



Kia ora e te whānau

We hope your children have settled well into their first term at school and enjoyed a few fun Term 1 celebrations such as Camp at School Night and the Centenary. These events and other recent additions to the school, like the fabulous Greg Straight entranceway mural and our brand-new BPS swim caps on the children at swimming sports, increase the feelings of connectedness and camaraderie that are already apparent at our school.

We wish to acknowledge the tragic events in Christchurch and express our sympathy and condolences for all those who were touched by these evil acts. We are proud of how our school as a whole has provided support to our tamariki during this time. In light of this, and other unique challenges facing our children, we support Mr Verryt's decision to change bell times to better support children's developmental stages and the implementation of a whole school **Wellness Programme**. The programme will focus on positivity, building confidence and resilience. One of the units for Whanake children for example, will teach them strategies to make and maintain healthy friendships and take part in school life in a positive way. We'd also like to remind parents that the Board continues to fund a school counsellor, Carol Ann Begbie, who is available to support all BPS children. Please talk to your child's teacher for information about appointments.

You will notice we continue to make progress on **building and renovation** work around the school. Part of these works involve painting, new carpets, lighting, new wall coverings to reduce sound and increase insulation, and the general modernising of classrooms. We are hoping to complete a lot of work during the holidays and in Term 2 to minimise disruption to the school.

As a Board we have been working to improve our school's **sponsorship strategy** by establishing clear policies and guidelines for all sponsors that will allow different parties to support BPS.

We are also working hard on a new **4-year strategic plan** now that our new Principal is on board. We will be consulting with you, our school community, on this plan before it requires finalisation at the end of 2019.

After a recent **review of our students' achievement in 2018** we are pleased to share that the percentages of children At or Above expectations in Reading, Writing and Maths are 88%, 78%, and 88% respectively. While the school continues to strive to help all children improve and progress, we are nevertheless proud of these results.

School board elections will be held in June of this year. Current parent representatives Sam Perkins (Chair), Jo McDonald (Property) and Jason Britten (Finance) are all up for re-election, as is teacher representative Rachel Grant. Charlotte Armstrong and Geordie Lindsay-Russell will remain on the Board through to the end of 2020, and of course Mr Verryt as Principal.

If you are interested in joining the Board of Trustees please visit www.nzsta.org.nz for more information and feel free to contact a board member. The process for putting your name forward will be provided closer to the time.

We are committed to providing a safe, happy and nurturing environment for all the students and staff at Birkenhead Primary School. Please feel free to come and talk to us when you see us (or email us) – we appreciate hearing your thoughts.

Noho ora mai

BPS Board of Trustees

- ❖ Sam Perkins (Board Chair) – sperky@gmail.com
- ❖ Jason Britten – jasebritten@gmail.com
- ❖ Jo McDonald – jomcd456@gmail.com
- ❖ Charlotte Armstrong – charlotte@dialect.co.nz
- ❖ Geordie Lindsay-Russell – geordie@badinz.nz
- ❖ Rachel Grant (Teacher Rep) – rgrant@birkenheadprimary.school.nz
- ❖ Bevan Verryt (Principal) – bverryt@birkenheadprimary.school.nz