

## Greenhithe School Board Newsletter Term 3 | 2024

### **Our Vision**

*Our children grow to be capable, balanced, confident learners who embrace new experiences and opportunities.  
Kia tipu kaha ai a mātou tamariki i raro i ngā manaakitanga hōu o ngā wheako me ngā angitu hei ākongā tau hei  
ākongā maia*

### **Kia ora koutou e te whānau!**

Term 3 has flown by, and with it, another term packed with achievements, new initiatives and community events that reflect the spirit of Greenhithe School.

From important curriculum updates in literacy and numeracy to the resounding success of our PTA Beats by Bingo Night, there's been no shortage of milestones to celebrate. The resilience and enthusiasm of our tamariki (children), staff and whānau (families) has once again shown that Greenhithe School is more than just a place of learning – it's a community built on shared values, strong connections and a commitment to empowering our learners.

As we prepare to take a short break to recharge, we'd like to take this moment to acknowledge the dedication and perseverance of our entire school community – from the teaching staff who go above and beyond, to the parents who volunteer their time, and to the tamariki who continue to inspire us with their energy and passion for learning. It's your collective effort that makes Greenhithe School the special place it is.

Now, let's dive into some of the highlights from Term 3...

### **Teaching, learning and the new literacy and numeracy curriculum**

Updates to the literacy and numeracy curricula continue to be revealed to the sector, with new information being released throughout the term (see overview [here](#)). Whether it's keeping up with new pedagogy (ways of teaching) or simply across the detail of the curriculum, three things appear true:

- (1) there is rapid development occurring across the sector,
- (2) pace brings discomfort and stress,
- (3) we have the right team equipped to accept and navigate these changes.

School leadership will continue to keep the community up-to-date with these changes, and we have full confidence in our team's ability to adapt and thrive through this change.

The Board, and I'm sure the community, appreciate the time and effort teachers are committing to ensure we are ahead of the pack and ready, come 2025, to hit the ground running. That said, the pace of change is particularly rapid, with the sector experiencing cognitive overload. This is something Stephen and the Board are monitoring to ensure our team is keeping up with changes in a sustainable way.

### **Community Engagement**

We'd like to acknowledge some key community events that took place throughout the term:

1. **New Entrants:** Successful new entrants' evening designed to introduce new whānau into the community. As we all know, school plays a big role in our lives, so events like these provide much needed information and alleviate concerns parents have when transitioning their little ones to a new environment. We've received positive feedback about these events and continue to be impressed with the commitment of the team to support their success.
2. **English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) evening:** We have a rich diversity of cultures and languages at Greenhithe School which is why we prioritise opportunities to welcome the wider community and support our multicultural communities. Our diversity is one of Greenhithe's superpowers; we'd like to thank those that attended our ESOL evening, and thank Michelle Butler and Sonia Shin from our staff and Monica Wang, from our parent community, for their support in making the evening a success.
3. **Beats by Bingo (PTA led event):** This was a fun event for parents. By all accounts the event was a success, raising a record-breaking \$10 500 for the school. Not only did the event raise funds for the school, but the outfits and mum-and-dad moves on the dance floor raised many eyebrows.

### Online Safety and Security

This term Network for Learning completed [Secure Access](#), the third phase of the Te Mana Tūhono programme. Put simply, this means we have had our school network upgraded to deliver faster, safer internet that supports student learning. Secure Access increases the cybersecurity and resilience of the school's network which has been specifically designed for our school to keep us safer and more secure as we navigate the online world. It means that we now have layered security protecting devices, data (privacy) and people, from attacks. This job is never done; integrating technology comes with so many benefits that support teaching and learning environments, but it also comes with risk - and it's a risk we continue to monitor and mitigate. We have reviewed our school policies (see SchoolDocs), and will continue to monitor our content filtering to ensure it's fit for our purposes. While there isn't a silver bullet (the internet comes with risk), as a Board we have confidence in the mitigations the school has in place.

### That's a wrap...

There were some tired eyes around the Board table this week, as I'm sure there are many families feeling the weight of a full and busy term. With the break upon us, we hope our families, staff and students are able to recharge for the final term of 2024. The end of the year brings celebrations, school events, and of course, more learning adventures. We encourage our community to stay engaged with the school as we continue to build on the successes of this year.

Let's finish strong and let our PRIDE show.

To contact the Presiding Member (Chair), Samantha Ebel-Brown, you can email [samanthae@greenhithe.school.nz](mailto:samanthae@greenhithe.school.nz)

### The Greenhithe School Board

*If you want to know more about us and what we do as a Board - visit - <https://www.greenhithe.school.nz/bot/>*