



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Board of Trustees Meeting: Thursday 7 May 2026

Report prepared by Phil McIntosh

From the Tūmuaki,

The term has had an interesting start with a school closure due to the weather. It is highly unusual to have two events in a year that require this level of consideration, and I appreciate the support from the board, particularly given the lack of direction provided by the Ministry of Education. While I recognise that it is difficult for the Ministry to provide bespoke advice, it remains challenging for a board to determine if it is safe to open the school.

Reflecting on a successful Term 1, we enjoyed a fantastic Year 6 camp and our Rocket Carnival, a wonderful community event where many parents and whānau joined us for a picnic on the grass. We have also begun to develop meaningful relationships with our local ECEs, with a group from Childspace visiting a Year 4/5 class regularly to engage in buddy reading and enjoy our school grounds. We hope to host more ECEs for a Kapa Haka morning later in the term to further these connections.



Looking forward, we have an exciting science learning theme called “I am a scientist.” We plan to make strong links with our local area, including Ngaio Predator Free and the Capital Kiwi project.

It was fantastic to successfully hold our Cross Country, and I want to extend a massive thank you to Dan Byrne for his superb organisation. Managing nearly 300 children through a cross-country course is no small feat, and seeing so many smiles on their faces made the effort worthwhile. We couldn't have been luckier with the weather, which was a welcome relief after the challenging conditions of the previous week. We look forward to sending a representative group to a regional competition soon.

Regarding the current landscape of education, we are working through the new assessment and reporting changes. These shifts are significant and will take time for us to fully navigate. We have not had the lead-up time or guidance from the Ministry of Education that we desired; however, we have an incredibly capable group of kaiako who will embrace the challenge and work through this for the benefit of the children.

To support our parent community, we will hold our first parent information sessions in Week 4, with further sessions planned for Term 3 and Term 4. We aim to help our parents

understand the changes in the education space, particularly around curriculum, assessment, and reporting. As we progress, we welcome feedback on other areas of interest. Our parent community is one of our biggest assets, and we are committed to keeping them informed and engaged at every step.



Finally, a warm thank you to Fran and her father, Ralph, who have generously volunteered their time to support the school with arborist work on our grounds during the holiday break. There is still some work to be done, but the Arb is now safe for children to enjoy during break times.

Ngā mihi

Phil McIntosh

Tūmuaki

Strategic Progress

The April updates from the 2026 Annual Implementation plan can be found [here](#).

I would like to begin planning for the 2027 Strategic Plan now. With a consultation period occurring in Term 3, that would leave us with Term 4 to collate and analyse the feedback before defining the strategic goals. Starting this early will ensure that the school can adequately prepare and focus our resources on the right areas.

Student Achievement & Curriculum

Professional Development

Staff meetings have been focused on understanding:

- 1) Assessment descriptors: What do the new five descriptors mean? How do we utilise these and match them to the curriculum?
- 2) Curriculum Rubrics: Michelle shared some valuable tools that will support our kaiako to make teacher judgements
- 3) Writing Moderation: Teachers have moderated together, ensuring that their assessment decisions are fair, valid and aligned with the new standards.

Michelle, our literacy lead, has led these sessions and is doing an incredible job of supporting the school in this area.

As a staff, we have also spent time looking at our Term 2 learning programmes, our values, and the graduate profile.

As a principal, I have received the following professional development:

- A 'Professional Learning Group' has been established. A framework for the year has been developed with a mix of professional readings, discussion topics and space for 'what's on top' at each meeting.
- Beginning Principal Support has started. This involves leadership labs, mentoring, a regional hui and a number of online modules.

Personnel

Staffing Updates

Due to a restructuring of roles within the library, we can confirm that Bernice Williams will finish at Ngaio School at the end of Term 2. Bernice has been with the school for many years and has been invaluable in supporting the library and our tamariki. We are incredibly grateful for her time, dedication, and commitment to the library and to literacy. Cristin Smith will be staying on as our librarian.

I have received a resignation from Chantal McKee, who will end her time with us after eight years to head overseas. Chantal is a key member of our leadership team and is widely

respected by staff and our community. We wish her all the best on her adventure to the United States.

We have appointed Belle Khairudin as a teacher aide.

We also have a student counsellor, Sarah Phaipanya, who is starting with us soon. Sarah will spend time getting to know our children before she begins running individual and group programmes.

Health, Safety, and Compliance

Property Update

The demolition of Blocks A and J is set to take place before the end of term. We are awaiting on an asbestos report and a demolition plan from the Ministry of Education.

Due to funding challenges, the heating upgrade of the junior block has been delayed slightly. We hope to have this completed by the end of the month. Please note this is an upgrade, and there is currently sufficient heating in the classrooms.

We have a working bee planned for Sunday, 24th May, starting at 2pm. The goal is to work on the McLeod Hall initially, in an effort to have this ready for Term 3.

Attendance

Our attendance data for Term 1, 2026, has been confirmed at 83%. This is slightly down from last year (85%), likely due to the weather event on February 16th 2026, where we advised families to stay home.

We currently have 270 children attending Ngaio School. The Ministry of Education has predicted it will reach 290 by the end of the year.

We are currently accepting a small number of out-of-zone children, in specific year groups, through our ballot system

Financial Overview

The school will be reimbursed just over \$10,000 for an overspend on a bathroom project. The Ministry is yet to process this.