



ST IGNATIUS
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

BOARDTALK

Edition #3
July '14

'Never see
a need
without
doing
something
about it.'

St Mary
MacKillop

WELCOME

It has been a busy and exciting year for the school to date with more to come this term.

We have had two parent information evenings. In term two, Mark Osborne from Core Education explained the direction the Ministry of Education is moving with Modern Learning Environments and explained why all schools are being directed to this type of teaching and learning style. If you could not make this evening, the company website has some good information with some speaker videos of Mark –



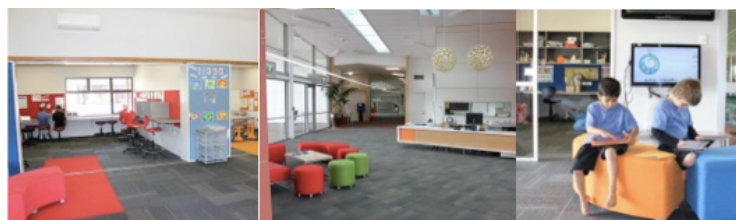
<http://www.edtalks.org/speaker-videos/Mark%20Osborne>

<http://www.edtalks.org/video/space-leading-thinking>

All new school buildings are being built in this form, with existing buildings being updated over the next few years.

We are very lucky that with the new class block about half our school will be in the new Modern Learning spaces. With the Diocese looking to update existing buildings to the Modern Learning Environment we hope our existing rooms will be converted at some point in the future.

It is our aim to create a fun and exciting environment at St Ignatius for the students to become happy lifelong learners. This can be supported with a good positive link from school and home, including support by parents of the children's teachers.



MISSION STATEMENT

St Ignatius Catholic School, in partnership with parents and within a caring and supportive Catholic environment, is committed to quality education and achievement where the focus is on the development of the whole child, guiding each child on their faith journey and helping them to grow up as caring and contributing members of the community.

VISION

Learners at St Ignatius Catholic School, inspired by the Josephite charism of St Mary MacKillop of the Cross, will live and celebrate our faith with respect and integrity, growing self responsibility and valuing each other. As independent, motivated learners we will actively engage in experiences that ensure self-reflection, critical and creative thinking and risk taking in order to nurture our intrinsic desire to be connected lifelong learners in a changing world.

St Ignatius
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Website

www.stignatius.school.nz

BUILDING UPDATE

The building is on track to be completed mid to late August with classes beginning in term four. Here is the timeline to date and the projected timeline to completion.



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Dec-13	Board of Trustees were advised by the Catholic Diocese that a new class building was to proceed
Feb-14	Room 9 moved after the Diocese received the Building Consent. Unfortunately the move had to occur during the second week of the school term due to the Building Consent taking longer than expected
Aug-14	Scheduled completion date and hand over
Sep-14	Resources moved from areas around the school to new Resource room. Storage in concrete block to be moved to new storage
Oct-14	Classroom equipment relocated during school holidays Room 9 removed Rooms 4 & 5 demolished
Term 4 2014	Classes begin in the new building Outdoor spaces commenced. Plan currently in design. Thank you to everyone supporting the FUNdraising efforts for our outdoor spaces

The board has been working for a number years to try to gain more land for school use by integrating with some of the diocese land. We were hoping we would be able to locate the senior playground on some of this proposed integrated land. We have been advised by the Diocese that this is not possible, so we are currently working on option B for the location of the senior playground. Our aim is not to reduce the field size or to encroach on other playing spaces.

2015-2018 CHARTER

DEVELOPMENT OF OUR CHARTER

The Board is looking forward to the second half of 2014 as we turn our attention to the review of the School Charter for 2015-2018. The Charter is the Strategic Plan for the school and is reviewed in detail every three years. Our last full review was in 2011 for the 2012-2014 Charter. The objectives set out in the Charter form the basis on which the Principal designs and implements the Annual Plans.

Over the next few months the Board will be seeking stakeholder feedback as part of the process of reviewing the Charter - this will include our parent, teacher, student and parish communities.

OUR SCHOOL CHARTER



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Parents will have several opportunities to participate in the process - through small focus groups in early - mid August, or by responding to a school wide survey (incorporating the communication survey) in October, or even just to provide suggestions via a forum to be confirmed. We encourage you to participate and put your voice into the development of the Charter.

HELP If you would like to be part of a Charter focus group please email the Board of Trustees on stignatiusbot@gmail.com



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SACRED HEART COLLEGE AND BARADENE DEANS' VISITS

Carol has initiated meetings that have recently been held with Baradene and Sacred Heart College's Yr 7 & 8 Deans to discuss how the children can best be prepared for intermediate and to assist the school developing a St Ignatius graduate profile.



The Deans supported continued practice of the following:

- Promoting self-responsibility and organizational skills
- Meeting deadlines for a learning task
- Some opportunities for practising written timed 'tests'
- Writing – editing surface features
- Continuation of daily practice to gain mastery of basic maths facts
- READ READ READ

Some strengths of recent graduates of St Ignatius that they shared were: exceptional reading ability, extensive vocab, basic facts, self-confidence, and taking opportunities to become involved in new experiences.

The Sacred Heart College staff were impressed with the randomly selected maths exercise books they looked at from the current year 6's.

Both schools acknowledge and expect the initial transition to Intermediate - when children will be one of 170+ in a year group - is a challenge for many. Unlike at primary school there are seldom any adults with whom they have relationships, they are in an unfamiliar physical environment and have to adapt to the culture and ways things are done at the new place.

As the children must move between teachers and take with them required resources it was suggested that it would be good practice at primary school if our children had opportunities to be adaptive and relate to different teachers and their different styles and ways of interacting.

Ultimately staff from both schools stated that if our children entered with our values well entrenched, considered others, weren't self-centred, used excellent manners, adapted well socially, were humble, and identified themselves as Catholic learners they would be happy and successful in their new learning environment.

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COMINGS AND GOINGS

It has proven to be a very busy year with recruitment in our school due to numerous reasons - illness, promotions and of course new babies!



Recruitment is a hard task for any school as we try and cause little or no interruption for the students. We have been fortunate to get replacements for all of our teachers who have moved on over the past 6 months without too much disruption.

Applicants for Mrs Bush's position have been interviewed and we have now appointed Mr Jamie Purkiss to take on her teaching responsibilities. Mrs Bush will move to her new position in mid-August.

Mrs Leanne O'Connell has joined staff as a classroom release teacher and will be teaching part time in the Junior area.

Miss Cailyn Webb, Learning Assistant, has also started with us this term, providing support in Learning Community One.



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INTRODUCING YOUR BOARD

Name		Contact
Joanne Humphrey	Co-opted Chair	585 0495
Carol Sullivan	Principal	575 7081
Paula Dell	Proprietor's Rep, Treasurer	585 0071
Marcella Thomas	Proprietor's Rep	528 4565
Verna Love	Parent Rep	521 6222
Mat Anderson	Parent Rep	528 1995
Fran Serrano	Parent Rep	521 9587
Owen Hicks	Parent Rep	575 8000
Robyn Lee	Staff Rep	575 7081

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