



# MENPS MATTERS

SCHOOL BOARD  
NEWSLETTER  
APRIL 2024



## A vibrant start to the year!

### **Kia ora koutou katoa,**

The 2024 school year has commenced with a fine and flying start! It is hard to believe we are at the end of Term 1, however, as we bid farewell to the lingering, late-summer weather and embrace the crisp mornings of autumn, we reflect on a spirited beginning.

### **Colourful Fun!**

The stand-out highlight of the first term was undoubtedly the Colour Run, organised by our dedicated PTA. As a first-time event for MENPS, this joyous occasion was filled with colourful moments (literally!) as students and staff let loose, navigating obstacles while being showered in bright powders. Ear-to-ear smiles and the sounds of laughter were abundant. What fun!

Thank you to the PTA for bringing to life yet another wonderful event and valued contribution to our school and its culture.

We would also like to thank our community of parents, caregivers, family and friends, for supporting this successful fundraising initiative. *Ngā mihi nui ki a koe!*

### **Board Appointment**

We are pleased to announce the recent casual vacancy on the Board has now been filled. Following an opportunity for the community to request a bi-election, the required 10% threshold was not reached and the Board moved to fill the position by Selection. Mei Tang, a previously co-opted trustee and integral member of the team, has accepted the role. Mei's skills and perspective will continue to provide a valuable contribution to the Board.

### **2024 Strategic Planning**

The 2024 Strategic Plan, as shared by Principal Alan Jackson, aims for excellence in curriculum, developing and supporting students and staff and fostering an engaging and safe learning environment. Aligning with our Touchstone values, the goals focus on realising potential, nurturing relationships and environmental kaitiaki, professional development and key partnership opportunities. The plans are underpinned by goals to invest in MENPS' facilities and resources.

### **Family Donation Increase**

MENPS strives to deliver the best educational outcomes for its students. We are proud to offer reduced class sizes and additional resources beyond our government funding. Due to a high decile position, our funding predominantly covers operating costs and staff at higher class ratios, leaving \$0 for areas such as IT, the library, class trips and learning support.

To bridge the funding gap, and support strategic goals, we heavily rely on PTA fundraising and voluntary family donations. Recently, the school has suffered from rising costs like so many, and in response, the Board resolved to increase the voluntary family donation in 2024, to protect and maintain our offering.

*Wishing all our staff, students and families an enjoyable and restful break.*

**Ngā mihi nui,  
Virginia, Nigel, Alan, Annette, Sean, Mei,  
Fleur, Mike & Anna**

*Our next Board meeting is at 6pm in the Staff Room, on Wednesday, May 15.*

