

Board Newsletter

Term One 2025

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Welcome to our first Board newsletter of 2025!,
And a special welcome to families and staff new to
Northcote Primary this year.

It's hard to believe it's late-March and that Term 1 is over in a few weeks,
especially given the gorgeous weather of late. Long may it continue, or at
least until FONS' Family Fun Night on the bottom field tomorrow night!

Most of the Board (Andy, Fiona, Ash and Christian) will be attending, so we
hope to see lots of you there!

In this update:

- Board Member Update
- Upcoming Parent Survey
- Miniball Court Resurfacing
- Join FONS!
- School Finances
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- Staff PLD
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Board Member Update

In February we were sorry to receive the resignation of our presiding member Rachel Henderson, who has stepped down from the Board for family reasons. Rachel has been closely involved with the school for many years, both with FONS and as a Board member, and we would like to express our sincere appreciation for the energy and commitment she has given to her various roles.

This created a vacancy on the Board through to the September triennial elections, which the Board has elected to fill by selecting a new member, Christian Gamst, who was chosen from the applications received at the end of 2024.

Our new presiding member is Fiona Eagles, who joined the Board in 2023.

We Want To Hear From You!

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One of the main tasks for the Board this year is to draft a new Strategic Plan for the School. The Strategic Plan sets out the vision and strategic priorities for 2026–2028 which provides direction and goals for all the school's activities and learning programmes. The Strategic Plan should reflect the values and aspirations of the school community so we need your feedback!



A link to a short survey will be sent out soon which will arrive in your email or Hero app, whichever you have chosen as your primary place for notifications.

All responses will be kept confidential and will help us improve the school and your child's educational journey with NPS.

Miniball Court!

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In the April school holidays, we are aiming to have the asphalt miniball court next to the Tiger Turf relaid with astroturf, making this space much safer and more user-friendly all year round for our budding basketballers.

Many thanks to the NZ Community Trust, Court Kings and Pink Beluga Civil Limited for supporting this project, and to NPS parent Dan Brown for many hours of his time.



FONS - Friends of Northcote School

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FONS is Northcote Primary's PTA. They do an invaluable job of both Fund-raising & Fun-raising for our school community. But they need more members!

So if you want to make a difference & have fun while doing it, join FONS!

It's a great way to meet other parents, get creative with exciting events & help raise money that benefits our kids. They'd love your ideas, energy & support!

Email: fons@northcoteprimary.school.nz or come to one of their meetings!



School Finances

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In 2024, Northcote Primary operated at a financial deficit – a reflection of the increasing challenge many schools face in meeting rising costs within current government funding levels. Despite this, we were still able to deliver a rich and engaging learning experience for our students, thanks to the careful management of resources and the generous support of our school community.

Looking ahead, your continued support through parent donations is more important than ever. These contributions help fund classroom resources, specialist programmes, and the many extras that make learning at Northcote both meaningful and fun.

While government funding covers the basics, it doesn't stretch far enough to provide the full range of opportunities we value. Every donation makes a difference – and we understand that families have different capacities to give. If a full donation isn't possible, any amount is appreciated, and the school is happy to arrange a payment plan or contribution that works for you.

The Board is also actively working to bridge any funding shortfall by partnering with FONS & seeking support from local funding bodies for grants.

Thank you to all families who have already paid their 2025 donation – your support directly benefits every child at our school.

10 Year Property Plan

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Following approval from the Ministry of Education, the school's 10 Year Property Plan and 5 Year Agreement (5YA) has been approved and is available to view under [school documents](#) on the NPS website.

Staff PLD

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As mentioned in Andy's newsletters, most of the staff have now completed their initial Professional Learning & Development (PLD) to better understand the new requirements for Structured Literacy (SL) and Structural Mathematics (SM). The school is still waiting on the teaching resources for both SL and SM.

There is another MOE Teacher Only Day in Term 2 on Friday 30 May for PLD, so mark this in your calendar now. Thank you for supporting the school through these training requirements.



Room 20 - STEAM Classroom

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The initial fit-out for Room 20 is now complete, and it is looking fantastic! The layout is designed for a variety of uses and has been fitted out with basins and lino to allow for activities using water. The next step is seeking further input from the teaching staff to determine how to best use and resource this amazing space.

This project was funded by a \$20,000 donation from FONS, and we acknowledge the support of the FONS team and the wider school community with the fundraising efforts. It makes such a difference for our school.

Science – Technology – Engineering – Arts – Maths



That's all for now, but keep an eye out for future updates from us. And if there is a specific topic you'd like to hear about, please do let one of the board members know, or flick us a message via the board email address below and we'll add it to the list for next time.

Ngā mihi nui

Current Board members

The current members of the NPS Board are: Andy Brown (Principal), Carey Thomas (staff representative) Fiona Eagles (presiding member), Henry Barfoot, Christian Gamst, Ash Matuschka, Matt Mollgaard (parent representatives)

Keep in touch

We are keen to hear both positive and constructive feedback, and any suggestions you have. Please get in touch if you have questions, concerns or would like us to advocate on your behalf bot@northcoteprimary.school.nz

2025 meeting dates

Members of the community are always welcome to attend our board meetings in the staffroom from 6pm. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 30 April.

NPS Policies

You can keep up to date with all our school policies and provide feedback for reviews at www.school-docs.co.nz. Our community login is as follows –
USERNAME: northcoteprimary
PASSWORD: shore

