

WESTLAKE GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL PARENT BOARD ELECTION (3 YEAR TERM) CANDIDATE PROFILES

ALEXANDER, Jason



Ko Jason Alexander tōku ingoa, he uri ahau nō Te Tai Tokerau. I was born in the north but grew up on the North Shore and still live locally with my wife, Tanith, and our two daughters. Tanith is a proud Westlake Girls alumna, and our eldest daughter, Keira, started at the school earlier this year. She is already enjoying the many opportunities Westlake offers. I am the Chief Operating Officer at Hāpai Te Hauora, a national public health organisation. My work covers strategy, operations, and innovation, with a background in technology that shapes my approach to problem-solving. I also bring extensive experience in financial oversight and ensuring resources are well managed. I am completing my second and final term on the Sunnynook School Board, where I have served as Presiding Member (Chair) for the past five years. I also hold a number of governance roles across the health and disability sector, including Chair of the YES Disability Resource Centre and Shore Junction—the youth innovation hub across the road from Westlake Girls that is regularly used by its students. These roles keep me connected to the aspirations of young people and have deepened my commitment to equity, inclusion, and opportunity for all students. Outside of work, I coach both men's and girls' at Northcote Rugby Club. Coaching has shown me the value of teamwork, resilience, and confidence—qualities that are just as important in the classroom as they are on the field. I would welcome the opportunity to bring my governance experience, professional skills, background, and community involvement to the Westlake Girls Board of Trustees to support the school's future direction.

BANDARA, Ruchira



Statement not provided

BRITTEN, Jason



I'm Jason Britten and I would love the opportunity to continue my work as a parent trustee by seeking re-election to the Westlake Girls Board of Trustees, where I've been involved for the past couple of years. It's been a privilege to collaborate with the Board to support the school and students. Originally from Taupō, I've lived on the North Shore for 16 years with my wife and four kids. Our daughter Lucy is Year 10 here at Westlake Girls, our son, Year 9 at Westlake Boys and our six-year-old twin girls will attend Westlake Girls in coming years. In addition to my current board role, I served on the Birkenhead Primary School Board for over six years, including a year as Presiding Member. This experience deepened my passion for supporting student success and creating a positive school culture. I believe the power of teamwork and leadership can make a real difference in students' lives, and I'm committed to bringing that same approach to Westlake Girls. I'm one of only a few current Board members seeking re-election and hope to continue service to provide valuable continuity. I'm proud of the progress the Board has made in maintaining strong financial management while investing in resources, teachers, facilities, and student support. We've also reinforced the school's values and upheld expectations around behaviour to ensure a safe, respectful environment. The successes of our students and staff, from academics to sport, music and drama are a testament to the positive culture of Westlake Girls High School. Professionally, I am a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand, with an LLB/BCA from Victoria University. I spent 17 years in the telco industry, focusing on property, resource management, procurement, and sales. Now, as General Manager for Property and Commercial Partnerships at Genesis Energy, I'm driven by sustainable energy and have honed my leadership, financial management, and strategic decision-making skills. Outside of work, I enjoy football, tennis, sailing, and waterskiing, and I'm involved in my kids' sports and activities, including recently becoming a rowing parent. I'm committed to supporting Westlake Girls' sense of community and fostering excellence in education. It would be an honour to continue serving as a trustee. Thank you for your consideration.

DALE, James



Professor James DaleCandidate for Parent Representative (3-year term)I'm honoured to stand as a candidate for Parent Representative on the Board of Westlake Girls High School.I am a dad, a scientist, an educator and a passionate advocate for nature and the environment.I received my PhD at Cornell University (USA), and then held research positions in Canada, Germany, and Southern Africa before settling on Auckland's North Shore 15 years ago. I am currently Professor of Ecology and Zoology at Massey University's Albany campus. I enjoy the outdoors, staying physically active, and contributing to conservation and education initiatives. I'm a veteran of governance at Massey University, with experience on a range of boards covering executive leadership, curriculum design, academic programmes, space allocation, and financial planning. I bring a calm, diplomatic style to board service, and I value respectful, well-run meetings, where clear thinking and collaboration lead to meaningful outcomes.I have spent my career conducting research, teaching, and mentoring students—many of whom come from schools like Westlake. As a father of two daughters and a son, I'm deeply committed to an education system that fosters academic growth, critical thinking, wellbeing, and physical development: a journey that shapes confident, capable young people ready for both tertiary study and the wider challenges of the world.Westlake Girls is an outstanding school with a reputation for excellence—a role model for secondary education in New Zealand. I would be honoured to support the ongoing success of Westlake Girls by bringing my experience, perspective, and commitment to the Board.

ELTANTAWI, Mohamed



Hello Westlake Girls' High School community,My name is Mohamed Eltantawi, and I'm delighted to nominate myself for a position on the Westlake Girls' High School Parent Board. As a proud parent and active member of this wonderful school community, I'm passionate about supporting the success and wellbeing of all students. I would be honoured to contribute my time, skills, and energy to help the school continue to thrive.Professionally, I bring a background in engineering, along with significant experience in project management, risk management, and commercial and contracts management. Throughout my career, I've led complex initiatives, collaborated with diverse teams, and developed practical, solutions-focused approaches to challenges. These experiences have taught me the importance of clear communication, thoughtful planning, and working together to achieve shared goals—skills I believe would be valuable on the Parent Board.But more than my professional background, I'm a parent who cares deeply about the school experience of our daughters. I've seen firsthand the dedication of the staff, the strength of the school's values, and the unique energy of the student body. Westlake Girls' High School provides a strong academic foundation while encouraging personal growth, leadership, and resilience—qualities that will serve our girls well in every stage of life.As a potential Board member, I am committed to listening openly, engaging constructively, and ensuring that the voices of all parents are represented. I'm especially interested in supporting initiatives that promote equity, inclusion, and student wellbeing. I believe every student and every family deserves to feel valued, heard, and connected within our school community.Being part of the Parent Board would be an opportunity for me to give back to a school that is doing important work, and to help shape an environment where all students can thrive—academically, socially, and emotionally. Whether it's through long-term planning, building stronger family-school partnerships, or contributing to new projects, I'm ready to get involved and make a meaningful contribution.Thank you for considering my nomination. I would be truly honoured to serve on the Parent Board and look forward to the opportunity to work alongside fellow parents and school leaders in support of our shared vision for Westlake Girls' continued success.Warm regards,

HOWKER, Paul



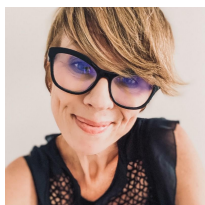
I am applying for a position on the Westlake Girls' High School Parent Board because I am deeply committed to ensuring all girls in our community have access to both a high-quality education as well as having the opportunity to pursue extracurricular activities include sports, music, and arts as they grow into influential young women. Both of my daughters have attended Westlake Girls, with my youngest daughter currently in Year 11.My background includes over 30 years' experience in the Financial Services Industry allowing me to bring strong finance-led governance, strategic planning and budgeting capabilities. I have also been heavily involved with leadership and coaching sport and in particular the WGHS Rowing Society and am the current Chairperson. This has given me firsthand visibility into both the challenges and opportunities facing our school today.If selected to serve, my priorities will include the promotion of policies that ensure all students feel safe, respected, and included, strengthen mental health services and focus on spending on programs and initiatives that improve student outcomes. I am especially interested in making sure we remain focused on long-term student success, academically, emotionally and physically.I believe a school board member should be a good listener, a collaborative problem solver and a clear communicator. Through my background, I would bring these qualities to the role, along with a strong work ethic and respect for staff, students and families.It would be an honour to contribute to the leadership and vision of the Westlake Girls' High School Parent Board. I am ready to work hard, ask the right questions and make decisions that serve the best interests of the entire school community.Thank you for your consideration.Sincerely,Paul Howker

HU, Jie



Statement not provided

JACKSON, Melissa



I am seeking nomination to the Westlake Girls High School Board, bringing with me a strong connection to the school, both as a former student and as a parent of a daughter currently in the education system. Over the past three years, I have served as a board member at Wairau Intermediate, where I've worked collaboratively to achieve meaningful outcomes for the school community. These include securing funding for a school minivan, installing new basketball hoops, and progressing the development of an upgraded outdoor shade system. I am committed to fostering an inclusive, safe, and future-focused learning environment where all students are supported to thrive, both academically and personally. I actively engage with whānau, staff, and the wider community to ensure decisions reflect diverse perspectives and needs. With a sound understanding of Board governance and a practical, outcomes-based approach, I prioritise student wellbeing, educational equity, and honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi. I work closely with school leadership, ask thoughtful questions, and help drive decisions that serve the best interests of students, staff, and the broader school community. Westlake Girls played a formative role in my own development, and I would be proud to give back by supporting the school's ongoing success as a board representative.

KHAN, Alauddin



Greetings, I'm Alauddin Khan, standing for Westlake Girls High School BOT. I've two girls (Samara Khan, an ex student of WGHS currently doing her graduation in Architecture at University of Auckland. My younger daughter Alvina Khan is in Y11 at WGHS). I'm a result oriented critical thinker bringing diversity on the table along with significant governance experience. - I served Bangladesh Badminton Federation (a National Sporting Body under the governance of ministry of Sports, Bangladesh) as an executive board member from 1991 to 1994. - I have served Auckland Badminton Association (a not-for-profit organisation) as president as well as an elected board member from 2015 to 2024. - I have been elected as a board of trustees of Takapuna Normal Intermediate School for a three years term commenced in 2022. - I am currently working for an NZX listed Fintech Company (NZX-SPY) as Senior Corporate Manager, having been involved in strategic planning, business process management, commercial and revenue management, stakeholder engagement including high level commercial interaction with the people in decision making processes. It would be a great honour to become part of WGHS Board & be able to contribute towards the success of our young women to shape their future.

O'GRAM, Rebecca



I am standing for election to the Board of Trustees because I believe in the power of education to transform lives and open doors for young women. As an experienced senior school leader, I have spent my career fostering environments where students and staff alike can achieve their full potential. As Associate Principal of Westlake Boys, I have led initiatives that lift student achievement, strengthen teacher practice, and enhance wellbeing. My work has included strategic planning, introducing innovative professional learning programmes, and building a culture of high expectations, balanced with care and support. I understand the importance of clear governance, robust financial stewardship, and policies that reflect the needs and aspirations of the whole school community. I am deeply committed to advancing opportunities for girls and women. Throughout my leadership journey, I have actively mentored and supported women in education, helping to grow their confidence, leadership skills, and career pathways. I believe that when young women see strong female role models and leaders around them, they are inspired to be bold in their own ambitions. My governance focus would always be on creating a school environment where every student is challenged to excel academically, nurtured to develop character and resilience, and empowered to lead. If elected, I will bring: - Proven educational leadership with a strong record of improving outcomes. - Governance experience, ensuring strategic decisions are made with clarity and integrity. - A commitment to empowering women and girls, fostering pathways to leadership and success. It would be a privilege to serve on the Board of Trustees and contribute my experience, energy, and dedication to sustaining and strengthening Westlake Girls High School's reputation.

PARK, Grace



Hello, I am a mother of a Yr 11 student. I would like to apply to have more interest on my child's education and school.

PATERSON, Carlee



My name is Carlee Paterson, and I am standing for the Board of Trustees for Westlake Girls High School. I grew up on the North Shore, where my family and I continue to live and work within the local community. I have a son attending Westlake Boys High School and a daughter at Takapuna Normal Intermediate, who will start at Westlake Girls High School in 2027 as an in-zone student. As a prospective trustee, I offer both commercial sector experience and a background in school governance to help guide the school into the future. I previously served as a Trustee on the Milford Primary School board from 2017 to 2023, becoming Presiding Member in 2020. During this time, the board navigated the challenges of COVID, made significant investments in property, introduced a specialist STEM program (the first of its kind in NZ primary schools), and appointed a new Principal. I stepped down in 2023, confident that the school was thriving and that both the board and school leadership were well positioned for the future. I am a qualified Chartered Accountant and a Chartered Member of the Institute of Directors with a broad range of corporate experience across diverse industries in NZ and overseas. Currently, I serve as a Director on the Board of House of Travel, a position I have held since 2017. House of Travel Group is Australasia's largest privately owned travel services business and NZ's leading travel business, employing approximately 1,400 travel experts and support staff. I am passionate about supporting our school community and committed to ensuring every student has access to a high-quality, future-focused education. I believe collaboration is the foundation of effective school governance, and that the best outcomes for students emerge when trustees, school leadership, staff, students, and the wider community work in partnership. As an active member of the local community, I see and hear the fantastic things being achieved at Westlake Girls by students, staff and the school's leadership. With my daughter starting at the school in 2027 I'm motivated to contribute to a Board that supports and strengthens this momentum. I want to help ensure Westlake continues to thrive and delivers the best possible environment for every student to succeed. Carlee Paterson
