



Growing Together For Success

# ASHGROVE SCHOOL

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Kia ora koutou katoa

Greetings parents, caregivers and whanau

On behalf of the Ashgrove Board of Trustees, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Leon Van't Veen-Gibbon as our next Principal. Leon will join Ashgrove School at the beginning of Term Four.



Leon comes to Ashgrove from Waiau Pa School in Pukekohe, Auckland, where he has been the Principal leading a similar-sized school and staff. He will however, not be a stranger to Canterbury. Leon lived in Christchurch for most of his life. He started at Casebrook Intermediate as a beginning teacher, and left as the 2nd Deputy Principal. He then moved to Auckland where he was the Deputy Principal for Alfriston School, then onto Waiau as Principal. He was (and I am sure will be again) a key figure at the North Canterbury Musical Society where he directed *Les Misérables*. He is thrilled at the opportunity to be returning home, to be closer to his family members.

Leon's main focus will be to promote success for all students by providing opportunities for growth (educational, social and emotional) with 'wrap-around support' for students and families where needed. He believes it is vital for children to develop strong relationships with others through learning and social interaction.

He feels very strongly about the importance of school being a learning community for all, and will closely work alongside staff - teachers, support and specialists, the Board and families/whanau to create a school where children feel safe and enjoy many opportunities for learning, growth, celebration and success.

We are incredibly excited to welcome Leon and his family to Ashgrove and look forward to him starting in October.

I would like to acknowledge all the Board members for their time, effort and dedication to the process.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to once again recognise Christine Chadwick for her 14 years of leadership at Ashgrove School. Farewell events are being planned for later in the term, and the details for these will be communicated to you soon.

Ngā mihi nui - kind regards

Megan McNay  
Chairperson  
Ashgrove School Board of Trustees