

# Westmere School Supporters Report T2 2016

## School Report

Welcome back to Term 2 2016! We were delighted to reopen the school field on the first day of term. It was great to see the children out there on Day 1 practising for cross country with their teachers cheering them along! We are just waiting for our ERO report from the visit in Week 10, it was a chance to celebrate all our successes and empowering to hear all the positive feedback from the visiting team.

## Fundraising Events Efforts



### Freaky Friday and Middle School Bake Sale funds

The PE and Health team have purchased \$3410.17 worth of sports equipment from the fundraising efforts of WSS. This has included cricket bats, soccer balls, webbing sports sashes, playground balls etc. Marcela and Terry worked with our Sports Ambassadors to select PE equipment that can be used at morning tea and lunch time as well as general equipment for PE and fitness lessons. The ambassadors and student leaders in the Sports Team have been working hard to put systems in place so equipment can be used by students and returned promptly at break times. We are looking forward to the PE shed/garage arriving so we have a place to store all this equipment.

**School Disco:** It was advertised in the school newsletter last week. We have quite a few teachers who have signed up for the evening and are looking forward to the 80's theme. We will promote it in the upcoming newsletters and

make sure it features on the school website too.

## Extra Curricular

All the performance groups on Friday are continuing this term. This includes Speech and Drama, Lewis Eady (guitar, piano, marimba, keyboard lessons etc.) and Performance Net (hip hop). Rose Watson is also working with Year 5/6 students in preparation for the APPA Music Festival in November. We also have teachers running performance groups at lunch times too e.g. Junior Choir with Hannah, Waiata with Laura and Robyn M, In Our Beat with Di and Pasifika group with Toru. Culture and Performance Ambassadors and student leaders are also organising activities for our students.

## Board News

Our first Board meeting for the term will be held next Thursday 26th May at 7pm in the Boardroom. You are most welcome to attend.

Nominations for the new Board close Friday 20th May at noon. We have three vacancies with one current Board member restanding. We encourage any interested candidates to submit their nomination before then. An election will be dependent on how many people show interest.

Voting papers will be sent by Wednesday 25 May 2016. The election date is Friday 3 June 2016. This will allow the election process to be completed during the school term and fit within the election time frame. We encourage you to vote in this democratic process if we do have an election.

## Communities of Learning

The Ministry of Education introduced a new initiative called Community of Learning. Most Communities of Learning will be made up of schools from the same area, and can include primary, secondary, intermediate and area schools where they exist. This allows a Community of Learning to help children progress from one school to another by supporting stronger transitions into, between,

and out of primary, intermediate (if appropriate) and secondary schools within and between the Communities of Learning. The idea is by working together this will allow schools to share teaching expertise and experience so every child can benefit. Western Springs College, Pasadena Intermediate, Ponsonby Intermediate, Grey Lynn School, Point Chevalier School and Westmere School are currently investigating the possibility of forming a Community of Learning.

#### **Strategic Aim 4: Inclusive Community Relationships**

As part of our School Charter and Annual Plan for 2016 we wanted to improve the way we support new families when their children start at Westmere School. By working closely with a group of parents to facilitate these relationships, our goal is to help all members of the school community feel welcomed, to know what is happening and how they can be more actively involved in the community and their children's school life and learning.

1. **Studio Connectors:** Jane Keely and Kylie McBeth continue to work with our Studio Connectors to coordinate activities to ensure new families are welcomed and supported, particularly in their first 6 months of school. We have seen a number of events organised including family picnics and social get togethers. Jane and Kylie are also working with our Transition Team ambassadors who support all of our new students including the new entrants. The Transitions Team is working on a school passport which includes general information about our school and they have assigned each person in the Transitions Team a little buddy to look after. The team also help Hannah and Kylie with the Discovery Centre at lunchtimes.



2. **Student Leadership programme:**

Jason Morgan and Marcela Cameron are leading the School Ambassadors who are then responsible for leading their teams. We currently have 7 leadership teams which include the Safety Crew, Enviro Warriors, Communication Team (CLN Live), Digi Team, Transitions Team, Health and P.E. Team and Culture and Performance Team. The teams are working on a whole range of projects from paper recycling, writing articles for the school newsletters, technical support at assemblies to creating a Westmere School passport for new students. They are presenting at

Friday's school assembly and we encourage you to come along.

3. **School Website:** We are delighted with the school website and new school newsletters. The ease of creating articles and publications has made this new initiative very straightforward. Teachers, students, Westmere School Supporters have all been contributing articles which has created a sense of excitement for all concerned! I know the Communication Team have enjoyed the challenge!

#### **Property**

We are delighted to see contractors on site working on the Green Room. Whilst we don't have a definite completion date it shouldn't be too long before the space can be used. I have been inside and it does need quite a bit of TLC, which will need to be done once we have had the roof checked. We have also met with Lisa Webb who is designing the seating areas around the school. We hope that seating construction will start towards the end of Term 2 with the majority of work completed in the Term 2 holidays.

The Ministry of Education have also allocated funds for the school field so we have met with the landscaper who will be planting an orchard as well as feijoa trees along the back fence. We also plan to plant flax along the nature trail. The landscaper is just waiting for more rain before he starts planting the trees! We have just begun negotiating some veggie patches too.

Ka Kite, Julie Lynch