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## Introducing Bruce



I have been living in Beachlands since 2011 and am looking forward to help guide the strategy of the school as it and the community continues to grow. I was born, bred and educated in the Waikato and then spent 11 years in the UK. My time in the UK proved successful as I returned to NZ with a wife and two children (Helen, Mara and Ker). On returning from the UK Helen and I were looking for a small, friendly community to bring up our family; we have found this in Beachlands. I bring a variety of business and personal experience to the team. Currently I work for Mars NZ as a member of the management team where I am the Supply Chain Director. On the BOT I hold the legislation portfolio.

## Chairperson's chat - Suzanne Drake

Welcome to 2017 from the Board of Trustees. We are well underway with school activities and look forward to a fruitful and exciting year.

I would like to welcome Bruce Barrett to the Board of Trustees. He has agreed to step in and take over the legislation portfolio left vacant with Nicolette Butler relocating to Wellington. Bruce will be with our board until the next elections.

We would also like to reinforce the message that has been going home through our weekly school newsletters that it is a legal requirement to wear bike helmets when riding bicycles, and highly recommended for scooters. We would like to see all our children and parents co-operating with this safety message.

### Principal appointment

We were delighted to announce to our community in February that we have completed the Principal appointment process and that Anthony Noble-Campbell will be joining our school in Term 3. Community feedback from the survey you completed last year was integral in shaping some of our questions during the interviews, prioritising aspects important to our community. We will introduce Anthony to you closer towards the end of term two. Until then, Brian Gower has agreed to remain in a

caretaker role and the school will continue to be led on a daily basis by our Assistant Principals and Leadership Team.

### Strategic plan

At the end of last year the Board updated our school Strategic Plan which was submitted to the Ministry of Education in March for approval. I encourage you all to look at the Strategic Plan which is [available on our website](#).

### Communities of Learning (COL)

In the coming months you will see reference to Communities of Learning (COL). This is a government initiative *Investing in Educational Success (IES)* aimed at lifting student achievement as well as offering new career opportunities for teachers and Principals. Beachlands School will form a COL with six other schools. The COL will soon be appointing the leadership role, a Principal of one of the participating schools who will oversee and lead the cluster.

The rest of this year will be spent on appointing specific teaching roles, agreeing a collective achievement objective as a cluster of schools and obtaining approval from the Ministry of Education, and other administrative tasks.

The expectation is that from Term 1



2018 we will officially be educating in a COL system. We will provide more information as it comes to hand through newsletters, but if you would like more information now, go to the [Ministry of Education website](#).

### Areas of focus this year

Growth in Beachlands is apparent to everyone driving past the myriad of new houses and building sites. Consequently our school is expected to undergo a significant roll increase. See the property section of the newsletter to stay up to date with building and refurbishing activities planned.

We will continue to focus on the quality of communication between the school and the parent community. A good relationship between home and school benefits the learning potential of our children.

## What does the BOT do?

The Board of trustees consist of five parent representatives, the principal and a staff representative. We meet monthly and are responsible for setting the school's strategic direction (in consultation with parents, staff and students) through our charter and policies, and making sure that the school

provides a safe environment and quality education for all students. Our charter is available for everyone to read [on the school website](#).

The board sets the high-level policies and entrusts to our Principal the day-to-day

management decisions on personnel, curriculum, property, finance and administration. The board carries out evaluations to measure the performance of the school and the Principal against the plans set. Each member of the Board of Trustees is voted in for a three-year term.



## The Principal's portion - Brian Gower

Dear Parents and Community,

Communication is at the heart of everything and it has been great to see the response we have had as we encourage parents to play a more active part in their child's education. Thank you for all the time and energy you put into your children to make them the best they can be. The children at Beachlands School reflect this through their behaviour and learning.

As you are aware my tenure at Beachlands School is coming to an end and I am sure the new principal will pick up the reins and continue to build upon the wonderful foundation that exists at Beachlands School, especially through the Beachlands Learner

and FERN.

The focus this year is to improve boys' writing and to look into our practice to improve learning outcomes for our Maori students. We will also continue to deliver on all curriculum areas and continue to grow children's confidence and capability in their learning.

This year Beachlands School is looking to be part of a Howick Coast Community of Learning which will require the seven schools, (Howick College, Howick Intermediate, Howick Primary, Botany Downs, Beachlands, Maraetai beach and Clevedon) to share their achievement data across the community and decide on common achievement challenges. The achievement

challenge will be decided this year and then we will be appointing staff to work within schools and across schools to improve the learning and teaching practice which will lead to improved learning outcomes for our students. This is part of a national initiative by the Ministry of Schools to enable schools to share effective practice across schools. It will become the way professional learning is delivered to schools by the Ministry of Education.

Collaboration is necessary not only within schools and across schools to support our vision of Beachlands Schools of Thriving today and Preparing for Tomorrow.

## Property - Suzanne Drake

2017 started with rooms 8, 9, and 10 closed off for the upcoming renovations. We have been going through the design process this term and will be carrying out the renovations throughout Term 2 so expect to see much more activity in this area of the school.

This block of rooms will be Beachlands School's first custom built ILE – Innovative Learning Environment - which is in line with the latest research and guidelines and will offer our children and teachers a number of different learning opportunities. Our new

entrants will start moving into this area during Term 3.

The Ministry of Education has approved a new seven-classroom build for our school to cope with the predicted growth in the area. It was envisaged that our school role would grow to 800, and now it is expected that it will grow beyond that.

The new build project is still in its infancy with a business case presented to the Ministry to be considered for funding this year. The whole project cost is in

the vicinity of \$7.5m and the needs of our school will be prioritised along with the needs of many other schools.

We have done our best to ensure the project team has the most up to date information to put our case forward and we will know by July whether it has been funded in this round. If we do receive funding, the remainder of 2017 and much of 2018 will be involved with design and tendering processes. We will keep you informed on this project as it progresses.

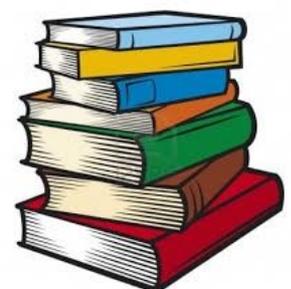


## While our school library is closed...

Due to space requirements the library has been transformed into the Auaha Room. Auaha means *innovation* or *creativity*, and is appropriate for our intermediate students who now have their classrooms there.

Library books are available in each classroom for students to use, however they are currently unable to take them home. Here are a few alternatives to the school library:

- The library bus stops outside Beachlands School (Wakelin Road entrance) every Tuesday afternoon from 12-3pm, and every Wednesday morning outside Maraetai School if your children would like to borrow books.
- Beachlands library at 75 Second View Ave is open Monday 10:00 am – 12:00 noon, Wednesday 1:45 pm – 3:30 pm and Saturday 1:45 pm – 3:30 pm



- Maraetai library at 213 Maraetai Drive is open Tuesday 10:00 am – 12:00 noon, Thursday 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm and Saturday 10:00 am – 12:00 noon.

## Legal - Bruce Barrett

Now onto the exciting topic of legislation. Before I start let me inform you of two great websites

that contain a wealth of knowledge from general education information to Beachlands School policies:

**Education.govt.nz** – This site is maintained by the Ministry of Education and contains a lot of education information from early learning to further education.

**Beachlands.schooldocs.co.nz** – This site can be accessed via the

policies link under the information menu on the school website. You will be asked to login, use 'beachlands' for both the username and password.

There is a lot of information on the site. A nice easy way to see only the key changes is via the 'what's new' tab on the home page.

We all play a part in the education of our children and your input is valuable when it comes to reviewing our school's policies.

I encourage you to take a few minutes to look over the policies due for review this year and use the feedback tab to make any comments. These comments will be sent to our Principal.



## Finance - Sarah Laing-Beale

We are pleased to report that the school ended 2016 in a sound financial position. This was made possible by PTA, school fundraising and school donations received as well as an unbudgeted grant from the Ministry.

As we start the 2017 school year however, we are faced with the usual challenges of being a Decile 10 school, where the funding we receive from the Government does not fully cover the cost of running the school or extend to those extras that enhance our children's schooling experience.

This year we will yet again be

heavily dependent on fundraising activities and school donations to ensure we meet the diverse and growing needs of our students. Thank you to those who have already paid the donation, your contribution is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions with regards to ways of paying, please do not hesitate to contact the school to discuss – we welcome your enquiries.

International Students at Beachlands School is another source of funding for the school. This programme depends on Homestay hosts being available for

these students, so if you are interested in providing this for a future student, please contact the school for more details.

If you would like to pay your donation online, the school's bank account number is

**12-3040-0490765-00**

(Please put your family name in the description). Your donation is tax deductible.

## Communication - Frances Burnett-Jeffries

The Beachlands School Facebook page has 611 followers and keeps our community up to date with an average of 6-9 updates per week. Barbs has done a great job to share our children's success via photos and posts.

All parents should be receiving a weekly email from their child's teacher, summarising the week past and providing reminders for the coming week.

The weekly newsletter is available via email or from the website or Facebook. It is the primary communication mechanism regarding upcoming events and key messages from the school.

The electronic noticeboard on Wakelin Road serves up short-and-sweet reminders for upcoming events.

During term two, we will be conducting the community survey once again. It remains an important feedback tool to ensure Board is in touch with the sentiments and wishes of the community. Please take the time to complete and return the survey.

During term 3, we will provide opportunities for you to get to know our new principal.

As always, your feedback is necessary and appreciated.

### Have a problem or concern?

- At Beachlands School we believe in talking directly to the person that can solve the problem. This means that in most cases initial contact is an appointment with your child's Teacher.
- If there is no resolution, or the concern needs further support then an appointment with the Team Leader will be made.
- After this point you may need to make an appointment with an Associate Principal.
- At this stage if any further action is required they may refer you to the Principal or the SENCO depending on the action required.



## Beachlands School

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[www.beachlands.school.nz](http://www.beachlands.school.nz)

## Health and Safety - Carl Llewelyn

Health and Safety has been the talking point for everyone in the past year in one way or another. Beachlands School is no exception. I have been reviewing the current policies that the school has in place and looking at how they are implemented into the day to day running.

Beachlands School will be working towards further developing their Health and Safety culture in the classroom from the children through to all staff. At the end of last year all classrooms were involved in identifying hazards throughout the school which was very humorous in some ways and created engagement with the teachers.

The Board wants to see an the teachers further upskilled with regards to the new Act and how it affects them. Options are being considered for the most appropriate way to achieve the best

## PTA

The PTA have new leadership in Shelly Geddes, supported by a handful of committee members. The PTA are looking for contributors and committee members. Be sure to contact Shelly on [shellygeddes@xtra.co.nz](mailto:shellygeddes@xtra.co.nz) if you can offer some of your time and energy.



The PTA is integral to fundraising which our Decile 10 school needs to operate. The funds raised is applied in many different areas, such as technology in the classroom, funding teacher aides, classroom reading material and projects such as an all weather surface.

The PTA has run the sausage sizzle during the touch season, a tuck shop during the Beachlands obstacle duathlon, hosted a junior and senior disco as well as providing snacks and sausages at Grandparents' day.



*Thriving today and preparing for tomorrow.*

## Cultural corner - Kylie Biggs

Here at Beachlands we have many things going on; here are just a few of our many highlights from the year so far:

- Swimming sports and swimming carnivals
- Student Learning Conferences
- Orienteering for years 4-8
- A new makers class in the Intermediate team where a group of students are currently making and testing out trolleys.
- Students attended Polyfest
- Intermediate leadership jobs have been appointed

- Intermediate camp
- Beachlands Duathlon
- Orienteering tournaments

### Looking forward:

Students are settled into their new classrooms and are busy working towards their goals that were shared at student learning conferences. A large group of *kindy to koru* students are preparing to join us full time in term 2 and the very much anticipated Grandparents Day will be held during the final week of term 1.

