

# Botany Downs Primary School

Monday 29 March 2021

***Our BEST - Always***



## School Closed...

Thursday 1 April - Teacher Only Day  
Friday 2 April - Easter Friday  
Monday 5 April - Easter Monday  
Tuesday 6 April - NZ School Easter Holiday

### ***Kia ora koutou,***

Last week we had a very successful two nights of parent interviews. It is always so valuable for parents to make the connection with your child's teacher. If you were unable to attend the parents interviews we encourage you to make contact with your child's class teacher.

This week is a short week as school will only be open on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. On Thursday all teachers and teacher aides will be participating in a Teacher Only Day with our colleagues at Howick Intermediate on the *Pause Breathe Smile* Programme that is being rolled out over the country. From this Professional Development Day we will then continue to develop this programme for us at BDS.

### **Traffic Outside Our School**

Please be vigilant and safe when driving around school. It is our shared responsibility to ensure the safety of all students walking, scooting, biking and being dropped off to and from school.

### **Experience Chinese Culture Morning - Friday 9 April—9.10am to 10.40am**

All classes have been learning about Chinese culture and we will be having a special morning to celebrate this learning starting with an assembly at 9:10 am. Following this, there will be an opportunity for you to go to your child's classroom to share what they have learned about Chinese culture.

We are also excited to offer you the opportunity to order dumplings for your child to eat at morning tea time, you are welcome to stay and share this delicious treat with your child.



The cost is \$6.50 for a pack of 8 dumplings and there is a choice between pork or vegetarian. **All orders and payments are to be made via Kindo for the dumplings. No cash payments can be accepted at school for the dumplings.**

**Dumpling purchases must be completed by 9 am, Wednesday 7th of April, unfortunately, we will not be able to accept any late orders.**

### **School Swimming**

Please note that swimming sessions at school have now finished for the year.

#### ***Coming up...***

Thursday 1 April -  
Teacher Only Day

Friday 2 April -  
Good Friday (public holiday)

Monday 5 April -  
Easter Monday (public holiday)

Tuesday 6 April -  
Easter Tuesday (NZ school holiday)

Friday 16 April -  
Last Day of Term 1

Monday 3 May -  
First Day of Term 2 / Yr 5 Camp  
Adair & Yr 6 Camp Bentzon

## Enviro Club Eye on Nature Trip Thursday 25 March

The Botany Downs Enviro Club was lucky enough to be invited to the Eye On Nature event at the Auckland Botanical Gardens on Thursday 25 March.

Year 5 and 6 Enviro Club students learnt about how fishing can be more sustainable, looking after our fresh water streams, the importance of having trees in our local environment, and ways to prevent plastics entering our environment and bodies.

A big THANKYOU to our fantastic parent helpers who came on the day, and the Manukau Beautification Trust for an excellent event.

**Tom Huskinson, Enrichment Programme ([tomh@botanydowns.school.nz](mailto:tomh@botanydowns.school.nz))**



**Ngā mihi,  
Vicki Parkins, Principal**

**[vickip@botanydowns.school.nz](mailto:vickip@botanydowns.school.nz)**

### SKIDS - Providing Before and After School, and Holiday Programmes

Before School care - 7.30am to 8.30am

After School care - 3.00pm to 6.00pm

Holiday Programme - 7.30am to 6.00pm

To see if you qualify for an OSCAR subsidy, please click c <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/deskfile/extra/assistance-tables/oscar-subsidy-current.html> (Government towards your child care)



To make a booking, please register on [skids.aimy.co.nz](http://skids.aimy.co.nz) or email us: [botanydowns@skids.co.nz](mailto:botanydowns@skids.co.nz)

**FREE**

- Kids Learn to Ride
- Adult Bike Skills Sessions  
Beginner to advanced  
Maintenance
- E-Bike courses

For course info and dates visit [AT.govt.nz/cyclingevents](http://AT.govt.nz/cyclingevents)

Auckland's leading theatre for children presents

**TIM BRAY**  
THEATRE COMPANY

by Margaret Mahy

**LIVE ON STAGE**

adapted for the stage by **Tim Bray** songs by **Christine White**

**30 Years**  
Celebrating  
June 1991  
The Bray Theatre Company

# A Lion in the Meadow and Other Stories

AUCKLAND TOUR  
**10 April - 29 May**

[timbray.org.nz](http://timbray.org.nz)

AD (Audio Described)   6g (New Zealand Sign Language)   SR (Sensory Relaxed)



mōngere arts centre  
Te Kōwhiri o Te Whānau

TE ORO

Vodafone  
Events Centre

The PumpHouse  
Theatre

MORE FM

FOUNDATION  
Theatre



**BOTANY DOWNS PRIMARY SCHOOL (1235)**  
**2021 SCHOOL MID-TERM BOARD ELECTIONS**  
**CANDIDATE STATEMENTS**

**Irene LIANG**



Kia ora! 你好.

My name is Irene and I am the mother of a 7-year-old boy attending this school. Like you, I want the best for our children, and provide an enriched environment for them to thrive and reach their potential.

Botany Downs Primary is a great school, but we know there are ways to make it even better. For example, having more optional extracurricular activities available after school give children opportunities to explore their interests or acquire new skills e.g. sports, art, music and languages. I want to see more children including my son finding their passion in life early on, because passion brings focus, and focus leads to success. I also believe children will be benefited by more exposure to financial literacy and knowledge on emotional wellbeing. The world we live in has become increasingly challenging, we want to do our best to ensure our children have the skills and mindset they need to thrive in the future.

As the opportunity arises, I would like to take a more active role in the success of the school by standing for board of trustee election. I have over 13 years of working experience in the education, science and healthcare sectors. My strengths are strategic leadership, relationship building and effective communications. I'm also an active listener and welcome any inputs and suggestions from you. Being a people-focused person, I would like to utilise my skills to make a difference to the lives of students at Botany Downs Primary. As a busy working mum, you can be assured that I have you and your children's best interests in heart. I therefore ask for your support on me to represent you at the school board.

Thank you and best wishes to you all!

**Jess Storey**



Hello, Kia Ora, Talofa, Ni Hao, Annyeonghaseyo, my name is Jess Storey and I am applying to represent parents on the Botany Downs School Board. My husband and I live locally with our two kids. Our oldest daughter attends Botany Downs School and is currently in Year 4. I grew up in Howick, before heading overseas and returning to NZ in the early 2000's.

I have been involved in the PTA for the last 3 years and have held the position of Treasurer. I have been involved in many of the school events such as the Colour Run in 2019, Discos and regular mufti days and bake sales. I look forward to continuing in the PTA as we can fundraise again. I would like to take my commitment to the school further as a member of the Board of Trustees. I would love the opportunity to contribute to the success of Botany Downs School as it grows over the next few years. These are challenging times for the school community, and I think it important to contribute as best as I can to keep the school strong, giving our children and their teachers the best opportunities that they can. Professionally, I am an IT Manager, and have been working in the IT sector for the past 20 years. My expertise is in support and project management. I have excellent interpersonal skills and work well with a variety of different people in all different sectors. In the past I have worked for SkyCity, and Foodstuffs which means working with people of all different skill sets and expertise. I understand the need for prioritisation and feel these will be beneficial skills that I can bring to the BoT. In addition, I look forward to working with other parents and teachers to ensure that Botany Downs Primary delivers the best in can to our children and supports the critical role teachers play in contributing to that.

I thank you for the opportunity to contribute to our great school and thank you for your vote.

## Brook TATE



Kia ora koutou katoa, hello everyone,

My name is Brook Tate, and I am standing for the Parent Representative on the Botany Downs School Board of Trustees. I grew up locally having attended Howick Intermediate and then Howick College before Auckland University in my earlier years.

I settled back in NZ in the area after some years away located in Asia and the Pacific. I have a daughter in year 4 and a son in year 2 at Botany Downs School. I feel strongly about supporting our children's education to be the best it can be, and so I'm eager to be involved with the school on the Board of Trustees as your Parent Representative. I believe I will bring a strong background in leadership, financial management and strategic planning developed from my work in financial services around Asia Pacific over the past almost 20 years.

I take the time to listen to others points of view, and collaborate with people to build great working relationships to achieve common goals. At home I am a keen cyclist and love getting out with the kids riding around the great network of pathways we have around the area.

I welcome the opportunity to contribute to the continued success of the school in being our best, always.

## Richard TOSH



I am delighted to be applying for re-election onto the Botany Downs Primary School (BDPS) Board of Trustees.

I have been on the Board for 6 years, the last 3 years as Board Chair. The Board's role is to govern the school and to work seamlessly alongside the senior leadership team (SLT) which manages the school, led by the Principal. I have been lucky to work alongside Mr T, and then more recently Mrs Parkins (Vicki), great SLTs and fantastic fellow Board members.

A great deal has happened during the last 6 years and there have been many changes for the better at BDPS. Student achievement has remained at consistently high levels, even since COVID, and that is a credit to all the teaching staff at BDPS.

There is also a lot to look forward to, with the renovation of rooms 16 to 19 now completed, three new outdoor canopy areas expected in the first half of 2021, and a new 6 classroom block on the horizon. I would like to be a part of the continuing growth and development of the school during the next 3 years and believe that I can continue to add lots of value as a Board member.

I have two daughters, Brianna who is 15 and Lauren who is 10. Brianna attended BDPS for 6 years and is now in Year 11 at Howick College. Lauren is in Year 6 and enjoying all the opportunities that BDPS has to offer.

I am a lawyer by profession and currently a Special Counsel at DLA Piper (the second largest global law firm) where I specialise in insurance law and litigation. I have been involved in dealing with a multitude of different disputes during my career. While in New Zealand I have done a lot of leaky building litigation, and more recently, litigation arising out of the Canterbury and Kaikoura earthquakes. My analytical and legal skills have often come in useful on the Board.

I am passionate about the education of our children. As well as being on the Board of BDPS, I was a Board member at Howick Intermediate for 3 years and I have recently joined the Board at Howick College.

If re-elected onto the Board at BDPS, I would bring a wealth of experience of school governance along with my legal and communication skills, and a passion and determination to make BDPS even better than it is already.

I would be grateful for your vote.