

8th November 2017

Lights, camera, action—"Albanywood" had arrived! Thank you to our FOS team (and their partners) senior students and teachers for all your support organising another wonderful disco on 5th November. The hall decorations transformed this space into a glittering red carpet affair, providing a special atmosphere to the disco. This was the final FOS fundraising event for the year. Many thanks to our small but super FOS team for the time they gladly volunteer. FOS fundraisers have ensured that we have met budget expectations for our Bikes in Schools initiative. The bike storage unit will be delivered this month, and the bike track will be created over our end of term break—ready for our official opening early 2018.

Between showers and sunshine we are taking every dry opportunity to practice long jump, high jump, track running and other athletics events ready for Middle and Senior School athletics day on 22nd November and the Junior School athletics day on 6th December.

Nomination papers for the upcoming Board of Trustees election have all been posted. A reminder that nominations close at noon on Friday 17th November 2017 and may be accompanied by a signed candidate's statement. If you have not received a nomination paper could you please contact the school office so we can check your address. Voting papers will be sent to the same address held on file and if not received are not able to be reissued.

A Travelwise celebration was held today for our Travelwise Leaders—you will see in this newsletter just how effective our Travelwise Team have been this year under the guidance of Mrs Moody. Many thanks to Tracy and the team for keeping our travel to and from school safe.

In my recent newsletter an opportunity for parent feedback regarding students placement for 2018 was offered as an option where there may be a specific reason or concern. As you will appreciate not all teachers remain at the same year level and as you will note below, we also have several Teachers leaving as well as new Teachers appointed. Our Teachers spend many hours working through the best placement for your child, to ensure classes and needs are met and balanced. To new settlers to New Zealand our system of students changing classes each year may be different to what has been experienced overseas (ie children starting in Area 1 as 5 year olds do not stay together as one class through their 6 years at primary school). Discussing this change with your child may provide greater understanding of this "kiwi way" as it also ensures that children have the opportunity to form many friendships and relationships.

Although the media have reported the teacher shortage, news doesn't always impact until the reality in our school takes effect. Auckland house prices, transport problems, family needs, overseas travel, career or study opportunities are all factors that create staff movement. At this time of year, in a large school it is inevitable that there will be some staff changes. We acknowledge several of our Teachers who are moving to promotions, changes, or study opportunities. Congratulations to Mrs Karen Hughes who has been awarded a Teacher's study grant for one year to complete her Post Graduate Diploma for Counselling Theory. Mrs Hayley Campbell is taking a year's leave to focus on family. (Karen and Hayley will do some relieving for us so you will still see their friendly smiles around our school on occasion.) Mrs Esther Pratt is leaving (after 15 years at Albany), Mrs Jane Wallwork and Miss Kristie Daniels. We wish these fantastic teachers all the best for their future and appreciate their dedication and service to our school.

New appointments to our school include provisionally registered teachers - Mrs Michelle Schlanders and Mr Xu Han. Welcome also to Mrs Yvonne Hook (joining us from Stanmore Bay School), Jessica Evans (from Otatau School) and Mrs Anne-Marie McCarthy (from Forrest Hill School).

Together in learning

Maree Bathurst
Principal