

WEST SPREYDON SCHOOL

The journey starts here...

ATTITUDE ADVENTURE ACHIEVEMENT



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Letter to our West Spreydon School Community

Kia ora

As we come to the end of term two, student led conferences and a host of other positive learning opportunities at West Spreydon, it is timely for an update from your elected Board of Trustees.

The focus of this letter is to share our commitment as a Board to support our stunning teaching staff and our genuine desire to keep our belief that 'every student will achieve in all endeavours', at the heart of all decisions we make.

Every year the Board goes away on a retreat weekend to focus on our strategic planning. This year we invited the team leaders (Angie Malae, Jared Fretwell and Janice Krammer) and senior leaders (Marriene Langton and Maata Smith) to join with us as we continue to work together. Our focus this year was to further our understanding of 'Modern Learning Practices' being implemented by the Ministry of Education. As a Board we want to be ahead of the game in terms of understanding these principles and how they are being implemented in our school.

We were stoked to hear about some fabulous examples across the weekend of our teachers implementing Collaborative Practice (one of the new modern learning practices). You also would have seen examples of collaborative practice in the way that our three teams work with parents, pupils, teachers, other schools and our local / global community. For example, our recent open parent maths session. We are excited about the possibilities of these new practices and see that it supports strength-based teaching and can offer students and teachers increased flexibility, openness, and increased access to resources.

As well as ensuring our practices are up to the minute and achieving our goal of student achievement, we are needing to re-look at the environments we teach in. Over the past few years there is an expectation by the Ministry of Education that all New Zealand Schools must progressively upgrade their teaching and learning spaces by 2020. For Christchurch schools, this has been accelerated by the damage to schools as a result of the earthquakes. The schedule for West Spreydon School remains a 'moderate redevelopment' where work will typically come in under \$5 million but it aims to provide a reasonable upgrade of our schools teaching spaces to reflect the push for modern learning environment standards.

What we anticipate is that working towards our 2018/19 deadline for property changes, our Staff will gain a good grounding in the fundamentals of Modern Learning Practices so that it will become much clearer how the learning needs of our students and teaching needs of our staff will contribute to the re-design of our spaces.

Kind regards

Paul Ferguson, Sarah Drummond and Bridgit Veenings
West Spreydon School Board of Trustees