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3 August 2018

Dear Bellevue families and caregivers,

The Bellevue Board of Trustees have decided to close the school for the entire day on 15 August 2018 during the NZEI nationwide strike, which extends from 7:00am to 7:00pm. We have carefully considered the availability of teaching staff for the day and have reached a decision that we are not able to provide sufficient teaching instruction or supervision during this time.

We appreciate the inconvenience of closing the school has on some families. We have not made this decision lightly. We do apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. It is important that you make alternative arrangements for the care of your children on the 15th August. School will resume as normal on the 16th August.

The teachers have not taken this course of action lightly. Primary school teachers and principals have not taken industrial action in New Zealand since 1994 and the fact that they are taking such a step now shows the grave concerns they have for the future of quality public education. This strike is about all our children's futures and ensuring a good education for all children into the future. It is about attracting and retaining teachers, ensuring our teachers have more time to teach and truly inclusive schools where all children can learn.

Bellevue School has found it increasingly difficult to fill vacant teaching positions and we are not alone in this. Many schools in Wellington and across New Zealand are experiencing the same issue. This is due to the low number of people entering the teaching profession, difficulty retaining teachers in the profession and New Zealand's growing population.

Please feel free to email the board at boardchair@bellevue-newlands.school.nz with any questions you may have.

Please remember that this nation-wide strike is about teachers wanting the best education for your children and our future generations. Teachers need more time to teach and we need truly inclusive schools where all children can learn and thrive.

Regards,

Bellevue Board of Trustees.