

**Wellington Seventh-day Adventist School**  
**Principal's Annual Report to the Board of Trustees on**  
**Monday 28th May 2018**

Reporting on the year 2017



## **Introduction**

At Wellington Seventh-day Adventist School, our mission is *Educating for Eternity*. Our vision is that our students will be 'Connected to God', 'Connected to Others', and experience 'Connected Learning'.

## **Wellington Seventh-day Adventist School**

Wellington Seventh-day Adventist School is a full primary school, educating from Years One to Eight. Our school is situated in a semi-rural location nestled under Colonial Knob and overlooking Kenepuru. During the past year we have enjoyed observing the ongoing work on Transmission Gully and the Kenepuru Interchange. More recently, we have seen the grounds across Raiha Street being readied for a new housing development. Our outlook is changing as Porirua progresses.

By God's grace, we have had another good year. We closed 2016 with 62 students and began 2017 with 58 students. At the beginning of the year there were 18 students in Room One, 21 students in Room Two, and 19 students in Room Three. During the year, several students left while others enrolled and at the end of the year our roll was 63, with seven of these students completing Year Eight and moving on to college.

Towards the end of Term Three, Room One was at capacity and we employed another teacher to take most of the Year Two students from Room One and some of the Year Three students from Room Two. The Board felt that this decision would have a positive impact on student achievement. The fourth classroom was set up in the library.

Wellington Seventh-day Adventist School embraces the cultures that make up our community. At the end of 2017 our student make up was:

- 81% Pasifika
- 7% Māori
- 7% Asian
- 5% Pakeha

We also had students of other ethnicities throughout the year who have moved on.

We were open for the required number of days: 388 half days.

## **Teaching, Learning, and Cultural Events**

The achievement of the students was determined using a variety of methods. Overall Teacher Judgments (OTJs) were made based on a selection of work samples, conversations with students around their learning, and standardised tests. Standardised tests included: PATs, STAR, e-asTTle writing, running records. We also used the PaCT (Progress and Consistency Tool) to inform our OTJs in Mathematics.

We obtained specialist help for some students who needed additional support in reading and writing through RTLb and RTLit. We employ a bilingual Teacher Aide in Room Two who works with high learning needs students and with some of our ELL students. In Terms One and Two we employed a Spanish Speaker Teacher Aide who worked with our Spanish-speaking students as well as other English Language Learners in small groups. Sadly, the Spanish-speaking students moved to Auckland and this Teacher Aide returned to Spain.

In 2017, we were allocated centrally-funded PLD and began Maths PD with a Cognition Education facilitator, Mrs Gillian Kissling. As part of our PLD, we collected student voice and whanau voice to identify needs and focus our learning.

The Board employed Mrs Ashdown for an extra 0.2 in Room Three, so that Mrs Mitchell (a qualified Maths Support Teacher) could be released from the classroom to teach Maths to small groups of target students.

During the year, Mr Rea taught guitar and ukulele to interested students each week. Mrs Mitchell taught clarinet and trumpet. We also provided space for a piano teacher come to the school each week to give lessons to a number of students. These lessons were paid for by the parents of the students.

This year, after a lot of discussion, consultation, and education, the Board instituted a Water-Only Policy. We were supported in this by various health initiatives including the Heart Foundation, To Ora, Māori and Population Health, and Compass Health.

During 2017, we joined the Western Porirua Kāhui Ako - Te Puna Mātauranga.

In previous years, we have celebrated the various language weeks with a shared meal. We noticed that this resulted in small groups participating in the various celebrations throughout the year and decided to focus on each language week throughout 2017, but have a shared meal and cultural evening later in the year. This happened in October and was a huge success. All of our cultures were represented. Some shared cultural items, others presented short videos, each class shared an item, and the teachers danced a siva. We also had a wonderful shared meal. We plan to do this again.

We participated in the following activities throughout the year:

- Swimming lessons at Te Rauparaha Arena - February 13 -24 ;
- Music lessons - guitar, ukulele, clarinet, and trumpet;
- Trips to Pataka and the Education Centre;
- Te Papa trip - the Bug Lab and Awesome Forces;
- Fundraising for Bible League International and the Wellington Free Ambulance;
- Kotahitanga o Tuauru o Porirua cultural concert - combined concert with Porirua West Cluster hosted by Titahi Bay Intermediate School;
- Happy, Healthy, Fit & Strong with Rowena Szeszeran-McEvoy;
- Presenting an afternoon (AYs) programme at the Wellington Seventh-day Adventist Church in Porirua;
- Wellington City Trip - Cable Car, Cable Car Museum, Botanic Gardens, Supreme Court, and Parliament (learning focused around citizenship and elections);
- Years Seven and Eight Snow Trip to Ruapehu and Taupo;
- Science Roadshow - Room Three;
- Week of Worship - lead by Pastor Paul Gredig;
- Creation-Science week, lead by Phil & Jennifer Reilly;
- Inter-school Basketball at Te Rauparaha Arena - seniors;
- Zoo trip;
- Two students were awarded Service Above Self awards at the Gift to the World Leadership Awards;
- Move-M-Prove - Fundamental skills movement programme run by Kiwisport;
- Whole school cultural evening;
- Life Education Trust;
- Years Seven and Eight Trip to Matiu Somes Island;
- Overnight stay and orientation programme at Longburn Adventist College - Year Eight students
- Our school year finished with swimming and a picnic at Te Rauparaha Arena Pools on December 15.

## **Student Achievement and Analysis of Variance**

This was reported to the Board in February and sent to the Ministry of Education by March 1.

## **Kiwisport**

Kiwisport is a government funding initiative to support students' participation in organized sport. Our funding for 2017 went towards:

- Swimming Lessons - The school had the annual swimming programme at the Porirua Aquatic Centre. Eight swimming lessons were organised and this helped the students to improve their swimming and gain confidence in the water.
- Move-M-Prove - This is a fundamental movement skills programme and was run at our school weekly during Term Four.

## **Community**

As a school we are working towards being more community-minded. This year that included:

- Meet and Greet (parent evening): Tuesday, March 7, with a shared meal;
- Friday Tuck-shop/lunches (to meet parent and student demand based on surveys);
- Social Worker and Health Nurse working with families and students;
- Gathering of Whanau Voice around maths learning - Term Two;
- Parent-Student-Teacher (three-way) Conferences - Tuesday, June 27;
- Adventist Youth (AYs) programme run by the school at the Wellington Samoan SDA Church on Saturday, August 12;
- Wellington SDA Regional Day Sabbath School programme coordinated and run by the Wellington SDA School on Saturday, September 2;
- Cultural Evening - 28 November;
- Praise-giving (prize-giving) - December 14.

## **Staff**

Our staff are committed to supporting students in their learning and to Christian Education. They strive to raise academic achievement and also to assist our students as they develop their Key Competencies capabilities and Special Character Values. Each of these people, along with our regular relievers, have contributed to the success of our school:

**Principal:** Mrs Karla Mitchell

**Teachers:** Mrs Evelyn Ormsby, Mrs Julie Simanu, Mr Keith Rea, Mrs Moira Ashdown, and Mrs Kahli Huse

**Teacher Aides:** Mrs Sarah Hurrell, Ms Aiga Maiava, Ms Emily Newcombe, Mrs Elisabeth Tupa'i

**Reading Recovery Teacher:** Mrs Evelyn Ormsby

**Office Manager:** Mrs Jean Abellana

**Grounds person:** Mr Gafo Aloese

**School Chaplain:** Pr Jake Ormsby

**Librarian:** Mrs Raylee Richardson

In 2018, we will start the year with three classrooms. Mrs Huse will be the new teacher in Room Two.

## **Professional Development for Staff included:**

- Seventh-day Adventist Principals' Meetings in Auckland;
- Te Reo Māori, level two - Whitireia - Mrs Mitchell;
- Whole School Maths PLD (including Strand workshops, progression workshops, co-planning, observations, and practice analysis conversations);
- Teachers observing colleagues in other schools - Mr Rea - Titahi Bay School, Mrs Ormsby - Maraeroa School, Mrs Simanu - Windley School;
- Literacy - one day Reading and Writing courses - Mr Rea;
- Beginning Principals programme (Evaluation Associates) - Mrs Mitchell
- Principal Appraisal - by Ms Helena Barwick

## **Board of Trustees**

Mrs Irene Finau (Chair)

Mrs Karla Mitchell (Principal/Secretary)

Mrs Evelyn Ormsby (Staff Rep)

Mrs Miranda Livapulu

Mrs Esther Pereira-Saena

Mr Andy Ng Lam (Proprietor Rep)

Mr Tu Vili (Proprietor Rep)

Wellington Seventh-day Adventist School has a committed Board who are continuing to grow their skills. For 2017, Mrs Irene Finau was again appointed as Chair. Mr Tu Vili was appointed as Proprietor's Representative mid-year.

Reporting to the Board is done regularly across all curriculum areas and the Board meets at least twice each term. The members are working cohesively and have shown themselves able to make strategic and difficult decisions with discretion.

Board members attended NZSTA PLD programmes on Community Engagement and Self-Review.

## **Property and Finance**

- Mr Roger Marshall, Adventist Education Property Manager, visited the school several times throughout the year;
- The 10 Year Property Plan was revised and accepted;
- A retaining wall project on the lower field began in October;
- School lunches were sold to fundraise;
- The 2017 auditor's visit is scheduled for March 2018;
- Education Services staff visited several times during the year including mid-year to review the annual budget;
- The financial report for 2017 shows that we finished the year in a good financial position.

## Planned Actions for Lifting Student Achievement

Areas for improvement are identified by analysing student achievement data collected during the year and reflecting on student/parent/community feedback.

In 2018, we plan to:

- Continue Maths PLD;
- Work collaboratively with other schools and colleagues to improve practice;
- Support our Teacher Aides through Professional Development;
- Continue to grow the Board's capacity within various sub-committees

## Appreciation

We wish to thank each staff member, Board member and volunteer for their contributions during 2017. We are blessed to have such a dedicated team. Our prayer is for God's blessing while we continue to grow our skills, expand our programmes, and meet the needs of our school and local communities while *Educating for Eternity*.



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Esther Pereira-Saena  
Board Chair (2018)



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Karla Mitchell  
Principal

