



10 December 2020

Tēnā koutou | greetings,

“Whāia te iti kahurangi, ki te tuohu koe, me he maunga teitei” -
Strive for excellence, so that if you miss, you will hit a lofty mountain.

This may seem like a strange whakatauki to use, after the year that has been - 2020. This has included two lockdowns, the cancellation of many social activities, and a general sense of interest in the way that our leaders have handled this global pandemic. When we started this year, we could not have known what it would hold. For many this has included anxiety and frustration, and yet for some a feeling of personal achievement. Our little country has performed amazingly well, due to the way in which we have all banded together as a 'Team of five million'.

Here, at Stanhope, we too have taken the opportunity to do things differently and to speed up getting the mahi done. Despite the many challenges, the principal, the senior management team and the rest of the staff have delivered many exciting initiatives, as you will see on the attached 'Stanhope - Year in Review 2020' document. This has been our lofty mountain, and we can be proud of what we have accomplished.

As a Board of Trustees, we too have had an interesting year. We were disappointed to lose Diana Maties earlier this year and are thankful for her contribution during her time with us; however, we are excited to begin 2021 with three new trustees:

- Craig Seuseu was co-opted to the Board in August for his experience with community leadership;
- Matt Brent was recently unanimously selected to fill the Board casual vacancy left by Diana;
- and Sacha Lee was recently co-opted to the Board for his governance and leadership experience also.

These new trustees and the existing five trustees, form a diverse group, who have a keen focus on the holistic achievement and wellbeing of our tamariki. It is our privilege to serve the Stanhope community in this way. Our Board meetings are public meetings and are always open for those interested in the governance of the school.

The Board would further like to thank the staff and whānau of Stanhope for their patience and resilience during this year. Our tamariki can feel good about the level of care that they have received from the school during the year.

To our Year 8 students, we are aware that the disruptions to the year have been particularly hard on you with the cancellation of your epic Year 8 Camp. As you leave for college next year, we wish you well. Be the best Stanhope graduates that you can be, and carry your values into your next school. To our remaining students, we look forward to seeing you again in 2021.

Everyone, have a great Christmas and stay safe over the holiday period. God bless.

Whakahoahoa, ākongā, kaitiaki | Friends, learners, guardians

David Grant
Chairman Stanhope Road School Board of Trustees