



Issue 2 Term 3 2012

“boardtalk”

ST IGNATIUS
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Welcome to term 3. Over recent weeks I have spent time at other local primary schools for a variety of reasons. We are so fortunate in this part of Auckland to have a myriad of good primary schools. The point of difference at St Ignatius Catholic School is our Catholic special character. This special character truly is “special”. It is inherent in all we do at St Ignatius. It is not simply one aspect of our school - it is the reason for our existence and underpins all we do. The Board of Trustees is very proud of the school’s special character and continually strive to strengthen and celebrate the partnership between home, school and our Parishes. Thank you for the part you play in making our school the caring catholic environment that it is and for the support and encouragement that you give your child or children during their faith based learning years here.

Happenings at Our Place

Welcome to Therese Arahill as our New Entrants teacher. We are very fortunate to have Therese in this role. She has a long association with the school as a teacher, parent and Trustee and we welcome her in this full time teaching capacity.

At the end of last term we farewelled Sarah Johnstone as she moved to Waitomo. We will all miss Sarah as she taught each and every child during her years with us. We also said goodbye to Manuel Laurijssen. We were so fortunate to have his skills and talent at our school and we wish him well in Germany.

Thank you to Natalie and Robynne and our fabulous, hard working PTA for all they do. The PTA’s focus this term is Auction Night on September 22nd and we all look forward to a revival of the “Solid Gold Hits of the 80’s” and perhaps a surprise appearance from Blondie, Leo Sayer, Spandau Ballet or Billy Idol.

An Invitation

Please come to our Board information evening next **Tuesday 24 July in Room 6 at 7pm** for wine and cheese. Then at **7.30pm** there will be a discussion regarding the Board and our responsibilities, the Charter and strategic goals for the school.

Please RSVP by Friday 20 July to office@stignatius.school.nz with “RSVP” as the subject. It would be wonderful if many families could be represented so as to make these events worthwhile.

Kind regards
Marcella

Did you know? ...

There are still places on the St Ignatius Parish Pastoral Council if you are part of the parish and interested in getting involved. The Council’s monthly meetings are open to the public if anyone wants to attend and find out more. The next meeting is at 7.30pm on 13th August in the Parish Centre.



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St Ignatius 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.

Respectful
Responsible
Generous
Happy

Homeroom Reps

Thanks to those who have offered to be a Homeroom Rep. This is not an onerous task - you are simply a point of contact to organize the occasional social event for the homeroom and/or Year level.

We still have some classes without Homeroom Reps, particularly Year 3 and above. If you are able to help, please talk with/ phone/email Marcella Thomas.

Buddies

Thanks also to those parents who have offered to be a Buddy to a new family within our school. We have some new entrants starting in Term 3 and their families may like to have a "buddy", so if you are interested, please contact Marcella.

21st Century Education and Learning

The Catholic Schools Office recently held a workshop on 21st century education and learning. The workshop was well attended by trustees and staff.

The key message was that education is about adapting to a changing world and how we teach has to change as well. The top 10 jobs now did not exist 10 years ago, and education must keep pace and stay relevant.

In terms of teaching, we need to:

- Make classrooms dynamic learning environments
- Teach children to become lifelong learners.
- Look beyond the right answer to more inquisitive learning.
- Focus on individualised learning.
- Rethink concept of one teacher per class (single cell teaching) to team teaching for transparency in order to enhance learning.
- The teacher is more a guide and support person on the side and not standing in front of the students teaching.

We need to embrace technology:

Schools need to provide a technology rich environment in order for pupils to access content, publish work, maintain a portfolio of their skills and interact with the world. It also provides a platform for the skills they will need throughout their careers.

Schools are adopting Modern Learning Environments ("MLEs"):

While technology has changed rapidly, classrooms have not. New types of learning spaces are more open plan and flexible with an infrastructure rich in an ICT environment such as the new primary school in Stonefields. The challenge facing catholic schools is to adapt their existing spaces to MLEs as they do not have the luxury or the capital requirements to build from scratch.

Our Place:

Do you realise that some of these learning initiatives have been happening at Our Place for some time? Individualised learning, access to technology, team teaching and learning communities.

The Future:

In the next 10 years desks, blackboards, CDs and textbooks may be obsolete. Desks and blackboards are already redundant at our place. When was the last time you used correcting fluid, got up to change the channel on the TV, and used a pay phone? The challenge in education is to keep pace and stay relevant to keep pupils engaged. Who knows by the time your child leaves our place you may be able to access their learning through e-portfolios.

Did you know? ...

The School Uniform Centre has a rewards system for regular and loyal customers, so make sure you get your VIP Club book stamped each time you purchase there.



Our People

Some families at Our Place

Tremlett family. Our family moved to New Zealand about 5 years ago after many happy years living in Bermuda. Auckland was a great choice for us and we all absolutely love both the country and the school. My wife and I run “Arran Chartered Accountants” from our home in St Heliers. One of the great advantages of our own business is that it allows me the flexibility to be more closely involved with the school and the many after school activities our children enjoy.

Our older boy Alasdair left St Ignatius last year for Sacred Heart and our younger son Christopher is now in year 6.

Working on the Board can be challenging and time consuming but it’s great to be involved with such a highly skilled team and it is tremendously rewarding when you see the outcomes which benefit all of our wonderful children. My areas on the Board are mainly the Property and Finance sides of the school but members of the Board are closely involved with all areas of the governance.



Marcella Thomas (Parent Rep, Chair) All committees
Ph 5284565 or 021 819979

Carol Sullivan (Principal) All committees Ph 5757081

Paula Dell (Parent rep) Our Place and Future Planning

Graeme Tremlett (Parent rep - Treasurer) Ph 5752127
Our Place, Future Planning

Therese Arahill (Proprietor’s rep) Our Learning,
Our People, Our Faith

Dell family. My name is Paula Dell. I am married to Milan and we have 3 children. Matt is in year 8 at Sacred Heart College, Ben is in year 5 and Jenna is in year 3 at St Ignatius.

I am a chartered accountant and work part time both in our family business and at a couple of other places.



I was on the PTA for four years before joining the Board two years ago. On the Board I am on one committee – Our Place and one working group – Our Future. This committee and working group meets at least once a month sometimes more to discuss items related to these specific areas which are finance, property and future developments at our school.

Our family is in our 8th year at St Ignatius, we have made many friends here and we love the special Catholic character of our school.

Next Cafe Saints is Wednesday 1st August from drop off until 9.30am in the staffroom. Please come and meet other parents from the school community.

Iain Campbell CSC (Proprietor’s rep) Our Faith

Anthony Matijasevich (Proprietor’s rep) Ph 5758959
Our Place, Our Faith, Future Planning

Robyn Lee (School rep) Our Learning Ph 5757081

Jasmine Connolly (Selected) Ph 5850181 Our People,
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Joanne Humphrey (Co-opted) Ph 5216177 Our People,
Future Planning