



Ōtorohanga College

Ko te mana mō mua i te whakamana
Honour before Honours

Principal: Ms Traci Liddall Dip Tchg, Dip TEFL, BA, PGDip Ed, M Ed (hons)

20 March 2020

Governing through our school values...

*Honour Others
Me whaimana te iwi*

*Honour Your Environment
Me whaimana te taiao*

*Honour Yourself
Me whaimana te tangata*

Kia ora whānau, students, staff and parent community of Ōtorohanga College

Topics covered in this issue:

- Covid-19
- Coastal Consultation and Hostel update
- BOT – member, property and student trustee update
- School Charter
- School Website

Covid-19

We know that some of you have concerns about your children attending school. The MOE and World Health Organisation continue to advise that the best and safest place for students is to remain at school. **If your child is unwell (whether the illness relates to COVID-19 or not) they should stay at home.** Students who are well should continue to attend school.

While we are seeing large-scale school shutdowns elsewhere in the world, in New Zealand we still have no community transmission. Consequently, any decisions about school closures will be made on a case by case basis and we will continue to take the guidance from the Ministry of Education (MOE). In the meantime, please keep sending your rangatahi to schools and early learning centres as these environments continue to be safe and the best place for them to continue their learning. We will continue to update you regarding developments and advice regarding Covid-19 and please keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates.

To reduce anxiety for children around Covid-19, the MOE has produced the following information to support parents when communicating with their children. Link access:

<https://education.govt.nz/school/health-safety-and-wellbeing/pastoral-care-and-wellbeing/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-coronavirus/>

We know you will be keeping a caring and watchful eye over loved ones, neighbours and elderly friends at this time.

Coastal Consultation

Our coastal whānau recently invited the BOT to a meeting to discuss important areas of concern. The meeting was positive, productive and honest. We acknowledged that the concerns expressed by our coastal whānau are real and that many steps are already in place to address these. One of the strong themes to emerge from our discussion was the need to continue to **build positive partnerships for learning** (which is a strategic goal focus this year) between the College and the parent community because success for our students is dependent on the connection we build with our school community. We thank our coastal whānau for expressing their views respectfully and for going through the correct processes (the Complaints Policy) to air their concerns and seek resolution.

Hostel Project – (photo below showing Hostel buildings located at Ardmore Teachers' College in the 1970's)

During our visit to Kawhia we also updated parents regarding the Hostel project. An open letter to the Ministers of Parliament has been written and attendees at the Kawhia hui signed it in support of the Hostel rebuild. Please contact Traci ASAP if you wish, as a supporter of the College and Hostel, to sign the open letter.



We thank our Coastal whānau for their patience during this process. We also acknowledge and thank Mr Roy and Mrs Caroline Willison for their huge dedication to, and love for, our Hostel students and whānau. A copy of the open letter to MP's can be viewed in the front office or emailed to you upon request.

Farewell and Casual Vacancy

We farewell Anthea Tata and Corey Wilson who have recently resigned from the Board. Anthea joined the Board as a parent trustee in 2016. Corey, who resides in Hamilton, joined us in late 2018 and was co-opted until December 2019 to assist us with our financial stewardship. It was a pleasure to work with both Corey and Anthea and we thank them for their contributions to the Board.

Anthea's departure means that a casual vacancy exists on the Board. At our March meeting the Board will decide whether to fill this through a bi-election or selection. Further details can be found here: <https://www.trustee-election.co.nz/board-resources/casual-vacancies/>



We are also considering co-opting another person to the Board with financial experience and knowledge until the end of 2020. Trusteeship is an extremely rewarding role within a school; please contact Lorraine or Traci if you would like to know more.

Property

It was decided that the extra MOE property funding is to be used to refurbish the College hall. Other property projects about to commence are:

- A and B Block toilet reconfiguration: B Block toilets will face out towards the sports field and the A Block toilets will be converted to a changing room area for PE and rec. period.
- Roofing replacements, electrical upgrades and targeted repairs across areas of the school.

We are proud to support local business and we are pleased to advise that Mr Paul Rattray has won the contract to undertake the work in these two projects.

Student Trustee - Emma Rye

Emma Rye continues to bring a strong voice and perspective to the Board as a student of the school. Emma advises the Board on areas that are significant to students such as student morale, attendance, uniforms, student rights and privileges. Student agency and voice is paramount to ensure that all decisions made by the Board reflect the wishes

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and aspirations of our young people. For example, the refurbishment of A Block toilets to a changing area was a result of acting on student voice. We thank Emma for her commitment and wisdom.

Charter and Strategic Plan

The Charter / Strategic Plan was approved by the Board in February to ensure it is submitted on time to the Ministry of Education by the due date - 1 March. Consultation with parents, students, staff and the whānau group during term four 2019 revealed some key areas of development that the school community would like to see at the College. The Charter is an evolving and living document so further consultation will take place later in 2020. The Charter goals are:

- Goal 1: Kotahitanga: Providing effective governance
- Goal 2: Rangatiratanga: Building effective leadership and capacity at all levels
- Goal 3: Whanaungatanga: Building positive partnerships for learning
- Goal 4: Marau Matauranga: Building effective teaching practice at all levels
- Goal 5: Ka Hikitia: Relentless focus on sustained and accelerated student achievement

These goals are set by the Board and the annual section of the Strategic Plan details how these goals will be achieved by the management of the College. The BOT continues to strive towards providing effective governance by actively engaging in professional development relevant to their roles. A copy of the confirmed Charter can be found in the front office and will soon be available via our school website.

Website



We are happy to support David Wild of KS Design, an Ōtorohanga based graphic artist and web designer, who has been chosen to upgrade our website. Part of this process will ensure that all policies feature on the new website and are easy to access for website users. The Board is currently reviewing these policies via School Docs.

Students with an interest in web design will have the opportunity to contribute to the process and assist with the development of our new website. We thank David and his family for his keenness to work with us on this important project.

As many communities experience hardships from local and globally significant events, now is a time for calm, kindness and strength. We extend our gratitude to Traci and her management team and staff who are keeping our ship sailing confidently and in the right direction during these unprecedented times.

Best wishes for everyone in our community to stay healthy and strong and thank you again for your ongoing support. "He aroha whakato, he aroha puta mai. If kindness is sown, then kindness you shall receive."

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lorraine Fox', written in a cursive style.

Lorraine Fox
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Paul Matthews', written in a cursive style.

Paul Matthews
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