

Innovative Learning Environments (ILE)

Term 3, September 2018

Dear Parents & Caregivers

As we prepare to move into our wonderful new learning environment, NOW is the perfect time to communicate with our families about how your child's learning will continue to SHINE.

As parents, education today possibly looks very different from when you were at school – and you're quite right. Understanding why changes have been made and how this looks for today's learners, can be quite challenging.

For this reason, we believe it is important to share knowledge with our community about some of these key changes in education. We start today with the first in a series of handouts/pānui.

Our school's vision is "Learning for Life Together". The Board of Trustees and teaching team have already begun the process of refreshing our current Strategic Goals ready for implementation in 2019. The goals are:

1. Empower our learners.
2. Build a collaborative and successful, innovative teaching team.
3. Strengthen genuine partnerships between home and school.

We will share the updated Charter and Strategic goals with our community in term 4 as part of the consultation process.

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In term 4 2018 we expect to move into our new classroom environment and families will be warmly invited to come and have a look. There will be 5 classrooms, connected by an internal walkway, which can be used as either single, double or triple classroom spaces. We expect our homeroom class groups will remain the same during this term whilst we explore how to use this space to its best potential, as from 2019.

Over the past year our teachers have been developing skills to enable them to build Learner Agency in our students. One of our aims is to develop Active Learners whose skillsets will enable them work more effectively - anywhere, anytime. The new flexible classroom spaces will help to support the development of an **Innovative Learning Environment (ILE)**.

Schools throughout NZ who use an ILE philosophy make their own choices as to how this will work for them – no 2 models are the same. For our school, the learning environment **MUST** meet the needs of all of our learners and their teachers, and with the full support of our community. Our ILE may mean that students might work in different spaces during the day or with different children than those of their homeroom. It is *vitaly important*, therefore, that our parents not only understand what we are trying to achieve, but that they are engaged in developing this process.

In the meantime, we have attached a National Report from the Education Review Office (ERO, 2018) on **Leading Innovative Learning in NZ Schools**. This two page overview outlines what schools need to consider when developing successful ILE hubs. We will be using this information to guide us as we continue to move forward. The full report is available if you would like to read it online.

In the meantime if you have any questions, comments or topics that you'd like more information about, please feel very welcome to contact us.

Kind regards

Jan Otene
Principal

Mark Williams
BOT Chair