



ON BOARD

The Ngaio School Board Update

TERM 4 2023

And..... 2023 is almost a wrap. Another term has flown by and we are now at the end of the year. Hopefully work is starting to wind down and you are looking forward to Christmas.

The Board would like to thank everyone for your support of Ngaio School during the year, and to wish everyone in the school community a Merry Christmas and a relaxing, restful summer break.

We would also like to thank and recognise our teaching and school support staff for all your effort and work over the year. It's been another big year and we know how hard everyone has been working and is committed to ensuring that the students have a happy and safe learning environment.

Further, we would like to thank and recognise our PTA for all the incredible work you do to help support the school.

And, we would also like to thank Desmond, who is retiring, for his long standing commitment to Ngaio School.

Lastly, a big thanks to Annabel, who is leaving us, for all her work, thank you and good luck! We look forward to welcoming back Dan Byrne who will be returning to teaching in the new year.

Strategic planning

We are pleased to present a high level draft of the Ngaio School Strategic Plan for 2024-2025, as well as the key actions from the 2024 Annual Implementation Plan.

School strategic plans usually cover a three year period, but in line with Ministry of Education guidelines, this plan is for the next two years only, so that future plans sync up with board terms.

Each year we also highlight specific things we will focus on in the upcoming year towards the goals and initiatives in the strategic plan.

You can view the high level draft of the 2024-25 Strategic Plan and 2024 Annual Implementation Plan on the school website through this link [Strategic Plan Summary 2024-.pdf](#)

If you have any feedback, please send any comments or questions to botcraig@ngaio.school.nz by 26th January 2024.

Putting together the plan

We are incredibly grateful for the detailed and thoughtful responses to our earlier community consultation. There is too much to summarise succinctly here, but we have read and discussed your responses in detail and they have contributed to the content of the strategic plan.

There was a lot of positive feedback about ensuring that we maintain and look after our wonderful school grounds to make sure they remain a fantastic place for our kids and community. We also received a lot of positive feedback about our fantastic teaching staff and some of the events, such as our Matariki evening, that bring the community together.

The feedback contained rich detail about what is important to you and your aspirations for your children's time at Ngaio School which feeds directly into our work on learner profiles and students journey through the school. It was also clear that we should focus more on communication and on communicating progress, including the three way conferences.

Hopefully you will see some of the feedback reflected in the plan, but if you would like to talk about anything in more detail please reach out to any of the Board members.

There is also a huge amount of effort from Raewyn, Sarah and the rest of the leadership team that goes into these strategic and annual plans. There is always so much we want to include and half the challenge is narrowing it down to focus on the most important bits each year.

Purpose of the strategic plan:

The strategic plan sets out how the board will meet our primary objectives (set out in the Education and Training Act 2020):

- Every student at the school can achieve their highest educational standard
- The school is a physically and emotionally safe place, ensures students' human rights are upheld and takes steps to eliminate racism, stigma, bullying and other forms of discrimination
- The school is inclusive of and caters for, students with differing needs
- The school gives effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, including by:
 - working to ensure that its plans, policies, and local curriculum reflect local tikanga Māori, mātauranga Māori, and te ao Māori
 - taking all reasonable steps to make instruction available in tikanga Māori and te reo Māori
 - achieving equitable outcomes for Māori students

The Strategic Plan highlights specific areas for further growth or development which are in addition to the school's 'business as usual' focus on teaching across the curriculum.

Property Update

AstroTurf

The turf on the lower level has been fenced off recently as it is being repaired. A huge thanks to the persistence of Raewyn and Sarah in chasing the supplier to get this sorted.

Play Bank

Work will begin on the playbank to improve this area. This work will be happening over the Christmas break with the aim of being ready for start of the 2024 school year.

Te Kapua

We have worked through with the insurance company on resolving claims for Te Kapua after it was damaged (we are not sure how it would have fared in Tuesdays wild weather bomb either!). A new covering will be put up to replace the damaged one.

Fencing

A new fence has been erected at the back of the arb. This, like the recent fencing on Abbott St, was funded by the Ministry of Education.

End year achievement data

At the Board meeting in December, Sarah Simpson and Raewyn Watson presented the Ngaio School end of year achievement data for 2023 along with detailed analysis and commentary. The board receives a large volume of detailed analysis alongside the results of testing and overall teacher judgement; it then asks questions to understand what the data is telling us and work out how we can better support the school to teach our children.

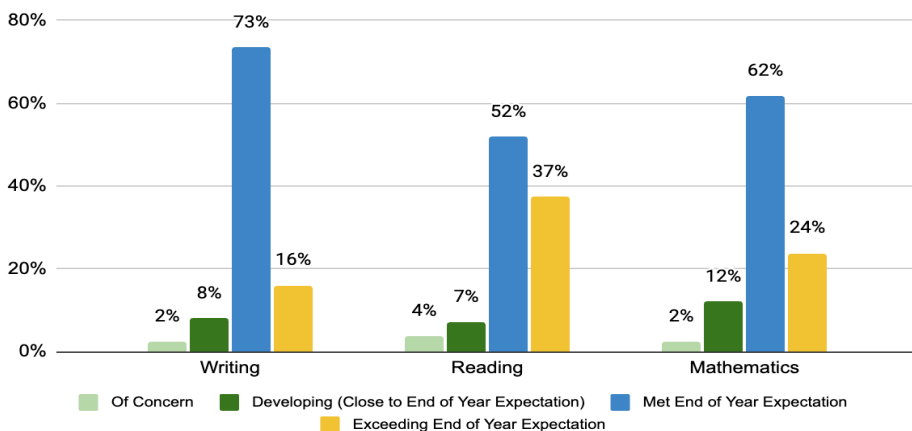
You can read an explanation of how progress and achievement is measured at Ngaio School [here](#). If you have any questions about the school achievement data and how the board reviews the data and analysis then please get in touch with Joe Winton botjoe@ngaio.school.nz

Whole School Overall Achievement

The whole school results are very pleasing, and the board is excited to see high numbers of children meeting and exceeding end of year expectations. Some key notes were:

- 37% of students exceeding end of year expectations in reading,
- 89% of students have met or exceeded end of year expectations in reading
- 90% of students have met or exceeded end of year expectations in writing.
- 86% of students have met or exceeded end of year expectations in mathematics.

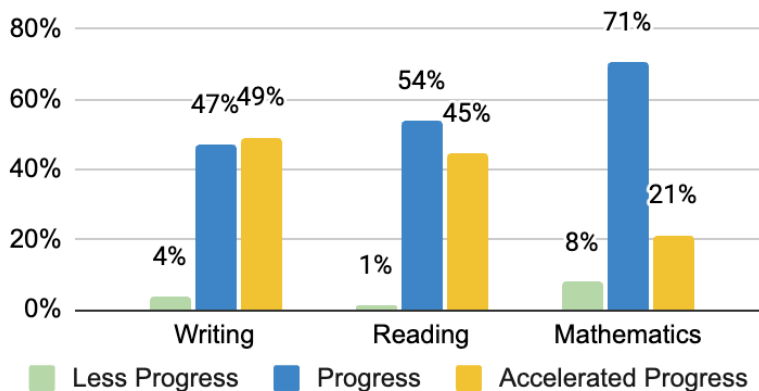
Whole School End of Year Overall Teacher Judgements 2023



Whole School Progress End 2022 – End 2023

Along with the data on where students are at, at the end of year, we also look at progress that students have made throughout the year. We are pleased that the majority of students have made progress or accelerated progress. We believe this is a direct result of teachers knowing their learners, setting high expectations and selecting learning tasks to target the specific learning needs of each student.

Whole School Progress in Writing, Reading and Mathematics 2022-2023



It is pleasing to see most students are making progress or accelerated progress across reading, writing and maths.

Reading

Reading progress is currently measured against curriculum levels which typically take two to three years to achieve. Within each level is a reading progression that becomes more complex and demanding as students move through the curriculum. We are encouraged to see that many of the students progressing or accelerating their progress are also already achieving or excelling against the curriculum level.

Writing

Writing is one of the most challenging disciplines and interestingly from Year 4 there are greater numbers of students exceeding end of year expectation and also making accelerated progress in writing. Of those students exceeding the expectation in writing, we were told that the majority are prolific writers who write for pleasure. They therefore have greater writing mileage than those who only write for a set purpose at school. We are pleased to see a continued high level of writing achievement being maintained across the school.

Mathematics

We heard how the teachers have a deep understanding of the learning gaps for individual learners. They recognise that laying a solid foundation of mathematical concepts is crucial to ongoing progress. As a result, teachers tend to be conservative in their judgements, ensuring their students have confidently met a level before moving them on to a new level. Teachers report that this ensures a solid grounding as they introduce new and increasingly complex concepts. The 12% of students not quite at expectation will continue to be supported, as will the 2% of more concern. To further maintain the momentum of the Ngaio maths journey, teaching staff will be continuing to hold regular staff meetings to revisit, share and discuss maths teaching. They have also applied for two more teachers to be trained in Accelerated Learning in Mathematics (ALiM) in 2024 to bolster support in this area.





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, Joe, Craig, and Sarah

The current Ngaio School Board is:

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