

BOARD-CAST

APRIL 2021



Board-Cast is an occasional newsletter produced by Albany Primary School's Board of Trustees and is one of the ways the Board of Trustees provides information to its community.

Your current Board members are Rick Pierce, Maree Bathurst, Alison Chambers, Wei Lu, Sophia Wang, Brad Harpur and Joanne Paviour

Welcome

We've made it through another challenging term

It has been another challenging term with the ongoing impact of COVID, resulting in two lockdowns and affecting a sense of overall wellbeing. We are grateful for the leadership, teaching and support staff and administration team who have helped the school community navigate through the disruptions in the best way possible. We also extend our gratitude to you for your ongoing support and perseverance in the midst of very trying times.

Of course, COVID was not the only disruption experienced in our school this term. Those of you with students in the Junior Block will be fully aware that several classrooms were temporarily closed and students relocated to other areas until further testing could be undertaken to measure mould levels. Several classrooms in the Block remain closed on instruction from the MOE with concerns at the high readings. Again, we are grateful for the way in which the school community has responded as we have sought to work through the ramifications of these closures. Our school has certainly demonstrated a commendable ability to endure for which we can all be very proud.

Something to celebrate – a permanent build of twenty classrooms confirmed

We do however have some extremely positive news! After many years of experiencing building issues with the Junior Block and with the ongoing demand for further classrooms to cater for roll growth, the Board's push for a more permanent solution has finally been acknowledged by the MOE. In a recent announcement, funding has been granted for twenty new classrooms. While timeframes are yet to be finalised we are hoping this will be completed in the next couple of years. The field will become a 'Prefab city' over the duration of the build as we meet our ongoing classroom needs. While this will have a significant temporary impact on lunch time activities and school curriculum activities which utilise the field, we need to keep the end goal of a transformed school in mind as we journey along the path towards the completion of the permanent build.

Ongoing Traffic Issues around the school area

Safety of our school community remains a high priority around the volumes of traffic using Bass Road and the front entrance to our school. In that regard we have made submissions on behalf of the school against two proposals we would see as further increasing traffic flow in ways that cause concern. Updates on these two situations are detailed below for your information. However, we also need to be doing all we can as a school community to ensure we are driving responsibly and carefully around our school area. 'What's the haps?' on 1st April 2021 contained a timely reminder – please ensure you have a read and continue to drive carefully and respectfully, particularly around the school area.

Kristin School's Proposal for use of their back gate (which will increase traffic on Bass Road)

We were advised that Kristen School have been granted direct referral to the Environment Court to have their case heard for a resource consent change that will enable their use of the Bass Road access to their school. We have registered the school as a s274 party which will allow our voice to be heard with an ongoing involvement in the proceedings. We will update you as we become aware of next steps in the process.

Application for a Plan Change for development of the old Massey University land on Albany Highway
A Private Plan change has been lodged to rezone the Massey University land on Albany Highway from MHS to THAB. This would substantially increase the number of dwellings within the development and have an anticipated negative effect on traffic volumes. We have made a submission against this request and currently awaiting advice on next steps in the process.

A request for payment of School Donations

Our school aims to offer an extensive and diverse level of education experiences for our students. Due to the decile rating of our school, we are not eligible for additional funding from the Government and therefore rely heavily on funding through your contribution of 'school donations.' We do acknowledge and thank those parents who have made prompt payment for their donations and to support our camps. If you have not yet been able to make any contribution for 2021 could we ask you to please consider doing so as soon as possible. We want to be able to continue to offer opportunities that contribute to the growth and enjoyment experienced by our students without being inhibited by funding issues. All contributions will be gratefully received and appreciated. You can also claim one third back from the IRD for any donation amount paid to the school. If you're unsure how to do this please contact the school office.

Well done if you have made it this far - there was certainly a lot to communicate in this Boardcast! Thank you again for all your support and the contribution you make to the school community. We are a very diverse and active community, and your involvement helps us all be that much richer together. We hope that you and your family all have a restful and enjoyable two week break over the school holidays and look forward to welcoming you back on the 3rd May for Term 2.

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