the standard of learning set out in the New Zealand Curriculum for the area of Digital Technology, entirely due to the availability and standard of our stock of devices.

The Board is working with staff to understand the needs of the school and develop a solution that means teachers are able to deliver our curriculum.

Property

Masterplan and playgrounds

A board subcommittee which includes members of the PTA are beginning work to plan development of the outdoor space at Ngaio School. The initial focus will be the junior playground and additional nature and play space by the stage as described in the Landscape Masterplan.

If anyone in the community has the skills or experience to contribute to a project like this we would love to hear from you.

Bike Track Update

At our meeting on 22 June, the Board made the decision not to pursue the development of a bike track at Ngaio School.

Over the past few years there has been much consultation and discussion about the idea of adding a bike track to the school field. There had been funding available towards the project and it was included in the school's Landscape Masterplan.

Despite the many benefits of an all weather track, on the balance of feedback to date, development cost and the ongoing cost and effort of maintenance, we have decided that we would rather focus investment in other projects.

Contact

We are always happy to hear feedback from the community – parents/whānau, children, staff regarding the governance of the school. Please feel free to attend our monthly meetings (these are advertised in the school newsletter or on the website), or you can contact us directly via the Presiding Member at botcraig@ngaio.school.nz

Noho ora mai

Craig, Daniel, Emma, Joe, Rachael, and Raewyn

The current Ngaio School Board is:



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