



# TE KURA O TAWATAWA RIDGWAY SCHOOL

## Board Newsletter



## Foreword

Here we are at the end of Term 3 after a very long wet winter. Our tamariki have all had their first term in our beautiful new building and hasn't it been wonderful to see them using the bright new spaces.

We've welcomed two new members to our board, and there are introductions to them both in this newsletter.

We hope you have safe, happy holidays and look forward to seeing you all in Term 4.

## Board meeting highlights

This term the Board welcomed two new members following board elections. We also approved moving Te Kura O Tawatawa | Ridgway School to cohort entry, which will begin in Term 1 2023. You will find information on these topics and others in this newsletter.

Please note that the minutes are approved in the following meeting. You can access all the Board meetings in this [link](#).

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# New board members intro

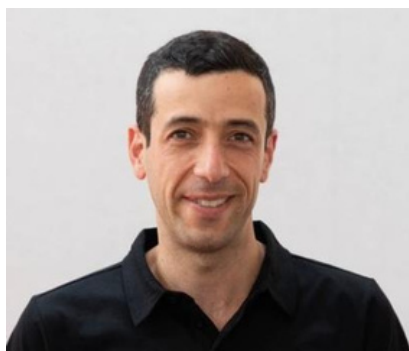


Welcome to the two new board members who joined the [Board of Trustees](#) in Term 3.

## **Sophie Hazelhurst**

I have three children at the school - Matilda, in Year 5, and Albert and Leo, in Year 2. I have a background in journalism and communications and in my work life, I am part of a team at Maritime NZ that delivers maritime safety initiatives in the Pacific Islands.

I think Ridgway is a really special school, with a wonderful community and I am grateful for the opportunity to support the school by joining the board.



## **Kayvan Bahraini**

I'm a working professional in construction industry. I wanted to put my hand up to say I'm available and would happily contribute my time to support the school if I am required.

Sophie and Kayvan join continuing Board members Joanna Pohatu, Monica Serrano, Cameron Hyslop and Adam Smith along with school representatives Principal Kathryn Smith and Deputy Principal Sarah Taylor.

## Cohort entry policy

Following consultation with the school community at the end of last term, the board has agreed to introduce a cohort entry policy for our school.

Cohort entry is when new entrants start school in groups through the year rather than on their fifth birthday. In schools which have adopted a policy of cohort entry, new entrants are able to start school in cohorts but only after they have turned five. There are two entry points per term, one on the first day of term, and one at a mid-point during a term.

This policy will come into effect for Te Kura O Tawatawa | Ridgway School in Term 1 of 2023.

Dates for the cohort entry are decided by the Ministry of Education. Cohort entry dates can be found via the enrolment information page on the school website.

# Kāhui Ako

Te Kura O Tawatawa | Ridgway School is part of the Capital City Kāhui Ako working with six other schools in our area. A Kāhui Ako or community of learning is a group of education and training providers that form around children and young people's learning pathways, and work together to help them achieve their full potential.

The work of the Kahui Ako is led by a lead principal, four across school lead teachers (ASLs) and 12 within school lead teachers (WSLs).

Kathryn has been appointed as the Lead Principal for the next two years. This means that she will spend two days a week focusing on the work of the Kāhui Ako.

Sarah Taylor (Deputy Principal) will be Acting Principal on those two days.

Capital City Kāhui Ako consists of seven schools (five primary schools, one intermediate, and one secondary school (shown below) and eleven early childhood education centres.



Houghton Valley



Wellington High



Island Bay



Newtown



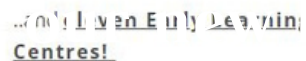
Ridgway



Owhiro Bay



South Wellington Intermediate



# Update on Years 7 and 8

We know many in our school community are anxious to know what the future holds for our Years 7 and 8.

The Board consulted with the school community on whether to remain a full primary school (Years 1-8) or transition to a contributing primary school (Years 1-6) last year. However, before the school could make a final decision on this important question, we became aware that South Wellington Intermediate School (SWIS) was looking at introducing a zone for their school, which would affect some of our students' ability to attend for Years 7 and 8.

This has had the effect of putting our decision making on hold.

SWIS is working with the Ministry of Education on its proposed zone. There will be public consultation on this, and the board has asked the Ministry to ensure that they facilitate a hui with our community about the zoning proposal and what it will mean for our school.

The Board has met with SWIS and the Ministry to discuss our consultation last year on Year 7 and 8. We also advised our school community that we had delayed a final decision on this because we needed more information, one point being clarity about what the SWIS zone proposal will mean for Te Kura O Tawatawa | Ridgway School.

As soon as we receive information on the SWIS proposal we will let you know.



## Hiring school facilities

Our lovely new school is of course getting attention and the school has been approached by groups wanting to hire the premises for use on weekends or out of school hours.

Enjoy Childcare already uses the space for its after school programme.

The board discussed how best to manage hire of the school facilities for community groups and others and agreed the school could be made available in this way, with appropriate hire arrangements, fees and bond.

Details of this policy will be made available on the website soon.

# Policy review

All parents can view our school policies at any time by going to our [SchoolDocs](#) site. You'll find a link to SchoolDocs on our website.

Find our school name in the drop down menu by entering the first few letters, then enter the password (RRRR).

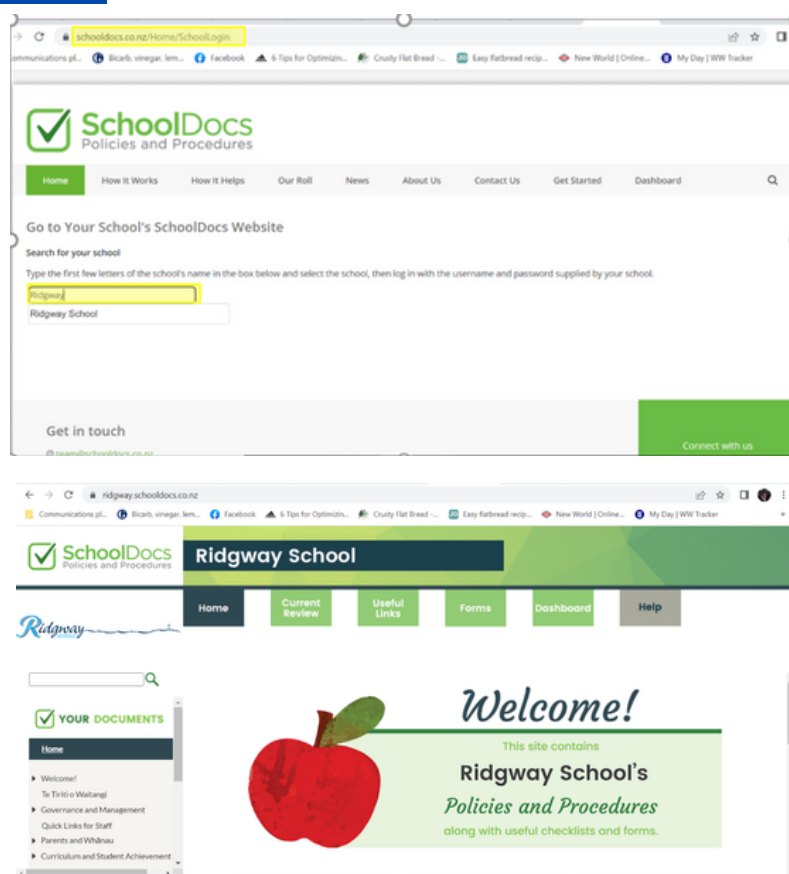
Each term the Board reviews various policies and our community can contribute via the 'Current Review' tab on this site.

All policies are regularly reviewed either annually or tri-annually according to a schedule.

The school also carries out internal reviews to check that our procedures are appropriate and support the wellbeing of all.

In particular we do this following any serious incident or when we notice a series of incidents that could have been serious. These reviews often result in changes to our practices.

Following a serious allergic reaction on the Year 5&6 camp, we are currently reviewing our policy and procedures relating to camps, shared food and allergies.



## Building update

Staff and children have very much enjoyed working in our new building this term. Our new classes have fresh air vents and carbon dioxide metering. The heaters come on automatically in the mornings so that they are warm when children arrive and teachers can adjust the temperature when they need to. Windows can be opened to let in extra fresh or cooler air, which will be really lovely when summer arrives.

We hope the landscaping work will be finished by the end of the year and children will be able to enjoy their new playground from the start of next year.

Get in touch - Jo Pohatu, *Board Chairperson*  
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