

BOT Newsletter

Term 1 2021

9 April 2021

Tēnā koutou,

A warm welcome to all our new and returning families in 2021 - we hope you're enjoying your year so far at Johnsonville School.

It's been a very busy start to the school year for the board. We've set out, below, a few things which are on our plate this year, starting with some people news.

Basil Ziogos on leave

Our principal, Basil Ziogos, is on leave until the beginning of Term 2. In his absence, please contact Simon Flockton, currently Acting Principal (simon.flockton@johnsonville.school.nz) for anything which you would usually contact Basil about.

Other board member changes

As Basil mentioned in a school newsletter a few weeks ago, after three busy years as Chair, Lucy Saunders stepped down, although she remains on the board. At the first meeting of the year, Anshuman Chakraborty was elected Chair, and Liz Lester was elected as Deputy Chair.

The Board also had a casual vacancy due to Sue Garrett's resignation at the end of last year, which we resolved to fill by selection, as notified in the newsletter on the 19th of February. No objections to the proposed selection were received within 28 days. Accordingly, at our meeting on Wednesday 24 March we selected Erica Thomas to join the board. Erica is a parent to two school students in year 3 and 4, and has been an active member of the Home & School Committee for the past 4 years. Erica's professional background is in Human Resources and she has previous governance experience through her work.

Property

As you know, our school has a number of property maintenance and renovation projects on the go right now, and more are planned for the coming months. While this does cause some inconvenience and we recognise that there are some classes that are having to move around in the short term (plus our staffroom is currently in the hall), we are excited about, soon, having much improved facilities for our kids.

The Harakeke block (senior classrooms 10, 11, 12 and 13) is due to be completed in Term 2 and we look forward to having those classrooms back in action.

The design of the new classroom block, which will include 7 new learning spaces is now finalised. We look forward to sharing details of what the new build will look like and the timing of the project on our new blog on the school website. Watch out for details in your school newsletter.

Student achievement against 2020 targets

At the beginning of each year, we receive a report setting out how the children progressed against specific targets which we set for the previous year. These targets focus on specific cohorts within the school. Our analysis of achievement against these targets is in addition to our role overseeing all of the children's achievement across the curriculum.

In 2020, our targets focussed on:

1. Boys in years 2-6 who had not met the year level expectations for writing in 2019; and
2. Year 3 students who had not met the year level expectations for mathematics in 2019.

Our first target was achieved. 30% of target students made accelerated progress which exceeded the target. The vast majority, or 81%, of target students made at least one year's progress in writing.

Our second target was mostly achieved: 18% of target children made more than one year's progress (or accelerated progress). And the vast majority, or 82%, children made one or more year's progress in Mathematics, which met the target.

Our thanks go to all the teachers for their ongoing skill, energy, and hard work supporting our students to learn and thrive at our school.

2021 Charter and targets

You might like to glance at the School's current charter and strategic plan, which you can find here: [Johnsonville-School-Charter-2021.pdf](#). You'll see we have set out goals for the next three years across the school's key strategic pillars:

- Learners | **Akongā**
- Teachers | **Kaiako**
- Environment | **Taiao**
- Community | **Whānau**.

The strategic plan is also where you will find the targets related to student progress and achievement for 2021. This year we are continuing our focus on improving boys' writing, plus the writing progress and achievement of our Māori and Pasifika akonga. If you're interested, you can see the action plan linked to those targets included in the charter document above.

Successful school camp - thanks to all

The 2021 senior camp at the YMCA in Kaitoke was a huge success. Our thanks to the teachers for all the hard work they put in to make this happen: Logan Burton (Team Leader), Bianca Clarke, Jo Wilson, John Cormack and Chloe Johnson, together with the 14 wonderful parent helpers. It sounds like almost everyone did something new, and we're sure that the kids will be telling stories about their adventures there for years to come.

Health and Safety

The Board takes health and safety very seriously, and we are working hard to improve our processes to keep our kids safe while they are at school. We now have a new and improved hazard register at the school office and we encourage parents to log any hazards in the register that they notice. You can do this by emailing office@johnsonville.school.nz.

School donations

We really appreciate those of you who are able to pay the school voluntary donation: you should all have received an invoice earlier this term. Donations allow us to fund things which might otherwise be difficult, such as Te Reo tuition throughout the school, kapa haka teaching, teacher aide support for tamariki who need it and topping up funding for school trips where needed.

Keep in touch

It was great to meet many of you at the school picnic a few weeks ago. If you have any questions about anything board-related, please let us know, either in person, or through our email address: bot@johnsonville.school.nz.

Ngā mihi nui,

Anshuman Chakraborty (Chair), Liz Lester (Deputy Chair), Lucy Saunders, Helen Wharehinga, Suhel Mangera, Erica Thomas, Simon Flockton (Acting Principal), John Cormack (Staff Trustee)