



Board of Trustees Update

May 2020

Hello Papakowhai School community

It has been great having the school open again and hearing about how excited children have been fitting back into their classrooms. While we aren't quite at normal, we certainly seem to be heading in the right direction.

The Covid-19 crisis has affected the financial wellbeing of many New Zealanders, both individuals and organisations. Despite being a public school, Papakowhai School is not immune from financial stress and the Board of Trustees are working closely with Mark Smith as Principal to ensure appropriate steps are being taken to manage the school's financial position.

While most of Papakowhai School's income is provided by the Ministry of Education the amount received each year doesn't cover the total cost of running the school. As a decile ten school Papakowhai doesn't fall within the scope of the new Government donations scheme. Approximately 8% of the school's operating costs each year are funded through other fundraising activities, including school donations, community grants and providing before and after school care facilities.

Unfortunately, there has been a significant impact on our expected income from fundraising activities this year due to the lockdown. Because school was not able to operate during Level 4, and was restricted during

Level 3, our income from before and after school care has been severely impacted. We've also been informed from some charitable trusts that grants are likely to be reduced or not given at all in the short term.

The Board of Trustees are making decisions to reduce costs and expenditure without compromising the quality of teaching and learning. It's important to us that Papakowhai School is able to continue to provide the broad range of opportunities to our students, wherever possible.

This week the school will be issuing statements of account for donation balances remaining. We encourage you to pay the amount requested if you are in the position to do so. Donations can be paid in instalments over the school year so please contact the school office to discuss options.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for supporting our school and teachers during this unprecedented time. We're lucky to have such an awesome positive community and together we'll continue to get back to a 'new normal', step by step.

Regards

Rodney Strong
Chair

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