



ST IGNATIUS CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARDTALK

August 28th Term 3 2017

Term 3

It has been a challenging winter this year with lots of rain and a number of viruses circulating, but thank fully we are starting to see signs of Spring. The Board has been particularly busy post the ERO review, working through the process of recruiting a new Principal, someone who is right for Our Place, and who can build on the great work that which been completed by Mrs Sullivan and the teaching team. We are committed to find someone to take our school forward on our mission to deliver a quality education within a caring and supportive Catholic environment, whilst maintaining a focus on the development of the whole child. We will keep you posted on the progress.

In this edition of the BoardTalk we reflect on the positive ERO report, received from the Education Review Office and the wonderful work done by the PTA.

Board of Trustee Members:

Clodagh Hoare (Chairperson/Proprietor rep)
Jane Penney (Staff Representative)
Stephen O'Neill (Parent elected rep)
Greg Pinches (Parent elected rep)
Karen Rassie (Proprietor rep)
Casual vacancy (parent elected rep)

Carol Sullivan (Principal)
Nikki Peck (Parent elected rep)
Margo Thomas (Parent elected rep)
Peter Brown (Proprietor rep)
Kim Ballinger (Proprietor rep)

Contact details: stignatiusbot@gmail.com

Thank you PTA

The Board of Trustees would like to thank the PTA for their continual fundraising for Our Place. Thinking of ideas, working towards them to be a success and making money for Our Place is most certainly not an easy task for this group of dedicated mothers (most with full time employment!) Their meetings are fun, well organised and extremely welcoming!!

Our PTA must fundraise in order to ensure the school has essential important resources, central to our children learning. The money raised enables the BOT to employ extra 'people resource' i.e. Learning Assistants and extra teaching hours. Our PTA goal is \$55k for this year and we thank the community in advance, for your full support in any way possible.

As a reminder, the upcoming Auction night 2nd September is the principle fundraising event for St Ignatius. Please support our school through the purchase of tickets. Use this link for bookings:

<https://eventfinda.co.nz/go/pta90s>

St Ignatius Board of Trustees Casual Vacancy for an elected trustee

Please see below a reminder of the notice published on 11th August.

A casual vacancy has occurred on the board of trustees for an elected parent representative.

The board has resolved under section 105 of the Education Act 1989 to fill the vacancy by selection.

If ten percent or more of eligible voters on the school roll ask the board, within 28 days of this notice being published, to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy, then a by-election will be held.

Any eligible voter who wishes to ask the board to hold a by-election should write to:

*Chairperson
Board of Trustees
St Ignatius Catholic School
72 Speight Road
St Heliers*

By: 8th September 2017

Staff News

Welcome to Mrs Aixa Dengate who joined the Years 1 and 0 learning team at the beginning of Term 3. Mrs Dengate has recently relocated to NZ from the USA. She is a well qualified and experienced teacher and is teaching alongside Mrs Clarke and Mrs Elgin. We know our St Ignatius community will make her feel 'at home' at Our Place.

The Board of Trustees is well underway with the process of employing a new Principal for St Ignatius. We are being supported in this process, by an experienced external consultant and the Catholic Education Office. We will have a short list of good candidates and interviews will be taking place in mid- September.

ERO Report

In Term Two the Education Review Office (ERO) carried out a week long external evaluation of the education and care of children at our school. At the end of the term we received our report - a very good one (see attached).

The review process was rigorous and intense, and included conversations with many stakeholders including parents, children, teachers, board members, and leadership. Both the Board and our leadership team had prepared well for the review, and had identified the 'where to next' actions to take to sustain and continue to strengthen our priority to provide equity and excellence for all our children.

Whilst ERO's time spent here provided just a brief snapshot of our school in action, the skilled reviewers were observant and astute, readily identifying and affirming successes and achievement. They were committed to working with us to frame our agreed next steps to improve, including to build children's learner agency and self-directed learning, and to continue to develop learning focussed partnerships with parents.

ERO was a rewarding experience and the board is confident that we are on track to continue achieving positive outcomes for our children. Congratulations to all our staff and learners for achieving such a good report.

Excerpts from report:

'The school's special character and values reflect those of St Mary MacKillop, and are incorporated in all aspects of school life.'

'The school is highly effective in achieving equitable outcomes for children.'

'The principal's leadership builds a positive culture that enquires into what is best for children's learning and has had a positive impact on student motivation and engagement in learning.'

'Children are achieving very well. The school demonstrates strong progress toward achieving equity in educational outcomes, supported by effective, sustainable processes and practices.'

Charter Review – Invite to participate

As notified in the last Boardtalk we will host two sessions to consult with our community regarding our Charter for the 2018 – 2020 period. This is a full 3 yearly Charter Review as stipulated by the Ministry of Education.

The dates for these sessions are:

Wednesday September 13th at 7.30pm; and
Friday September 15th at 1.45pm

Both sessions will take place at school in Atawhai, (downstairs in St Mary MacKillop block).

This is a great opportunity for parents/caregivers to have their say on our current charter and influence the strategic direction for the school for the next 3 years. We ask that you review the following and come prepared.

Specifically we will be seeking feedback on:

- What are we doing well
- What do we need to improve on
- Anything else to add/change

All in the context of “what do our learners need to be successful in the future?”

We will ask for your input regarding the following six areas:

1. Our 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.
2. Our Vision - Learners will live and celebrate our Catholic faith, follow our values, and become actively engaged, connected lifelong learners.
3. Our Strategic Plan – Underpinning our strategic goals is our commitment to being a Christ-centered community, celebrating with pride our Catholic spirituality, traditions and identity as a Josephite school
4. Strategic Goal 1 – To value and celebrate strong home, school, and Parish partnerships
5. Strategic Goal 2 – To provide a learning culture that enables all children to continuously develop to excel
6. Strategic Goal 3 – To deliver contemporary teaching and learning practices which are consistently experienced through our school

For our Catholic Special Character Internal Review of Religious Education parent consultation we will seek feedback on the following areas:

7. How the school communicates with parents/ caregivers about Religious Education learning
8. In what ways Religious Education learning helps children grow to know and love God

We will also have a generic “comments box” for any other feedback on the charter. We look forward to your involvement.

Board Profile – Stephen O’Neill

My name is Stephen O’Neill and I am a Parent Representative elected to the Board last year. This is my first stint on a School Board

I have three children at the school, William and Henry in Year 6 and Charlotte in Year 5. I am married to Natalie. I grew up in Auckland and have spent time living in London and Sydney before coming home and finding beautiful St Heliers. Being stuck in traffic on Tamaki Drive is not really such a bad thing!

I am a Chartered Accountant and have my own practice in Grafton; after spending most of my younger years in marketing roles. I take great pleasure in helping/advising small businesses as they grow. On the weekends I coach the kids’ soccer teams and am a mad keen All Black supporter. My main goal now is to somehow find more time to spend fishing and playing golf.



“Do all you can with the means at your disposal and calmly leave the rest to God”
Saint Mary MacKillop (1891)