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## Board of Trustees Newsletter

Dear Whanau, Parents and Caregivers

Can you believe that Term 1 is nearly at an end? It only seems like yesterday that we were buying stationery and preparing for the year ahead. It's been a busy term with students enjoying many activities outside of the classroom, including camps, swimming and Life Education.

### Technology Suite Opening

Last Friday, the Technology Suite was officially opened and given the name 'Motiti'. It was fantastic to see so many people there, who have been pivotal throughout the building journey. Thank you to the senior school choir and Kapa Haka group for their performances and to the students who demonstrated the robotics and spoke. Thank you all so much for being a special part of the opening.

The Technology Suite will enable students to participate in cooking, sewing and robotic activities as well as experimenting with Science. The suite also includes a TV studio, which will be used to broadcast Maori language and information, throughout the school. The building is sectioned off with glass doors, which means that a number of classes can work within the suite at one time.

As a board, we want to acknowledge the commitment of previous board members and management, who overcame a number of obstacles to provide students with a place, where additional opportunities within the area of Science and Technology could be developed. Our specialist facilities are a 'point of difference' within the primary sector.

We also want to acknowledge the PTA who have worked hard over past years, to raise money to help create science resources and kits for teachers to use while in the Tech Suite.

### Communities of Learning

Late last year, four in school COL leaders were appointed at Greenpark School – Paul Sutherland, Stephanie Harris, Fiona Silvester and Cath Thompson. These teachers are

working alongside the across school COL leaders, three of which support Greenpark School.

Our Community of Learning are focusing on the following aims:

- Raising learner engagement in schooling
- Accelerating learner progress and achievement
- Effectively transitioning learners between year levels and school contexts
- Fostering the growth of all learners, with equal importance placed on social, physical and academic outcomes
- Addressing the disparity in achievement in sub groups within Greenpark School.

At the current time, our COL leaders are creating a profile of 'Greenpark School'. Thanks to those parents who assisted in this process by filling out the 'Parent Voice Survey'. Teachers and students have also supported this process, by sharing their voice.

We look forward to hearing more at the start of Term 2, around the direction that the COL group will take, following their analysis of the data they have collected.

### **John Parsons**

If you haven't already committed to attending the John Parson's presentation on 10 April at 6.30, around 'Cyber Safety', I strongly suggest you do. I heard John speak at the School Trustees Conference last year, and he really challenged my thinking around the use of social media and technology. Our children are just so vulnerable and anything we can do to protect them is worth doing. John has some interesting stories to tell about how young people have become victims, quite innocently. His advice and wisdom is well worth listening to.

As a board we wish you a very happy Easter. Enjoy time spent with your kids. We look forward to seeing all the children back after the holidays, smiling and well rested.

Regards  
Rachelle Stratton