

Dear Parents and Caregivers

The end of the fourth term and 2017 have now come upon us. Upon reflection, 2017 has been a full and progressive year with the long-term building project finally showing results. A highlight for many has been the opening of our new whare (building) and class rooms. We now have a brand new, stunning and elegant whare and we finally look forward to the completion of our inner court yard!

Construction work has now moved onto completing the linkway (between the new whare and the Mua i Malae (1884) building), which is now being refurbished. A big thank you to Peter Coates and Jonathan for their ongoing mahi (work) on this project. We very much look forward to the completion of the linkway and MiM building in mid-2018.

A special thank you goes out to all the parents who contributed to the boards' December morning tea event, to express our appreciation to all our teachers and staff for the years hard work! This initiative by Jozie Sharpe, with the support of Heidi Mackey was so successful that it will become an annual event from hereon. The food prepared by our supporting parents was superb!

The end of year, whole school graduation event for L'Archipel, Te Whanau Whariki, Mua i Malae and Kiwi Connection well marked our year six students preparing to leave Richmond Road school and continue their learning journey. In addition, and as has been a tradition for many years, TWWs' distinct year six graduation and MiMs' po fiação celebration also provided strong cultural expressions to the importance of education of our tamariki.

The board have now completed a pre-hui community board meeting, one week before every monthly board meeting for 2017. The pre-hui meetings have proven to be an important and successful conduit between the community and the board – where concerns and praises have been expressed and reported to the board. The pre-hui meetings are conducted in a pleasant environment, Locanta Bistro just down the road from the school and will continue in 2018.

It is with much respect and pleasure that the board expresses its gratitude to its two co-opted board trustees, Kieran Fouhy and Collene Roche. Their extensive experience and wisdom, as principals and educationalists has provided valuable guidance and steadiness to the boards' first year of service.

We wish to also thank Steve Maskell, Heidi Mackey and Jonathan for their constant work on the boards finance committee. We are aware that these unceasing and important business-related duties are often unacknowledged by the community.

The school-wide PTA initiated by Turama Meha and strongly supported by Jozie Sharpe, continues to grow and is becoming a key community forum in the school. Both the board and the community continue to strongly support this school-wide parent group in weaving together the interests of all four school ropu.

We are saddened to see the departure of our Kiwi Connection teachers, Catherine Vetelino, Katie Morrow and Miguel Daza. Lanlan Zhang, the Mandarin language assistant is also leaving.

Jackie McGivern and Bronwyn Collard from the Reading Recovery programme have also departed and we express our strong appreciation at this programmes' big success and that it will continue in 2018! Finally, Laela Carmichael the TWW ropu leader will be away for 2018 having won a well-deserved study award. Congratulations Laela! A big thank you to you all for your hard work and efforts over this year and best wishes for the future.

An important aspect of teacher well-being and development is their Personal Learning Development (PLD). The board has supported PLD with the intention of ensuring the continued growth and learning of its teachers. This year Deputy Principal, Emma Tolmie spoke in Australia at one of the largest education conferences in Australasia and also presented at NZs' largest education conference, uLearn. Deputy Principal, David Pentecost will attend an international conference in Italy next year with an emphasis on identifying bi-cultural perspectives in education. And, our principal Jonathan will address an international conference in Miami, USA next year about our school and the work we have done through the Teacher-led Innovation Fund. Such exposure enables our school leaders to grow through their own learnings, as well as bring back experiences and perspectives that add to our schools' rich tapestry.

We also congratulate and recognise two milestone achievements this year by Jonathan in being appointed to the Education Council NZ Teacher Registration panel and in his successfully completing the Strategic Leadership for Principals' programme led by the Springboard Trust.

The board wishes to thank all the teachers and support staff for this years' efforts. In its first year of service, this board has governed the school towards a reasonable state of stability, peace and unity. And, key areas have been identified for marked improvement in 2018. From this springboard, the boards' expectations for 2018 will be pursued with an increased intensity towards achieving higher level outcomes and performance overall.

Most important of all, the board especially want to thank our tamariki for their presence and inspiration to us all – because you are the single reason that we, the community are all joined and working together. We wish everyone a Happy Xmas and New Year and a good break. God Bless and see you all in 2018!

Kind regards

*Kahungunu Barron-Afeaki SC*

Kahungunu Barron-Afeaki S.C.  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees  
Richmond Road School