

30 June 2021



Tēnā koutou e te whānau o Vauxhall School,

We are halfway through 2021 and what a ride the past 18 months has been! As a Board we would like to touch base (more regularly) with a few things happening throughout the school and share information regarding ongoing projects and our strategic direction.

### **Around the School**

As mentioned in our video message earlier in the year, Vauxhall School has had a number of projects come to fruition in 2021 (see table below).

The school has three main funding streams which allow these projects to continue:

- *The Ministry of Education (MoE) Operational Grant* - is intended to cover all the day-to-day operational needs of the school. We receive separate MoE teaching staff funding. The MoE teaching funding does not always match the needs of the school. When this occurs the school tops up teaching funding from the operational grant and fundraising income. Your school donation makes up part of this funding stream.
- *The MoE 5YA Property Grant* - funding received every five years for property maintenance and upgrades (there is a MoE-approved schedule of priority we have to follow).
- *Fundraising / Family sponsorship* - money received from the community from fundraising events and direct project sponsorship.

The last cycle of 5YA funding had to be, mostly, set aside for the *external restoration of Totara* (weathertightness). We have recently learnt that the project has once again been delayed (by the MoE) and will now likely start at the end of the year. This will therefore delay the Board-funded *internal upgrade of Totara* that is to follow. After discussions with our Ministry-approved project manager, the Board has decided to include the *internal Totara upgrade* in the next MoE 5YA funding drop. This means that the internal space within Totara will not be changed until the 2022/23 summer holidays. It will also free up significant Board funds for other much needed projects throughout the school and enable the Board to continue to contribute to our additional staffing needs. It also means the ongoing maintenance of this space will fall under the MoE remit, not the school's. We believe it is in the best long term interest of the school to wait and will continue to improve the current *internal environment* as best as we can, with acoustic panels being installed in the next few weeks.

*Projects now going ahead thanks to the savings made by these funding changes:*

- Miro playground safety matting replacement - to be completed during Term 3 break
- Replacement fencing throughout the school - in process, start date TBC.

We have also had a drop in fundraising income over the last two years. The changes above will ensure the school is in a position to commit to sustained investment in our facilities and staffing levels.

### **In the Classroom - Our Key Focus for 2021**

#### *Te Ao Maori*

We are working closely with a support person from 'Future Learning Solutions' to implement school-wide improvements in Te Ao Maori at Vauxhall School. This will result in an improvement in the use of Te Reo and Tikanga Maori throughout the school.

#### *Wellbeing*

We are supporting student wellbeing by identifying areas of strength and areas of stress or disengagement through class discussions and anonymous surveys. We will be taking action to improve our delivery in the identified areas of need.

#### *Professional development*

Our junior team is incorporating a new set of Ministry provided 'decodable readers' and additional decodable readers from 'Sunshine' that we have purchased, into their literacy programme. They will be provided with structured literacy pedagogy [professional development](#) that sits alongside these new resources.

The senior school is engaging in inquiry learning professional development.

The whole school continues to incorporate '[Beyond the Gate](#)' into our curriculum delivery.

#### *Staff Development*

Performance appraisals have been removed for teachers by the Teaching Council this year. We have developed our own 'professional growth cycle' process that includes teachers engaging in professional learning groups, professional observations, external professional development, the sharing of internal school expertise, observations, reflection and feedback.

The school has signed up to the EAP (Employee Assistance Programme) to ensure all teachers have access to mental health and wellbeing support and guidance should they require it.

We welcome your feedback. If you have any question or would like further information on any aspect of the above, please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself or Gary.

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Ngā mihi nui,  
Lesley-Anne Carey  
Board Chair

Project	Completed	Funded
STAFFING - Teachers / Learning Assistance	Ongoing yearly	Operation Grant & Fundraising
Toilet upgrade (all syndicates)	2021	MoE 5YA Grant & School Investment Package (SIP)
School Repainted (all)	2021	Operation Grant - Cyclical Maintenance
Lighting / Roofing / Guttering	2020	MoE 5YA Grant
Totara outdoor restoration - Weathertightness	Ongoing	MoE 5YA Grant
Senior Playground maintenance and removal	2020	Operation Grant - Cyclical Maintenance
Centenary Garden - He Ngahere Puāwai.	2020	Scapetech Landscaping - sponsored
Sparrow Phillips (Component) Artwork	2021	MoE Arts Grant ( <i>applied for by Mrs Powles</i> )
VEFA Sculpture (Waka)	2021	Fundraising ( <i>VEFA acknowledgement</i> )
Tiger Turf - Kōwhai	2021	Fundraising
Basketball Hoops	2021	4 individual families sponsored
Sandpit	2020	Pitch Construction sponsored
Storage & Boiler Removal	2021	Cursen Construction & Fundraising
Netball Hoops	July2021	Fundraising
Safety Matting - Miro	Sept. 2021	Fundraising
New IT to comply with Law Privacy Changes	ASAP	Board seeking Grant to fund
Fencing	ASAP	Fundraising / Grant / Sponsorship being sought
Playground addition	ASAP	Ongoing Fundraising / Sponsorship
Totara acoustic panels	ASAP	Fundraising