

ST IGNATIUS CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARDTALK

August 2016

Welcome To Our New Board of Trustees

Your new Board of 11 Trustees (8 new) are now settling in; with one of the first challenges faced being to clarify our role, responsibilities and goals.

Our initial area of focus is to become very familiar with our School Charter and to use this as our foundation for how we function and deliver as a Board and a Catholic School. The Charter can be found on our school website and via this link: www.stignatius.school.nz/charter-2015-2018.

The increase in Board numbers means we have been able to bring back Committees to oversee individual parts of the school governance with the aim of increased focus and resource into specific areas. These committees are:

Our Faith: Our Catholic Special Character Our People Our Way Our Place

Aspects such as academic achievement will be dealt with at the whole of board level.

As we immerse ourselves in understanding our responsibilities, we have been fortunate to have a strong handover and induction process setup by previous board members, and we greatly appreciate being able to ask our myriad of questions to – Owen, Karen, Carol, Robyn and Jane whilst we settle in.

We readily welcome any feedback or suggestions you wish to share, and you can contact the Board via email on: stignatiusbot@gmail.com

Return of Carol

We are delighted to confirm that Carol Sullivan will be returning to the school from Monday, August 8th.

A heartfelt thank you to Robyn Lee, Jane Penny, Victoria King, Annabel Holderness and Vanessa Kelly for so ably stepping up and ensuring that all facets of our school continued to seamlessly move forward.

Thank You to Our Previous Board of Trustees

We are only just beginning to understand the full scope of these entrusted roles, and it is with great thanks that we recognise the significant amount of time, energy, faith and passion you all have contributed to making our school so special.

Thank you to you and to your families.

PTA Lip Sync Battles: Saturday 3rd September

Our fabulous PTA team are working hard preparing for our major fundraiser of the year – the Annual St Ignatius Auction Night.

A HUGE amount of work goes into Auction Night and we know that the PTA would greatly appreciate your help. In particular they are looking for those 'one-of-a-kind' experiences and services that get friends and families bidding wildly on.

They also urgently need help with set up and break down – so in between decorating your table in your theme, going through final Lip Sync rehearsals, sorting wigs out and finding your spandex, a few extra helping hands make the event a lot more fun for everyone.

If you can help out (and they really do need some volunteers), please sign up here: https://www.volunteersignup.org/73F7K

Check out the PTA Facebook page for more details: https://www.facebook.com/st.ignatius.catholic.primary.school.pta/

And of course - don't forget to book your tickets, \$40 each. Email saintignatiuspta@gmail.com to let the PTA know how many tickets you want and the name of your table, then transfer the funds into the PTA account 12-3027-0309773-00.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Teacher Shortages

As many of you are already aware, there is a serious shortage of teachers within the Auckland region. In 'Story' last week it was quoted that there are over 400 vacancies in our Auckland schools, with many schools not receiving any applications. There are currently several Auckland Catholic Primary Schools advertising for Principals, and some of these have been re-advertised. With the cost of living spiraling upwards, the baby boomer generation heading into retirement, and a dwindling teacher workforce, it is of serious concern.

Whilst the Ministry of Education have advised that "something will be announced in August", we have agreed to look into alternate options to attract teachers of a high caliber to join us. 'Our People' will be tabling this as an active item on the agenda and although there is no quick and simple fix, we will be working towards a long term solution for our school and seeking additional support and advice from our Diocesan.

Follow Up on Previous Board Talk Actions

Earlier in the year the Board provided a Parent Community update that talked of some key focus points throughout 2016. Most of the items have had good progress, with some taking a little longer given the transition to a new board as well as having our Principal on leave during Term 2.

We have outlined below updates on each of the items and will continue to keep these on our agenda for the current year. Our new board is currently investing significant time in building its understanding of all aspects of governance of our school; including these specific items.

Item	Action	Update
Academic achievement – St Ignatius Teaching & Learning Practices	Exploration of the use of a consultant to review for effective delivery of the New Zealand Curriculum	The Board decided to focus on pursuing feedback from the Intermediate schools which in conjunction with the ERO report would provide strong triangulation on academic achievement levels and areas to focus on.
Behaviours	Updating of the Growing Self Responsibility Protocols	The Growing Self Responsibility protocols have been reviewed by staff and attached to our school docs Health and Safety policies which will soon be available on our website.
Bullying	Implementation of a bullying policy and education	NZ Council for Educational Research On line Wellness Surveys were completed by the Year 4, 5, and 6 children during Term One so we had a snapshot of children's thinking about safety in the school and community. All children took part in the Kia Kaha programme, learning about appropriate behavior, what bullying is and the part a bystander plays. Social skills including who to ask for help, ways to stand up for oneself, and growing resilience were reinforced by our Life Education programs. Weekly Circle Time develops knowledge and empowers children to care for themselves and others The Wellness survey will be completed again in Term 4. The BOT have moved to using School Doc's policies that include Health and Child safety policies. Considerable work has been carried out in 2015 and 2016 to personalize these to our school. They are currently being rolled out for the staff and new BOT to read. They will soon be accessible to our parent community through the website.
Engagement	Commitment to improve the Parent / Teacher relationships	Significant work was completed at the commencement of the year to support the building of strong relationships between our parent and teacher communities. We hope the community has been continuing to enjoy strong, positive and respectful relationships with our teachers, and encourage you to be an active and supportive parent in your child's learning.
Governance	Accessing an NZSTA advisor	The Board engaged the NZSTA to provide an advisor. Our advisor will continue to be available to our new board to assist in ensuring that it is meetings its governance and stewardship responsibilities.
Appreciative Inquiry ("AI")	Continuation of the Appreciative Inquiry process.	Aspects of the AI have continued, in particular the family buddy system and correspondence going to the intermediate schools regarding our graduate profile. Our new board is currently reviewing the AI process and will determine the most appropriate path forward.

Who is on Your Board



Kim Ballinger Proprietor's Representative



Peter Brown Proprietor's Representative



Clodagh Hoare Proprietor's Representative



Karen RassieProprietor's Representative



Owen Hicks
Parent Representative



Stephen O'NeillParent Representative



Gregory PinchesParent Representative



Nikki Peck Parent Representative



Margo ThomasParent Representative