



ST PETER'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER

Our Charter

The St Peter's Catholic School Charter 2014-2016 incorporates the Values, Goals and Planning specific to our school and also under the directive of the Ministry of Education. It is from this Charter that the Strategic Planning is formed.

A brief overview of what it covers:

- National Education Priorities
- Special Character
- Strategic Goals - Personalised Learning, School Curriculum and Global Citizenship
- New Zealand Cultural Diversity
- The Unique Position of the Maori Culture

The Goals:

- Ensure Catholic School Character is reflected in the day to day activities.
- A school of excellence Promoting independent learners
- To respect the different cultural backgrounds represented at the school.
- To create and environmentally friendly and well-equipped school for quality learning and development.
- Ensure effective communication at all levels.
- To strengthen ties between the school community and Parish

A more detailed copy is available on the school website for your information.

The Board:

- emphasises strategic leadership rather than administrative detail
- has a clear distinction of Board and staff roles
- reflecting on the role of the Board to concentrate on the future and be pro-active.

The Ministry of Education

(MOE) sets National Education Guidelines (NEGs) which form part of the legislative framework within which the Board must operate.

There are four critical components of the National Education Guidelines:

1. National Education Goals (10 NEGS)
2. National Curriculum Statements
3. National Standards – Reading, Writing and Mathematics
4. National Administration Guidelines (8 NAGS)

It is from this that the School Charter is devised. The main role of the BOT is to ensure that EVERY student at the school is able to attain his or her highest possible standard in educational achievement.

So who are we:

Mark Kennedy	-	Chairperson
Nicky Knowles	-	Deputy Chair
Debra White	-	Principal
Dave Peacocke	-	Treasurer
Sarah de Jong	-	Secretary
Bill Brocklebank	-	Proprietors Representative
Denise Gordon	-	Teacher Representative
Monsignor Bennett	-	Proprietors Representative

Strategic goals

These strategic goals were developed by the Board of Trustees in full consultation with staff and community. This was achieved through Board Training sessions, several parent information sessions, staff meetings and newsletter information

1. Personalised Learning:

To develop students as confident participants in their learning by -
Developing student goal setting

- Ability to articulate their learning (understand what they are learning)
- Positive social skills

2. School Curriculum:

To provide quality learning opportunities for all by:

- Raising student achievement
- Teacher development (Professional Development opportunities)
- Resourcing to support learning



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Mark Kennedy



Nicky Knowles



Dave Peacocke



Debra White

3. Global Citizenship:

To enable students to take an active role within a "Global Context" by

- eLearning
- Inquiry learning
- Keeping safe within a digital environment

These goals are regularly assessed, re-evaluated and amended. Teachers are constantly updating their Professional Development to ensure the best resources, evidence based research and knowledge base, are available to ensure our students are getting the best our teachers can give.

As the Junior classes had experienced some changes in week 4 of the term, we visited the classrooms to see them in action and understand how the NAGS detailed in the School Charter were being transferred into practice.

Religious Education: - Special Character

Room 1 offered up some touching thoughtful intentions during morning prayer. Their singing was delightful and the Fruits of the Holy Spirit (Generosity) discussed and demonstrated. Ideas of how they could apply the Fruits of the Holy Spirit in the playground was extensive.

NAG1 and NAG3 – Personalised Learning – To develop students as confident participants in their learning.

Evidence of teachers providing clear feedback and feed forward comments which support the students articulating their learning in writing was seen in their writing books, with clear goals written in their books and discussions with regards to setting their next goals. Students were verbalizing what their next learning steps would be and planning with the teachers what steps needed to be taken. They appeared to be very aware of the meaning of goals and contributing verbally identifying learning outcomes. Self assessment was demonstrated by way of choosing a sad, neutral or happy face to indicate how they rated their work and planning their next learning steps from this.

Some of the children had already participated in the Three Way Learning Conversation which is not only a new concept to the children, but to teachers and parents also. The feedback from the teachers was extremely positive and the children were very excited to share their learning with the focus being on them. This has to be a step forward with children being aware of their learning pathway at such a young age.



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Mons Bennett



Bill Brocklebank



Denise Gordon



Sarah de Jong

NAG1, NAG3, NAG4 and NAG5 – Global Citizenship – To enable students to take an active role within a “Global Context”

Teachers are integrating various technologies into their class programmes where appropriate and it is proving to be a very effective teaching/learning tool. With only 1 I-Pad per room, it demonstrated the need for more I-Pads in the classrooms.

Inquiry learning was evident in Room 2 with a Healthy Eating project underway and a range of resources being used to source their information.

Visiting the classrooms was a useful learning tool for the Board. To be able to see the context of the Charter in action in the classrooms, verifies the importance of this document for the school.

Thank you for welcoming us into your rooms and sharing all your learning with us. We really appreciate it Rooms 1 and 2.

Board Vacancy

Following the departure of Jake Casey from the board at the end of 2013, we now have a vacancy on the board. After reviewing the skills and experience we have in the existing team, we would ideally benefit from a board member with either a marketing, promotion or communications background and experience. If you would like to join the board, and contribute to the success of our school, or have any questions on the vacancy, please contact Mark Kennedy, Board Chair on 027 444 88 47, or email mark.kennedy@sca-ha.com.

School Donation

As with all schools, we continue to strive to provide the best possible education for all our students. The school donation is an important part of the funding for our school, and enables us to provide key additional resources to improve the learning experiences for all students. We would like to thank all those families who supported the school through the school donation in 2013. Please note that we have various payment options available and an early payment discount is also available. Any payments or enquiries can be made at the school office.

Catholic Schools Office Property Strategy

During 2013, the Catholic Schools Office has been reviewing its strategy for School Property development and funding. This includes buildings, classrooms, halls and external learning and playing areas. While we have been keen to develop a property strategy for St Peters, we have needed to await the outcome from this review. We expect to get feedback on the review in the coming month, and hope to be able to commence a process of planning for what the future of our school will look like.