



Board of Trustees Election

Parent Nominees 2019

'Get on board with us as we move from good to great'

"Tena Koutou, my name is Karen Burns and I have a son Robbie, who is in OakTEC. I am just coming to the end of my first three year term on the Oaklynn School Board of Trustees, most of which I spent as Chairperson. I am passionate and active about school



governance and believe that I can still offer significant experience and expertise that I have gained as a member of the Board. I am totally dedicated and committed to the role and enjoy being part of the Oaklynn Board of Trustees. My background is in manufacturing and I was a production manager for many years. I enjoy being part of a team which is concerned with the values and wellbeing of all members of our community: students, teachers and parents. There is something very special and unique about the Oaklynn community and it's my privilege to be contributing and giving back. I hope my time on the board makes a difference for everyone now and in the future. Thank you.

Karen Burns



My name is Ginny Jones. My 16 year old son Toby who has autism started school at Oaklynn's Te Ara Hou satellite unit, progressed to Green Bay Primary, and now attends Oaklynn Base School. My husband Glenn and I also have two other sons aged 14 and 9. As a family, we are very grateful that Toby has been able to attend a school offering great opportunities for him, and where his unique qualities are highly valued.

Im mid-2018, the opportunity arose for me to join the Oaklynn Board, and I have appreciated being able to 'give back' to a school that has offered us so much support. A highlight of the year I have served on the Board, was being part of the ERO Review who were extremely positive about the

work being done by the team at Oaklynn. I work as a Clinical Psychologist in Mental Health at Counties Manukau DHB, which provides me with some useful knowledge that I can bring to the Board, and I have also been actively involved in the autism community for a number of years. I am keen to continue to support Louise and the awesome Oaklynn team for the next three years. Thank you.

Ginny Jones

My name is Denish Kumar, and I am standing for the Board of Trustees for Oaklynn Special School. I am the father of Urvisha Kumar (Year 2 – New Lynn satellite class). I'm asking to stand for the BOT as I believe I can offer both governance,



parent perspective and expertise from my working for the local district health board. As a current BOT member for Oaklynn Special School, I would focus my attention on supporting The Board of Trustees, Louise and the Management Team to make an excellent working environment for the teachers, as I believe their satisfaction will flow through in their teaching of our special children. I will focus on supporting The Board of Trustees to provide guidance and experience as and when it is required. I will dedicate the time required to allow all members of the Oaklynn School Community to live the schools values and continue to allow students to focus on 'striving to be the best that we can be'. I will bring positive, can-do attitude to the Board.

Thanks

Denish Kumar



I feel really honoured to have two children at Oaklynn, and Amy and myself have been very impressed with the time Isaac (at Te Ara Hou satellite unit) and Olivia (New Lynn satellite class) have had since late 2015.

In 2017, I was fortunate enough to be part of planning and running the 'Special Day Out', which was a fun family day for children with special needs and their families. Through this I was able to interact with the school, and especially Louise who was amazing. Please accept my nomination to be part of Oaklynn Board of Trustees. Regards

Troy Mackenzie

Talofa lava, ma name is Maria Schuster, I am of Samoan and German descent. I was born in Auckland and have lived in Apia and Auckland. Our Christian faith has been the foundation of our family. I am married to Robert Schuster, and we have been blessed with three lovely boys – Luke our middle son is 16yrs old, and has been at Oaklynn for 11 years and have been at Base School for the last four years.



I have been in hospitality for 24 years. Working first in the kitchen as a trainee Chef and worked up to Head Chef, moved into front of house, then into management overseeing staff and customer service. I then went into running cafes and restaurants and now being a fulltime mum and wife.

I have been part of the Oaklynn Board of Trustees for the last four years, it has been great

to be part of our school governance as the focus of the school is the heart of our students and their families, as well as a great opportunity to offer my expertise and support. I have been fortunate to also being able to do professional development to gain better knowledge and support for our great school team. My passion has been for the voice of our families and Pacific Island community - to be able to have wider fanau and village like support for our aiga. It will be an honour and privilege to be able to continue to be part of the new Board of Trustees. Faafetai lava.

Maria Schuster

Kia Ora Whānau

My name is Rangimaria Thomas Barrett, I am a full-time mother of four outgoing children and am also fortunate enough



to be a step-mother to three fabulous children who also help to keep me on my toes! My middle son Kura, who has autism, attends Oaklynn Special School at one of the Base classes.

As a parent of a child with a disability, I realise the difficulties and challenges that our families face every single day. My journey, like many other parents – has its moments of good, and at times testing, but the growth of my son since he first started at Oaklynn has been amazing, and for that, I would like to show my gratitude to all those for helping our future generation become the best that they can be.

My reason for wanting to become a member of the Board is because I would love to be a part of not only trying to help with making a change within the school, but also the wider community,

for they will be the ones that we need support from when our children step out into the big wide world, and from my own experiences, the public are not as supportive as we wish. In addition, I would like to form relationships with our Māori whānau and be here to as an advocate on their behalf and to form a networking group for our parents to share amongst a group of people that are in the same situation as myself.

In closing, I hope that my brief has been enough to show my passion and willingness to become a Board member. Ngā mihi nui.

Rangimaria Thomas-Barrett

My name is Julie Veli and my son is Harper who is 12yrs old and is at Base School. We are Niuean descent and live in New Lynn.



I'm currently employed at the Waitakere District Court where I case manage Family Violence. I put my name forward for Board of Trustees because Oaklynn School is a HUGE part of me and my sons life; and I thought that my experience with raising Harper, my culture and beliefs, could help give back to the school that has supported me and Harper since his first day. This last year being on the Board of Trustees has been an eye-opener as to how hard Oaklynn staff work for our kids. I've enjoyed meeting other parents, being able to listen to similar stories, and to share my own. I heartily believe in this school.

Thanks
Julie Veli

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