

ST IGNATIUS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

BOARDTALK September 2022

Introduction

Kia ora St Ignatius Families

Welcome from our new School Board!

The end of Term 3 is upon us and I am sure everyone is looking forward to the warmer spring and summer months ahead as we come out of what feels like a very long winter period.

This term has been a wonderful reminder of what school life should be like for our children as the COVID framework is relaxed - as well as the learning in their classrooms we have been able to re-introduce all the activities that bring classmates and families together socially - cross country, mass at Mother of Perpetual Help, art show, basketball competition and dance curriculum to name a few! I have seen so many smiles this term now the masks have gone!

Our staff have continued to support and energise the children during the winter months and we would like to thank them for their efforts. Along with our staff, the Friends & Family of St Ignatius helped organise an amazing Art Show (with delicious bacon & egg rolls) and continue to find new and inventive ways to save us having to make our children lunches on a Friday with their sausage sizzles, pizza & sushi lunches! Thankyou!

The last thankyou which the new School Board wishes to make this term is to the previous School Board. The past 3 years have been unprecedented in all aspects of life, including governing a school during a worldwide pandemic! So we wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to them and in particular to the five outgoing members - Stephanie Aquilina, Peter Brown, Tony Chapman, Sylvia Langridge and Helen Pryde - for their time, hard work and achievements.

I hope you have a relaxing and enjoyable break.

Ngā Mihi,

Rhian Thompson, Board Presiding Member.

New School Board

The new Board is made up of eleven members:

- Five parent representatives (elected): Christopher Duncan, Andrew Spence*, Rhian Thompson, Elissa Whittaker* & Kelly Williams*
- Four proprietor's representatives (appointed by Bishop Steven): Samantha Arnold*, Kuilei Pulotu*, Karen Rassie and Vanessa Waldron
- Principal: Jane Penney
- Staff representative (elected): Alana Morgan

Half of the Board members (*) are new to the role and we are grateful to them and to those who have been re-appointed for another 3 year term for volunteering their time and experience.

The new Board held its first meeting last week. Rhian Thompson has been re-elected as Presiding Member, Andrew Spence is our Treasurer and Elissa Whittaker our Secretary. Some of the key themes to come out of the first meeting are:

- Student achievement, policies and shaping the future direction of the School remain key focus areas for the Board during its upcoming 3 year term.
- The School is tracking well in respect of its Annual Plan goals for 2022 and at present we anticipate all goals should be achieved by the end of the year.

What happens at our Board meetings?

Our School Board meets twice per term and the dates for these meetings can be found on the School website events calendar. The meeting is open to the public to attend.

We have a set agenda for each meeting which includes the following items:

- **Approvals**
Throughout the year the Board is required to approve a number of items which include the Annual Plan, draft and final Budgets, audited accounts and annual report to the Proprietor. Every 3 years we create and approve the Strategic Plan.
- **Policies**
Each term the Board reviews 3-4 school policies to ensure they remain appropriate and reflect actual practices. We have regard to any comments received from our staff and from the community via the links to SchoolDocs in HeadsUp. Over our 3 year term of office the Board will then have reviewed all the governance-related policies on SchoolDocs and the review cycle begins again with the next Board.
- **Progress**
Mrs Penney prepares a report for each meeting to update the Board on operational matters and to demonstrate how the School is tracking against the goals set out in the Annual Plan. We also

discuss any ERO, Catholic Schools Office or legal developments. Twice -yearly the Board is also presented with student achievement data in order to monitor progress.

- **Subcommittee & Parish Reports**

Our three subcommittees - Our Faith, Our Place & Our Way - provide reports to the Board. Items can include our current financial position, progress on property works or in relation to our special character review, staffing and employee well-being and topics for BoardTalk. We also receive an update from each of our parishes.

- **Reflection**

Each meeting we take time for prayer, to reflect on our responsibilities as the Board of a Catholic school and our obligations under Te Tiri o Waitangi.

We hope the above information helps to de-mystify what we do as a Board.

New Strategic Plan 2023-25

As you may be aware, the Board is required to put in place a new Strategic Plan every 3 years setting out the aspirations, vision and values of our School.

We consulted with our school community in Term 2 and the previous Board met to start initial work on pulling those ideas and opinions together to form a framework for this plan. The new Board has now had the opportunity to review and discuss this work and is taking the next steps to prepare a draft Strategic Plan to share with you in Term 4. We are excited to share our concept with you and look forward to hearing your views.

Junior Playground

We are delighted to announce our new junior playground has now been ordered from Park Supplies & Playgrounds and installation is currently planned for the summer school holidays.

The design follows that shared with you in the July BoardTalk:



As noted previously the existing shade sail will remain and the surfacing will be artificial lawn.

The Friends and Family of St Ignatius will continue their fundraising in Term 4 with the remaining funding to come from the Board. Many thanks to our community for their fundraising efforts to date.

Shed

The additional decking has now been added to our 'shed' and the space has already been put to use with some flax weaving sessions! We understand that there will be a competition for the students to name the space and then it will be officially open! We hope the students will enjoy using it!



This building will be used to facilitate additional learning activities such as art, technology, woodwork etc. Funding for this project has come from the Friends & Family of St Ignatius, the Board and a generous legacy we received from a past pupil.

Pedestrian crossing

Auckland Transport have advised us that work will begin on installation of our new pedestrian crossing at the end of October. This will be located at the junction of Speight Road and Long Drive opposite the entrance to the school office. We therefore anticipate this area will become very congested whilst construction takes place, with temporary reduction in parking spaces. Therefore, if possible, we recommend you try to avoid this area at school pick up and drop off times.

