

Welcome to the first newsletter from your current Board of Trustees (BOT). We hope to issue these newsletters regularly throughout the school year to help keep you up to date with school news and the activities of the Board. If you have any feedback or suggestions regarding what you would like to see in these newsletters, please feel free to contact us. We'd love to hear from you!

As this is our first newsletter, we thought we'd devote a bit of time to explaining the role and the activities of the board. So, here we go:

### **What is the Board of Trustees?**

The Board is a group of interested citizens (not necessarily parents/caregivers) who have been elected or appointed to act on behalf of the community to ensure the successful education of all children enrolled at the school.

In Lyall Bay's case our Board is made up of 7 elected parent representatives, 1 elected staff representative and Dennis Thompson the Principal.

### **How does the Board Work?**

The Board meets generally every 6 weeks. An agenda is issued in advance, along with supporting information/material. Matters will be discussed and wherever possible actions agreed at the meeting. Minutes of each meeting are documented and available on request. We hope to make these available via the website also in the near future.

There are a wide range of topics for the Board to consider and therefore, in order to make the best use of the time and skills of each Board Member, we have decided to allocate portfolios of responsibility between the Board Members. However, all Board members still have an equal say and right to participate in any Board discussions/activities.



### **Who is the Board of Trustees?**

The current members of the Board of Trustees are as follows:

**Atawhai Tibble** – Co-Chairman & Whanau Representative

**Kevin O'Neill** – Co-Chairman of the Board and Finance Portfolio

**Chris Taylor** – Charter/Policy/Self-Review Portfolio

**Gail Kelly** – HR Portfolio

**Gabrielle-Sisifo Makisi** – Curriculum/Self Review Portfolio & Pasifika Representative

**Paul Kotrotsos** – Property Portfolio

**Liz Stewart** – Communications Portfolio

**Kieran McDonald** – Staff Representative & Health & Safety Portfolio

**Dennis Thompson** – Principal

If you would like to see a mugshot of the Board Members and/or know more about how the Board works, you can find more information on the school website; [www.lyallbayschool.co.nz](http://www.lyallbayschool.co.nz)

### **How Can You Get in Touch?**

The Board of Trustee meetings are "open" meetings – that means that any of you are welcome to come along and join us to observe the meetings any time you want to.

Meetings are advertised in advance via the school newsletters and we will also post a schedule of upcoming meetings on the website. Meetings are held on a Monday evening at 6.45pm in the school staffroom.



We have also created an email address just for the Board of Trustees. So if you would like to drop us an email, please feel free to send it to: [bot@lyallbay.school.nz](mailto:bot@lyallbay.school.nz)

**The next BOT meeting is scheduled for:  
Monday Nov 1<sup>st</sup> at 6.45pm**



### **Recent School Activity**

Our Lyall Bay School staff continue to participate in a number of additional special projects /training opportunities of value to the school, including:

- Working together with 7 other schools on a 3 year ICT project. The goal of the project is “to enhance the use of ICT in our schools, with specific links to on-going literacy focus”. The project is being supported with special funding from the Ministry of Education.
- Participating in the second year of a project (together with Miramar South School) investigating Co-Operative Learning and Inclusive Classroom practices.
- Some Junior School teachers have been taking part in First Chance Literacy Training focused on 1<sup>st</sup> year children.
- Shona Fort (Room2) is continuing as the lead teacher with our “Health Promoting Schools” initiative.
- Jan Cross (Junior School Head Teacher) is leading an initiative to set criteria for identifying gifted and talented children.
- Dennis Thompson recently attended the annual NZ Principals Federation Conference & reported back on some very interesting and motivating speakers.

### **Current Hot BOT Topics**

#### **National Standards:**

No doubt by now, you have heard about the Government’s National Standards Policy which

is in the process of being implemented across the country. It is fair to say that the Policy and its implementation has caused a considerable amount of debate in schools and in the media to date. We have been impressed with the pragmatic approach adopted by our Principal and staff at Lyall Bay. Significant work went into aligning the range of testing presented to parents at last terms Parent/Teacher interviews with the school’s interpretation of expectations from the National Standards. Parental feedback from the interviews was overwhelmingly positive and the Board is delighted that our school staff are enabling such a positive outcome from a challenging situation. Our thanks goes to the staff and especially to Dennis for leading this work.

The Board continues to investigate issues with the on-going implementation of the nationwide National Standards. We will keep you posted as further information comes to hand.

#### **New Classrooms:**

As Dennis has mentioned in previous school newsletters, we are desperate for the construction of 2 new Junior School classrooms. Unfortunately available funding currently does not meet the costs proposed for the build. The Board is currently investigating all avenues for funding the shortfall. We hope to bring you more news on this shortly.

#### **Friends of Lyall Bay:**

The Friends of Lyall Bay School is the parent run group who do the vital job of raising funds for increasingly critical ( see above! ) school costs. Unfortunately in recent years, support for the Friends group has dwindled to a record low. The Board would encourage you to **please, please, please** consider any support that you could offer to the Friends. This could be in the form of your time, your contacts, your ideas. Every little bit helps – and it all goes to the great cause of enriching your child’s school experience!

The Friends are holding their AGM this **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm** (in the school staffroom). You can also contact the Friends via their email address: [friends@lyallbay.school.nz](mailto:friends@lyallbay.school.nz)