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Board of Trustees Newsletter

November 2017 – Term 4

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whanau

I can't believe that the countdown to Christmas has begun and Term Four is almost halfway through. It's a busy time of the year for families and schools. To our Year 6 students and families – we wish you well for the remainder of the year and hope that you continue to succeed in all that you do, as you move on to Intermediate and beyond. We hope you have enjoyed your time at Greenpark School and that you take with you, many great memories of your time here.

It has been exciting to watch the Technology Suite continue to take shape. The painting has now been completed, the flooring laid and the decks have been erected. Over the coming weeks, the fixtures and resources will be moved in ready for student use. On **November 21 at 7am**, the Technology Suite will be blessed by one of our kaumatua, Tamati Tata, followed by breakfast. You are more than welcome to join the Board and staff at this time. If interested, please let the office staff know, for catering purposes. A formal opening of the Technology Suite will take place early on in the year, which will involve students (past and present), staff and families. Normally the blessing and opening would occur at the same time, but Management really wanted the Year 6 students to have the opportunity to use the Suite before they leave, hence having it blessed this year.

The other development, which the Board has been involved in over recent months, is the establishment of the Tauranga Peninsular Community of Learning (COL). Last week the Boards of Greenpark School, Gate Pa, Welcome Bay, Tauranga Primary, Oropi School, Tauranga Intermediate, Tauranga Boys' College and Tauranga Girls' College met together to learn more about how the COL would work, to best meet the needs of our students. Staff are currently being appointed within each school to further explore the COL initiatives, with particular focus being placed on cultural responsiveness and relational pedagogy. Greenpark will appoint four teachers, who will be released for two days a term, to work on developing this initiative within our school. In addition to these 'in school' teacher appointments, there will be eight teachers appointed from across the COL schools, to develop the focus in the wider sense and to offer assistance to individual schools. These appointments are also being made currently. It is exciting to see schools collaborating for the greater good of their community and young people. The COL is still in the very early stages of development, so it will be interesting to see where we head in the years to come.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to wish you all a happy and safe holiday season. Enjoy time spent with your children over the holidays and we look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Kind Regards
Rachelle Stratton