



PARNELL
DISTRICT SCHOOL

Newsletter 4: 16th March 2022

Every opportunity to spend time in class with our learners instantly becomes the highlight of my day. Today, I had the opportunity to spend some time with year four students reading the persuasive texts they were writing about the importance of play. It was wonderful to see our learners taking our term inquiry context 'Let's Play' and using what they were finding in their inquiry as a purpose to write. There were some particularly persuasive texts coming out of the class, so parents, if you get a 15-minute speech about how important play is, that might be a result of our inquiry!

We are aware of how tough it is for parents not to be able to visit classes and talk with teachers about how our children are learning. A hallmark of what makes Parnell District School such a special place to be is how our community work together for all learners. We look forward to being able to welcome parents back on site as soon as we can safely do so.

Farewell Darryl, Welcome Amy!

For almost two years, Darryl has been the friendly face to greet you on arrival at Parnell District School. Darryl is a constant source of fun and care for staff and students alike; whether it's delivering the late lunch or helping with tech issues, it seems there is no end to what Darryl can do to support the learners at Parnell District School. We are sad to share that Friday the 18th of March is Darryl's last day with us. He is taking the skills on display in the sickbay to the next level as he trains to be an ambulance officer. We know Darryl will be an amazing asset in his new role, and maybe one day soon, he'll be the man in the ambulance providing the first aide to our community again. I know our community will join me in thanking Darryl for all he has done for us all in his time at Parnell District School. We welcomed Amy Cleary on the 14th of March, who is our new Head of First Impressions. You'll meet Amy's cheery voice over the phone when calling the office and, one day soon, hopefully, get to meet her in person.



Auckland Transport Consultation

Auckland Transport is currently consulting around reductions in speed limits around Auckland. Disappointingly, Gladstone Road is **not** currently covered by the slower speed limits, which is something the Board of Trustees is actively lobbying Auckland Transport on and working with local MP David Seymour to get redressed. Many of us have seen cars moving around the school much faster than we'd like when children are around. While our children are great at using the crossing and using their road safety skills they learn from Constable Cyrus, risks still remain. Given two new traffic islands were recently installed on Gladstone Road to help address school children and general pedestrian safety, we feel that not further controlling speed limits is a significant oversight.

To support the school's lobbying efforts, it's now critical that many parents, teachers and people in our community provide feedback to Auckland Transport supporting the general speed limit changes and citing a need to include the relevant section of Gladstone Road.

Steps to provide feedback online:

1. Navigate to [Proposed Speed Limit Changes - Phase Three \(at.govt.nz\)](#)
2. Scroll down to "Feedback via Online Survey" button towards the bottom of the page
3. Use the "General Feedback" option on the consultation webpage
4. Select the first option, "Generally I Support the Safe Speeds Programme."
5. Suggested feedback points are below to include in the commentary box:
 - The proposed 24/7 30km speed limits will help keep kids safe during normal school hours, before and after school care and the other times when school kids and the community are using the school grounds for sports and leisure, including weekends
 - The 24/7 speed limits need to be expanded to the section of Gladstone Road between Judges Bay Roads and St Stephens Avenue to properly secure the school's perimeter. This will also support the two new speed hump traffic controls that have recently been installed on this section of Gladstone Road

Find out more about the proposals and how to provide your feedback

here: <https://at.govt.nz/about-us/have-your-say/proposed-speed-limit-changes-phase-three/> or use this [map](#) to drop your feedback. Feedback closes on the 3rd of April.

Board Of Trustees Opportunity

The Board of Trustees has welcomed Craig Wheatley and Gina Xu as full board members at the start of the year. Craig brings experience to support the Board in upcoming property projects. Gina joins the finance committee and supports the school in all things accounting and finance.

The Board now consists of 5 Parent Trustees, they are:

- John Worth, Chairperson
- Hishaam Mirza, Treasurer & Deputy Chairperson
- Kenneth Sun
- Gina Xu
- Craig Wheatley

Our Parent Trustees are joined by our staff representative, Gianluca Watson, and myself as Principal.

The Board are acutely aware of the need for a high decile school to continue to generate locally raised funds to supplement the minimal funding the government provides to run the school. At Parnell District School, we usually generate locally raised funds through three methods

- Parent donations
- Parent fundraising
- Accepting international students

COVID has significantly impacted our ability to generate locally raised funds.

In both 2021 and 2022, the school had a budgeted deficit in excess of \$100,000 to provide our learning programmes, which fortunately could be partially offset with fundraising from prior years and careful cost control. In order for our school to continue to provide the high-quality programmes we do, low teacher-student ratios, and additional programmes, we need to explore new ways of supporting the world of locally raised funds. To this end, the Board would like to hear from anyone interested in joining the Board to support the corporate functions of the school around generating locally raised funds and, in doing so, actively engage our community of parents and friends. If this is a passion for you, please email richardg@parnell.school.nz by the 23rd of March to let us know you're interested.

Board Of Trustees Elections are coming up!

Board of Trustees' elections are coming up this year, so all parents will have the opportunity to stand in the upcoming election. If you'd like to know more about the Board's work more broadly and to understand what it is to be a board member, look out for our board info sessions.

Important Dates: Term One

14/03	Week seven New Entrants begin today!
21/03	Week eight
28/03	Week nine
03/04	Daylight Savings – Turn clocks back 1 hour
04/04	Week 10
06/04	School photos! Class and sibling photos
11/04	Week 11
14/04	Term 1 ends at 3 pm (Thursday)

Remember – school grounds are open to students from 8:30 am – 3:15 pm. If students are arriving before 8:30 am, they must be supervised by a parent, or C4 before school care is available for any early risers who cannot be supervised.

Student Mask Charges

Just a reminder that if your child needs a mask from the office, a \$1 per mask charge will be added to your bill. We would suggest keeping a spare in your child's bag.

Ahi Team is proud to show how hard we work every day to achieve our learning goals. Take a walk with us through our classes. You will notice that we have been designers, authors, artists, mathematicians, publishers and, more importantly, focused learners!



Can you imagine?

Sasha Before school **without** the ludo swing, Easter **without** finding eggs.
Daily 3 Learning time **without** Mathletics Live, At home **without** eating board games.
Free time **without** silly sausage, challenging video games, Fun parties **without** a boring pizza.
Birthday parties **without** a boring pizza, Fun parties **without** an volleyball.

Year 4-6



For more information
or to register go to the
club website at...



www.easternsuburbs.org.nz

Join the
CLUB!




Follow us on...








**PLAY
FOOTBALL!**
@ EASTERN SUBURBS AFC





...provides
Soccer For
ALL AGE GROUPS
in the Eastern
Bays area.


**GIRLS
& BOYS**


Play with your friends
**5 YEARS
AND UP!**

Games on Saturday
during terms
2 and 3 with one
**SUNDAY MORNING
TOURNAMENT**



All games played
at the **SAME PLACE**
and **SAME TIME**



End of Year
**GALA
DAY!**

