



AN UPDATE FROM

The Ngaio School Board of Trustees

TERM 2 2023

Principal's Sabbatical

We congratulate our principal Raewyn Watson who has been granted a paid Primary Principals' Sabbatical for the 10 school weeks in term 3. Each year there are 105 sabbaticals available to principals covered by the Primary Principals' Collective Agreement (there are approximately 2,500 primary schools in New Zealand), in state or state-integrated primary schools to undertake professional learning, reflection and rejuvenation.

This is a well deserved opportunity and a great reward for all the hard work that Raewyn has put into the school, teaching team and students over the last few years. The sabbatical has been planned and arrangements have been made for ongoing support of the school while she is away.

What is the Sabbatical

The purpose of this sabbatical is to provide a sustained period of leave during a principal's career, to engage in a balance of professional learning, reflection and rejuvenation. The sabbatical aims to:

- improve overall retention rates of experienced, effective primary principals
- improve knowledge, skills and practise through engagement in professional learning
- enhance a principal's enthusiasm for school leadership.

And more broadly:

- enhance the learning experiences of students
- enhance professional learning cultures in the primary schooling sector
- enhance leadership throughout the primary sector

What will Raewyn be doing?

Raewyn will be exploring how the shift to modern/flexible/innovative learning spaces has impacted on children's sense of belonging, ownership and identity with regard to the classroom environment and investigate how further changes would enhance belonging and ownership in our flexible, varied spaces.

She will be visiting schools in New Zealand and Australia to talk to teachers and students about their experiences and will share her conclusions with school staff to help open conversations about our learning environments across the school, not just in the open spaces. This will enrich our shared pedagogy across the school and support teacher confidence and commitment to teaching and learning for equity, engagement and inclusiveness.

We are excited to see what Raewyn learns and how Ngaio can use her work to maximise the potential of these spaces, to work flexibly and cater for different modes of learning.

Arrangements while Raewyn is away

Raewyn will be away from the start of Term 3 (Monday July 17th) returning for the start of Term 4 (9th October). While she is away our Deputy Principal Sarah Simpson will be stepping into her role and acting as Principal (including her role on the Board).

We are very excited for this opportunity for Sarah and believe she will do a fantastic job and gain experience which will be of benefit to Sarah, the School and the Community. There will be other supporting arrangements put in place to cover Sarah's role as Deputy Principal and we will update on these in the school newsletters.

We are confident that the school will continue to be managed to the same high standard while Raewyn is away.

CONTACT

We are always happy to hear feedback from the community – parents/whanau, 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

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