

# Eastern Hutt School

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7 August 2018

Dear Parents and Whānau

You will have seen in the media that principals and teachers have voted to strike on the 15<sup>th</sup> August, this was a nationwide decision.

The Board of Trustees have carefully considered the options for Eastern Hutt School and they have decided to **CLOSE THE SCHOOL** for a full day on the Wednesday 15 August. As the school will be closed, it is important that you make alternative arrangements for the care of your child on the day of the strike.

A one day strike sends a strong message to the government that more investment in education is urgently needed to address the following issues affecting our schools.

- There is a current teacher shortage in NZ. We need to attract and retain quality teachers. We need a great teacher in every class. The remuneration must reflect the value placed on teaching and address the workload and demands on all teachers.
- Significant improvements to school resourcing is needed to provide our children with the education they deserve.
- Support and better resourcing is urgently required for many children who have additional learning needs.

Since 2011 there has been a 40% decrease in the number of people who are choosing to enter the teaching profession. Added to this, there are many people leaving teaching as other professions offer better conditions and career prospects.

We have been blessed with recruiting quality teachers but because of the above trends this is becoming increasingly more difficult. There simply are not enough teachers in the workforce. The Government must make teaching as a career path, attractive with good prospects, so we can continue to attract to the profession, people who will provide quality education for our children.

Our teachers at Eastern Hutt are hard-working, passionate about their children and the programmes they provide. They care. But, we need the Government to recognize the greater demands now on all schools and to better resource and support schools to meet the needs of all children and their individual learning.

Teachers and principals need to have time to teach, time to lead, and to be valued as the professionals they are.

This is a serious situation and we need you, our school community, to join with us to effect change. We really appreciate your support and apologies for the inconvenience this strike will cause you on the day.

**We know that our parents want the best education for their children.**

Regards

**JEAN MANDER**

Acting Principal