



ST IGNATIUS BOARDTALK

October 2015

WELCOME

Thank you to the PTA for all the work you do to help to make our school the great school it is. Term 3 was another busy term with the Auction night and children's discos. Thank you to all who could attend and support these events as the fundraising the PTA does helps go towards the running of the school and is contributing to the new playground. The PTA are always looking for new members and/or helpers, so please email the PTA if you are able to help them. saintignatiuspta@gmail.com

The Ministry of Education has recently upgraded its website with the objective of making it easier to navigate and search, with more information.

There is a new area for parents which may be of interest: <http://parents.education.govt.nz/>

Under the Primary School section are some simple and practical ideas to help you encourage and develop your child/children's key competencies, literacy and maths skills at home. This is broken down year by year and focuses on the key competencies our children are learning at each stage of their school journey.

WHAT THE BOARD DOES – are you interested in joining?

Every three years the Parent Representatives are elected to the Board of Trustees. The elections will be held in May next year and if you are interested in standing then it is good to understand what the Board does.

What is the role of the Board?

- The board has the overall responsibility for the school – whether this be the physical environment, our employees, finances and ultimately the level of student achievement.
- The board sets the objectives of the school via the Charter – a document that clearly outlines the primary objectives the school is focusing on.
- It ensures that there are policies in place to manage different aspects of the school
- It appoints the Principal and ensures appropriate assessment of his/her performance in meeting the school's goals.

The board then delegates several aspects of the delivery of the Charter to the Principal – who will develop an Annual Plan of how they intend to deliver against the objectives in the Charter.

It is therefore important to be aware of the difference between Governance and Management. Here is a table which helps defines the differences:

Governance	Management
The Board	The Principal
The what we want to achieve	The how we get there
The ends	The means

As a Board, we delegate the day to day running of the school to the Principal, and focus on supporting the Principal to achieve the objectives set in the Charter.

What does being a Board member involve?

- Over time, being committed to building an understanding of all the aspects involved in ensuring the school continues to function effectively and is achieving its goals.
- To serve the school and its community to the best of your ability and be honest, reliable and trustworthy in all matters relating to its role and responsibilities.
- To support the Principal in his/her management role by providing the delegated authorities in education, administration, personnel, finance and property matters thus allowing the Principal to manage effectively.
- To ensure there is effective communication with the community.
- To attend all Board meetings and those of the group they are part of.
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The Board of St. Ignatius operates with a regular Board meeting and then workshop or committee meetings to look at specific aspects of the job. We currently have 4 key areas:

- Our Faith
- Our Place
- Our People
- Our Learning.

If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a board member, please email stignatiusbot@gmail.com or make contact with one of the existing board members.

BUILDING AND OUTDOOR SPACE UPDATE

The new senior playground was installed over the July school holidays. Father John blessed and opened the playground on the first day of the school term. The children have been enjoying exploring the new playground and we hope to be able to develop the outdoor areas further in the future. We continue to work towards the overall master plan we have for the outdoor play areas. This includes further play equipment, decking, astroturf mounds, gardens and a larger sandpit. If you have any interest or skills that you can offer, please email stignatiusbot@gmail.com



We are currently in discussions with the Catholic Diocese to remove the walls between Rooms 6, 7 and 8 to allow for most of our teaching spaces to become open learning spaces.

APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY – the story so far

Our school community is now well underway with a creative and positive process of reflection and action. The appreciative inquiry model was initiated by the Board as part of community consultation that not only helped inform the current Charter but that also continues to help be part of the resultant action plans. It invites us to affirm all the wonderful things we value about our learning community and to envision who we will be in the year ahead.

Phase I

Our first meeting last November offered an introduction to the appreciative inquiry approach. The outcome was a comprehensive list of the strengths and gifts that make St Ignatius the strong community that it so obviously is. Articulating the school we would like to be in a year's time was also part of the conversation.

If you would like to read about Appreciative Inquiry or in particular the outcomes from this first meeting please see copies at reception or email stignatiusbot@gmail.com for further information.

Phase II

Taking the list of strengths as well as what is possible for the school that were articulated in the first meeting, a follow up meeting held in August encouraged those who attended to come up with 'proposition statements' that reflected the responses and vision for what is possible. The proposition statements developed were:

- ❖ At St Ignatius we value regular and open communication, in plain English, about current learning and progress
- ❖ At St Ignatius our graduates achieve academically to the best of their ability and are confident, happy and resilient
- ❖ We are a school that embraces strong community participation and encourages a positive culture with an actively involved faith community
- ❖ At St Ignatius we value formal and informal communication which leads to shared understanding of each child's holistic experiences and learning development

Where to now?

In line with the appreciative inquiry model, we have established 'Action Groups' to move the proposition statements forward. While the Action Groups are currently made up from people who attended the meetings, there are going to be many opportunities for all of our community to be involved in delivering these initiatives.

The next task of the Action Groups is to work together (and in some cases will need to work with the Board and Staff) on what their statement could look like in practical terms, and develop examples of actions that could help to move towards realising that statement.

The Action Groups will communicate with you (our community) regarding your potential involvement. This may include joining a focus group, developing a related survey of our community or simply sharing any ideas and suggestions you have relevant to the process. Please keep an eye out for further information on how you can help and participate.

“Zoo time” traffic management

A good way to avoid the congestion around the streets at pick up is if more children were to catch the bus home. On Tuesday and Thursday mornings there are two walking school buses to school – check out the website for details.

A school bus leaves our school each afternoon from the designated bus stop on Speight Rd. This bus is only for children at our school.

A duty teacher ensures the children board the bus and records their names in our bus register.

The fare is \$1.50 per trip cash or AT HOP Cards can be purchased from dairies and local stationers.

For more information visit ATHOP.co.nz or phone (09) 3664467.

The Board of Trustees encourages increased use of the school bus service as this will help decrease the ongoing parking and traffic issues around the school each afternoon.

The bus route map is attached. It was prepared by Auckland Transport last year after consideration of many factors. The bus will stop at any bus stop en route. If there is not a bus stop on a particular street, the children ring the bell and the driver stops as soon as possible.

If you have a child new to travelling on the bus, you may travel with them once or twice to get them familiar with the journey.

A volunteer parent may be available one afternoon during the second and/or third week of Term 4 to travel on the bus to assist any children. If you are interested in helping, please email the Board of Trustees at stignatiusbot@gmail.com by Wednesday 21 October with "School bus" in the subject, and confirm which day of the week you would prefer the volunteer to travel with your child. We will then gauge interest and confirm the volunteer's availability.

WHY DO WE HAVE THE ONE WAY DRIVING RULE?

We ask as part of our one way rule that you drive in an anti-clockwise direction around the **whole** school block. This ensures that children are dropped off and picked up on the school side of the street and are not running onto the road between cars to cross over.

Children crossing between parked cars cannot be seen by a car driving on the road until they are in front of the car. There have been some incidences recently where this has occurred putting our school children in danger.

Driving in one direction also reduces congestion as most streets around our school are narrow and only allow for one car if there are cars parked on both sides of the street.

We ask that these guidelines are shared with everyone who picks your child up from school including grandparents and nannies.

Please see following the driving and parking rules for around our place.

Key Points:

Go LEFT round the school.

That way children don't have to cross the road.

Never use a driveway for turning.

It's very hard to see the little ones behind your car.

Leave the bus stop clear

Let your **caregivers know** the process too

Don't walk through the church carpark.

Too many cars backing out to see little ones.

Thank you for helping to keep our children safe.

TEACHING STAFF

During Term Three we welcomed Mrs Annabel Holderness and Mrs Amy Davies.

Mrs Holderness is Learning Community One Leader and teaches Years 1 & 2 in Kia Hari.

Mrs Davies is teaching Years 0 & 0/1 in Te Honohono Painga.

Learning Community One Years 0, 1, 2	Learning Community Two Years 3, 4	Learning Community Three Years 5, 6
Mrs Amy Davies 1AD	Miss Georgia Andrews 2GA	Mrs Steph Walsh 3SW
Mrs Debra Wells 1DW	Mrs Ronelle Clarke 2RC	Mrs Tracey Burgess 3TB
Mrs Charlene Chan 1CC	Mrs Victoria King 2VK	Mrs Jane Penney 3JPe
Mrs Claire Evans 1CE		
Mrs Annabel Holderness 1AH		
Mrs Dominique Clarke Release Teacher	Mrs Erika Farrant Release Teacher	Mrs Karen O'Connell Release Teacher
Mrs Stacey McIvor	Mrs Dorothy Kemeys music teacher	
Mrs Robyn Lee Associate Principal and Mrs Carol Sullivan Principal		

INTRODUCING YOUR BOARD

Name	
Joanne Humphrey	Chair Co-opted
Carol Sullivan	Principal
Marcella Thomas	Proprietor's Rep
Verna Love	Parent Rep
Mat Anderson	Parent Rep
Fran Serrano	Parent Rep
Owen Hicks	Parent Rep
Robyn Lee	Staff Rep
Karen Rassie	Proprietor's Rep -appointment pending

Owen Hicks

I am married to Donna and have two boys at school - Ethan in Year 5 and Bailey in Year 4. My interest in joining the Board was to be an active participator in the journey of the school. During the last 18 months, I have gathered a deeper understanding of the complexities and challenges that Carol and the teachers face everyday in ensuring they meet as many of the goals that both the Board and the Ministry of Education have set. However notwithstanding this, our obligation is to always ensure we are striving to achieve the best education possible for each and every child, and to that end there are always opportunities for us to focus on



Fran Serrano

Hi, I'm Francisco "Fran" Serrano, with Andrea we have been St Ignatius parents since 2008, when we arrived to New Zealand from Chile with our 3 children, Sebastian, Valentina and Max. Seb (Year 12) and Val (Year 8) are now at Sacred Heart and Baradene, while Max is our last child at St Ignatius in Year 4.

My background in my native country is law, but I have had a career in tertiary and adult education over the last 20 years. I spent 6 years with the Manukau Institute of Technology and I currently run an international business school in the city with over 700 international students. My experience and passion for education together with my interest in giving back a bit more to our St Ignatius Catholic School, which has been our community in New Zealand since we arrived, encouraged me to join the BOT in 2013.

Nowadays, I am mostly involved in Education Management and Projects, but I continue to be involved in teaching literacy and numeracy, which is targeted as a major focus area for New Zealand across all levels. Being in touch with the educational needs of the country and the changing environments in education allows me to acknowledge the skills our children need to build today so they can be ready for the world they will live in.

