



ST IGNATIUS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

February 2017

Welcome Back for the New School Year

We hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday and everyone has had an enjoyable start to the new school year.

As last year's children all move up one year, we welcome those 14 new families and 21 new children who are coming to St Ignatius for the first time. Please join us in making them welcome.

2017 is a special year for St Ignatius as we celebrate the 90th year of its founding by the Josephite sisters back in 1927. Watch out for announcements of special events throughout the year.

The Board of Trustees has had its first meeting of the year with our second scheduled for 22nd March. We thank Clodagh Hoare, who has agreed to continue to Chair our Board.

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

Staff Announcements

Welcome

A warm welcome to Miss Noelle O'Mahony, an experienced teacher who has most recently taught in London. Miss O'Mahony is teaching our Year 4 and 5 learners in Atawhai.

Extended Leave

Mrs Victoria King will be on leave for 3 months for personal reasons. Mrs Jane Penney will provide leadership to Learning Community 2 during her absence. Our regular relievers are providing continuity until an appointment is made.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Mrs King.

Farewell

Mrs Annabel Holderness, Learning Community One Leader, has resigned, as she will be relocating overseas to live closer to her children. Mrs Holderness will continue with us until the end of Term 1.

We would like to thank Mrs Holderness for providing outstanding leadership, sharing the depth of her knowledge and experiences with our teachers and children, and in particular, for the highly successful and inspirational 'Celebration of Art' in 2016. We wish her well for her travels.

Communicating with our Teachers

For those of you new to St Ignatius we have a number of regular communication channels. These include the school website (www.stignatius.school.nz), the school calendar on the school website, the school newsletter 'Heads Up', news sheets and notices as well as Board Talk which are all sent electronically. Additionally you should watch out for hard copy notices posted in your children's Home Link bags and the White board in front of the office which duplicates many messages on a day to day basis.

Our teachers are available face to face and electronically via their individual email addresses (available on our website). They ask that should you need to give them a quick 'heads up' or information exchange that you use these forums.

If your query may need more time, our teachers ask that you organise a mutually convenient time through the school office or the appropriate Learning Community Leader.

As you would have heard in the media, it is becomingly increasingly difficult for all schools in Auckland to recruit and retain teachers, so we thank you for your continued care, consideration and kindness towards our fabulous teachers at St Ignatius.

Our Learning

The National Standards outcomes for 2016 for Our Place were summarized in the last Heads Up from 2016 (21st December). These results are again tabulated below together with the results from the previous two years. Also shown below for comparison are the average results for students across the country.

National Standards Data St Ignatius Catholic School Comparison 2014, 2015, 2016

Reading National Standards									
	Well below		Below		At		Above		
St Ignatius Catholic School									
2014	1	0.4%	17	7.5%	111	48.9%	98	43.2%	227chn
2015	3	1.0%	17	7.0%	95	40.0%	125	52.0%	240chn
2016	2	0.9%	16	6.9%	79	33.9%	136	58.4%	233chn

Writing National Standards									
	Well below		Below		At		Above		
St Ignatius Catholic School									
2014	1	0.4%	22	9.7%	168	74.0%	36	15.9%	227chn
2015	2	1.0%	24	10.0%	156	65.0%	58	24.0%	240chn
2016	2	0.9%	14	6.6%	159	68.2%	58	24.9%	233chn

Mathematics National Standards									
	Well below		Below		At		Above		
St Ignatius Catholic School									
2014	2	0.9%	20	8.8%	130	57.3%	75	33.0%	227chn
2015	2	1.0%	19	8.0%	135	56.0%	84	35.0%	240chn
2016	1	0.4%	25	10.7%	124	53.2%	83	35.6%	233chn

The Board is satisfied that the National Standards (Reading, Writing and Mathematics) results for 2016, show

- a continued improvement in the Reading Standards, demonstrated by a further increase in the number of children reading at a level which is above the National Standards.
- a continued improvement in the Writing Standards, demonstrated by a significant reduction in the number of children assessed as below the National Standards.
- 89% of children are "At" or "Above" the National Standards in Mathematics.

Remember that, in general terms, to be Above National Standards is the equivalent of being a year ahead for their age (and to be Below is a year behind). Furthermore these results are across the Years 2 to 6 (incl some Year 1s).

New Zealand Average 2015

Reading National Standards									
	Well below		Below		At		Above		
NZ 2015		5.5%		16.1%		46.5%		31.9%	

Writing National Standards									
	Well below		Below		At		Above		
NZ 2015		6.1%		22.4%		56.1%		15.4%	

Mathematics National Standards									
	Well below		Below		At		Above		
NZ 2015		5.1%		19.9%		55.1%		20.0%	

PTA Events

The Parent Teacher Association is again active and bringing you events looking for your support. Friday 3rd March is the ever popular "Dudes' Night". We hope that as many of you as can, take part.

The emphasis of the PTA is of course on socialising and having fun but behind this is valuable work that helps support the running of your school. Every year the Board seeks from the PTA a financial contribution to the School Budget but they are only able to achieve these targets if they are well supported by the parents. So please watch out for the PTA Announcements and join in the fun.

Parental Support

This is a reminder of the "Buddy" system, which is particularly valuable for new parents as an initial point of contact to familiarize themselves with Our Place. As we have new families at all stages in the school, please consider nominating yourself as a potential buddy. Please contact principal@stignatius.school.nz to make these arrangements.

Please remember that some families are doing it tough at the moment. We are aware of several parents who are caring for sick family members. If anyone is able to prepare a family meal to be warmed up later, we can make space available in a fridge at school. If you are aware of families experiencing difficult times, perhaps you can offer help by assisting with school pickup, drop-offs or playdates for children. Contact lists were emailed last week.

Have a great year – The Board

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