



# Mokoia Intermediate

## Board Chair's Shout Out

Tena Koutou Katoa

### **Vision Statement:**

*'The needs of ākonga are at the heart of all that we do at Mokoia Intermediate School'.*

### **Covid-19**

Another year is completed and for many of our community, it is one that we want to put well behind us. There have been plenty of challenges with the Covid-19 pandemic being declared. Who would have ever thought we would be in lockdown back in March, and then navigating our way through the different alert levels that the government implemented to keep us safe during the Covid-19 pandemic. Thank you to the senior leadership team for implementing our school's pandemic plan and making adjustments along the way as the Ministry of Education updated us on the alert levels and what they meant for us as a school. It was great to see the community engage in online learning over this time; a completely different way of teaching and learning.

### **Academic Results**

The Board was presented with the end of year academic results at our last Board meeting for the year, and while we didn't quite meet the targets we had set in our strategic plan, we were very close. Considering all the disruptions we have had this year, they were pleasing results. Thank you to all the teachers, parents, and whānau for supporting and helping the children do their very best. I would like to wish the Year 8 students all the best as they move onto high school. Take every opportunity your new adventures offer and do the very best to succeed.

Our roll for 2021 has increased so we will be employing a new teacher to cope with numbers and reduce class sizes in Year 7. Over 30 students have enrolled from out of zone schools for next year. This is great for Mokoia growth.

### **Finances**

The school is in a great position financially. Audited accounts will be put on our school website early next year. The finance committee meets regularly to discuss the school finances. The draft budget will be finalised and approved at our Board meeting in March 2021. The board has approved work in the later part of this year to the value of \$100k reserve funding. Some work has been completed and other jobs are still to be completed.

## **Property**

The 5/10 year property plan has been submitted by the property committee and approved by the Ministry of Education. Opus, our project managers, have started the planning stage of replacing the rotting cladding around the school. Our school can then be painted, which is long overdue. The Board has approved the replacement/update of a fire alarm and a PA system.

Our new school boundary fence looks amazing, The replacement of the old astroturf fence along the driveway side will be completed soon. New water foundations will be installed and a full refurbishment of the Technology Centre next year. The new swing and climbing frame on the playground are well used by the students.

## **Attendance**

Non-attendance is a continuing concern of our School Board – even more so in the Bay of Plenty Region. It is an ongoing problem for our tamariki at school. Regular attendance is measured by the Ministry of Education as students attending 90% or greater of term time at school. The national average is 56%. We as a board have asked Matua Rawiri to report back to us at each Board meeting about attendance. We want to focus on attendance to improve academic results.

Research shows that poor school attendance is associated with:

- lower academic achievement, including literacy and numeracy
- early school leavers
- leaving school with fewer qualifications
- reduced opportunities for students to learn and access educational resources, further limiting achievement
- further absenteeism in higher year levels.

## **Changes**

A recent major change in the education sector is the introduction of the Education and Training Act 2020. We are no longer identified as *'Trustees'* or *'Board of Trustees'* but as *'Board Members'* or *'School Boards'*. The change has come about with the recent *'Tomorrow School's'* review amongst other changes. What does this mean to us as a School Board? Basically, the Act implements a range of changes with the intent to strengthen school governance and refocus schools on what matters most for learners and their whānau.

Have a happy and safe holiday!

Regards

*Bruce Davidson*

Bruce Davidson  
Board Chairperson  
Mokoia Intermediate

***We are Limitless! We are Passionate! We are Mokoia!***