



ST PETER'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER

Strategic Plan

To provide an environment to help students to become confident, resilient lifelong learners with a sound academic foundation. Who are active participants in their learning and have a strong sense of self, their community and the world. Where students can achieve and celebrate personal excellence and use their gifts and talents to make a difference to our world.

To encourage self-directed learners who communicate effectively and relate well with others while building the skills and developing an awareness of themselves as learners. Who can reflect on their own learning processes and learn how to learn.

To enable students to be effective e-tool learners who can effectively use communication tools to seek, use and create knowledge.

To raise achievement in literacy and numeracy by developing key competencies, focusing on collaborative teaching and learning and incorporating teaching beyond the classroom walls and school.

To continue to embrace the Catholic Character of our school by evidence of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit in action. To celebrate diversity and developing Te Reo and Tikanga Maori into our curriculum.

Welcome to the last BOT Newsletter for 2014

Kia Ora, my name is Nicky Knowles and I am the BOT Chairperson for St Peters Catholic School. Since our last Newsletter, there have been some changes on the BOT that I would like to acknowledge, in that we have farewelled our Chairperson, Mark Kennedy who has relocated his family to the beach at Ohope, Mark and his wife Sinead were a real asset to our School Community and I am sure we all wish them well in their future endeavours. With that in mind, it did mean that the BOT needed a Chairperson to fill Marks seat and I have accepted that role until 2015, as each year the BOT internally elects the positions within the Board structure, such as the Chairperson, Finance Officer etc.

With Mark's departure, we have had to fill the vacant seats on the Board, and I am very pleased along with the rest of the Board to

welcome James MacGillivray and Phil Deason to the Board of Trustees. In order for those of you not familiar with these new members, James and Phil have done a small introduction as part of this newsletter in order for you to get to know them better. Also in this newsletter, we as a Board wanted to talk about our wonderful ERO report the School received earlier this year and also the progress we have made in completing the Strategic Plan for our School which was only made possible by the input for our parents, parishioners, teachers and students. Thanks to all who contributed as there was a very common theme throughout which definitely suggests we all want the same things in our School's future. That's enough from me and if you have any feedback for the BOT, we would love to hear from you.

Nicky Knowles
BOT Chairperson

Education Review Office

In June 2014, ERO visited St Peter's Catholic School, four years following our last review in 2010. They look at Context, Learning, Curriculum, Sustainable Performance and School Statistics. By analysing school documentation, classroom observation, and meetings with Teachers, School Leaders and BOT members, they look closely at how effectively the school's curriculum is promoting student learning by way of engagement progress and achievement against National Standards. They also report on the quality of our school's systems for sustaining and continuing improvements.

The ERO acknowledged the significant improvements St Peters Catholic School has made to its buildings and facilities in the last four years. It also recognised the good progress made in making more effective use of



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Nicky Knowles



Debra White



Dave Peacocke

students as learners. They noted the comprehensive range of assessment tools the teachers' use, the regular reporting to the BOT, parents and the Ministry of Education.

It was noted that our teachers are 'reflective and enthusiastic practitioners who embrace new ideas and learning'. Some examples witnessed of highly effective classroom practice included; trusting and caring relationships between students and teachers, effective feedback and feed forward to students about their work and learning, deliberate planning for individual and priority learners, classroom environments which promote learning and celebrate students success' as learners. Both the ERO and the School identified an area for development. This is to implement and develop Te Reo and Tikanga Maori practices in the school curriculum and environment. We acknowledge there is a need to implement a sequential Te reo and Tikanga Maori programme in all classes, incorporating the knowledge of local history into the learning environment. To ensure this is actioned appropriately, the school will be consulting with local Whanau and Iwi.

The ERO believes we are well placed to sustain and improve our performance due to Trustees and leaders' understanding and making effective use of self-review for ongoing development and improvement. Also by the strong and positive relationships between trustees, school leaders, staff, parents and the parish, to work in the best interest of the students.

A full ERO report is available on the school website or on the ERO website. It is a positive and informative report.

As a Board, we are very proud of this report and hope that our community are equally as happy with this assessment of our School.

Strategic Plan

The development of our Strategic Plan for the next three years is well underway. We are fortunate to be part of a community whose main goals are the best for our children in all areas. We have had in depth consultation with parents through our brain storming and information session, followed up with a survey. This enabled our parents to tell us what they want their child to know, be able to do, how they want to feel and how they believe the school can achieve this. We also consulted with the students with brain storming sessions and a survey.

Interestingly, the students also wanted the same outcome. The teachers also completed a survey and this highlighted the high calibre of teaching staff we have at St Peters Catholic School. Their passion, drive and commitment to teaching emphasised the importance of why we are all here – our children.



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Bill Brocklebank



Mons Bennett



Denise Gordon



Sarah de Jong

Also importantly, we consulted with the St Peters Catholic Parishioners and asked them to complete a survey. The response from all groups was astounding and confirmed that the BOT and school leaders are on the same page as the community. We all want our students to be confident resilient lifelong learners with a sound academic foundation. We also want to prepare our students to be good citizens, living out the fruits of the holy spirit in our families and community.

We would like to thank our students, parents, parish community and staff for their input. To enable the school to continue improving, setting goals and interventions to provide the best learning platform for our children, we need our community support and input. We are very fortunate to have this interactive relationship with all groups at St Peters Catholic School.

Our strategic plan is almost complete and we will share this with you on our website when it's completed, for your perusal.

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 the families who have supported the school through the school donation in 2014. It's not too late to contribute and note that we have various payment options available. Any payments or enquiries can be made at the school office.

Debra White

The BOT would like to take this opportunity to publicly congratulate Debra on her fantastic achievement on attaining her Masters in Educational Leadership with First Class Honours from Waikato University. We are all very proud of you.



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Introducing New Board Members

Phil Deason



Phil Deason

Phil, Nicola, Ben and Zoe moved to the Cambridge area from Auckland last December.

They were keen to give their children the same sort of lifestyle they had growing up.

Nicola grew up in and around Te Awamutu and Phil in Southland. Phil's professional career saw him start out as a telecommunications engineer, then work across relationship management, consulting and most recently hold executive roles in the retail payments sector where he worked extensively with corporate Boards and Directors.

Phil is the general manager of an innovation company based in Hamilton and brings broad business experience and a keen interest in the local community to the school Board of Trustees.

James MacGillivray



James MacGillivray

Hi everyone. My name is James MacGillivray and I am the new proprietor's representative on the board.

I have three children at St Peter's Catholic: Angus (year 2), Esme (year 4), and Rory (year 6). My eldest son, Hector, is a former pupil. His time at St Peter's laid a fantastic foundation for his higher schooling.

Jennifer and I and the kids are active members of the school and parish community.

In my professional life, I am a partner in Hamilton law firm Tompkins Wake.

As proprietor's representative, my particular role is to assist the board in maintaining and enhancing the Catholic Special Character of the school, which is something I believe in passionately.

As it is November already, the BOT would like to wish you and your families all the best for the remainder of 2014 and we are looking forward to continuing our role within our School into the 2015 year.