



# M.E.N.P.S. Matters

## School Board Newsletter

DECEMBER 2019

### Goodbye 2019, it's time to 'wrap up' a few points...



*A hive of activity - Market Day in full swing.*

#### Thank you from the Board

Our sincere thanks to the leadership, teaching and support staff for their hard work this year. Their passion and effort supports our school's ongoing reputation for excellence. Also after a year of high student engagement and productivity we'd particularly like to wish staff moving on all the best. Martina Stevenson and Tom Pearce are on parental leave, Kimberley Ouano to pursue interests in her family's business, Jessica Momberg, Vic Brown and Eden Seymour are all moving out of Auckland and Nina Van Gessel and Jessica Neutze have completed their fixed terms. You are much appreciated, and will be sorely missed. To staff returning to MENPS, we look forward to catching up again in 2020.

The PTA led by Adelle Hall-Jones and Janice Cearns has once again delivered a range of fantastic community and fundraising events. The PTA's contribution is most important and much appreciated. This year's efforts have enabled the purchase of outdoor seating, soccer nets, basketball backboards and funding for a giant marble run, scheduled for our school early 2020. Many families also supported Scholastic book orders. Their involvement this year earned MENPS a reward of \$3,636.20! Some of this incentive has already been spent on 130 new books for the school library.

#### Investing in our school

We are currently working on a number of key projects around the school. These will be funded in collaboration with BOT, PTA and various grants. Many of these improvements are of an outdoor nature and include; a riverbed project with students pumping water and a working greenhouse.

#### A challenging year

While there's a number of issues facing the education sector, it's encouraging to see recognition for our teachers and principals with the signing of new agreements. Hot off the press is also news that school support staff will be recognized with a 3% increase over three years. It's great to see this overdue recognition, albeit something of a shame that it took so long and so much hard work to earn it.

We will watch with interest to see how reform of the Tomorrows Schools, the government's Child Wellbeing Strategy and new objectives for national education and learning priorities will be rolled out in 2020. A recent announcement of \$400,000 additional funding towards property upgrades has been a welcome early Christmas gift. This will enable MENPS to replace failing joinery in Block one next year.

#### Extra support for our teachers

As you may be aware, teachers and principals were awarded eight 'teacher only days' by The Ministry of Education to assist in time for curriculum development and assessment of progress and achievement. Dates for these have been set in 2020 as follows:

**TEACHER ONLY FRIDAYS: 7th February, 29th May & 23rd October. SKiDs to be available if needed.**

Once again thanks to all our students, staff and school community. We hope you all enjoy a merry Christmas and a safe and happy summer holiday break - we look forward to seeing you all 2020!

*Fleur, Murray, Alan, Richard, Josie, Mathew, James, Brad and Annette*

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