



Board of Trustees Newsletter

JULY 2015

From the Chair

Dear parents and caregivers

We have reached the half way mark for the year, as we finish the second term. In closing the term there are a number of items we would like to share with you.

External Reviews

As reported in our June newsletter, the school has spent the first part of the year preparing and welcoming external reviewers. At the start of June we shared with you the report on our school completed by the Catholic Schools Office. As we reported, and Rosemary has also shared with you in the weekly newsletter, we received a very positive review.

In late June, the Board received the report from the review completed by the Education Review Office (ERO). This report is summarised within this newsletter, and will be available on our website once it is published to the ERO website. In advance of that we felt it important to share the report with you – so the key pages (excluding the title page and the demographic information) are also included with this newsletter.

The report itself is comprehensive and positive of the good work done within the school and within the community. Special thanks to Rosemary, her management team of Carmel Williamson, Marilyn Tunncliffe and Annette Wilson and all our teaching and support staff. Your dedication and passion for our children's achievement is exemplary.

Strategic Direction

The Board is defining options for your consideration as to our future direction as we undertake a review of our strategic plan. There are a number of elements to this, including:

- different options to continue to support your child's learning and development;
- actions to extend our Special Character and relationship with the Parish; and
- priorities for our property development to improve our physical learning environments.

In late August we would like to invite you to an evening session where the Board and staff can share with you more about the work your children are doing and how this enables our Vision, which is to:

Ignite in our children the passion for limitless learning navigated by Catholic Values

This will support us to gain your endorsement and feedback on what you see as the priorities for your children's education and the funding options to deliver this plan.

We trust you have a relaxing term break and look forward to sharing our plans with you in Term 3.

Best wishes
Kevin and your Board

**A quote from
Catherine
McAuley**

Keep Patience ever at your side:
you'll need it for a constant guide.
Show fond affection every day,
and above all, devoutly pray.

Catherine McAuley is the Founder of the Sisters of Mercy



"Ignite in our children the passion for limitless learning navigated by Catholic Values"

Education Review Report – Education Review Office June 2015

The ERO review is completed to provide our parents and caregivers assurance about the quality of education your child receives at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School.

The report explores three areas – Learning, Curriculum and Sustainable Performance – within our school’s specific context and the priorities of the Ministry of Education. As part of the review the ERO team met with the board, management, staff, parents and students.

We have included the report with this newsletter, but the key strengths identified in the report include:

Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effective processes support a clear vision of improving outcomes for learners • teachers use achievement data to plan and implement relevant programmes to support your child to learn and progress
Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • curriculum programmes are responsive to students’ interests and learning needs; • our students are competent, confident and focused in their learning; • recognition of the wide variety of extra activities offered, including sport, events, music and drama; • students with special educational needs are welcomed, supported both in class and through specific programmes, and supported by trained staff; • clear commitment is shown to supporting Māori student success
Sustainable Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosemary provides effective professional leadership and empowers management and staff; • our teachers reflect on their teaching practice, positively supporting student progress and engagement; • the Board is committed to the school’s ongoing development and consults effectively to provide a foundation for continually improving outcomes for students.

The report challenged the Board to support our students on their journey to become self-directed learners, aware of their own progress and achievements. Management are identifying actions they will implement to continue to grow our students in this way.

The reports conclusion is that:

“Students and their parents experience a welcoming and inclusive school. The school has a Catholic special character that is evident in all aspects of school life. The school’s broad and well-designed curriculum and good quality teaching practices support students to achieve very well. Good quality leadership and governance continue to guide the school.”

The review notes that the next ERO review is expected in four to five years. The strengths noted and the area for continued growth will form part of our next strategic plan, to ensure we continue to support our students in their achievement.

The Board is thankful to the review team for their time with us and for their confirmation of the work that is underway. The report reinforces many of the items noted in the Catholic Schools Office report.

It confirms the Board is focused in the correct areas and our objectives are effectively implemented through the strong and capable management team and staff under Rosemary’s leadership.

PAT results – Term 1 2015

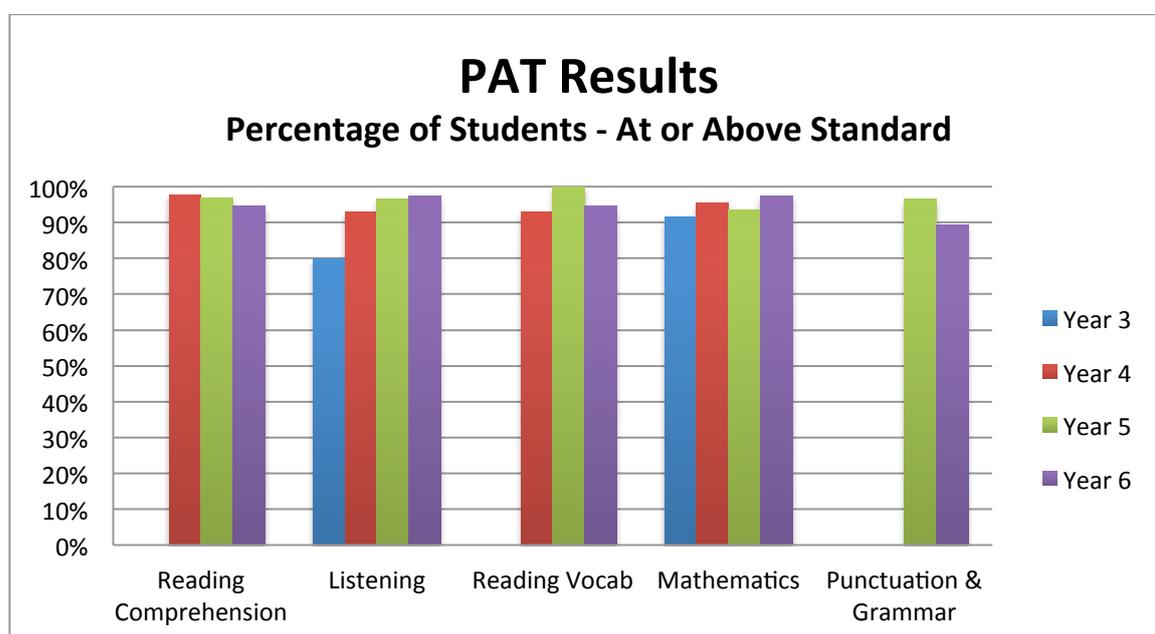
The primary focus of your Board is on ongoing improvement in student achievement and progress. An important part of this is regular review of information about student achievement.

Many of you will have received your child's report, outlining their progress towards National Standards at the half-year point. This has been supported by the three-way conferences this week, and a parent-teacher meeting in Term 1.

The Board reviewed the overall results from the PAT tests at our May meeting. These tests are one part of the tools used to measure student achievement, and different tests are applied to different year groups, starting from Year 4. Our Year 3s also participate in two tests.

At the first parent-teacher meeting, your classroom teacher would have shared appropriate summary of your child's performance in these tests with you.

This collective information of our overall PAT test performance is summarised below.



The Board will receive an overview of collective performance against National Standards when we meet on 5 August.

Joan Lilly - 22 years of service

The Board would like to thank Joan Lilly for her service to our school and children. Over the past 22 years Joan has supported the children within the school to grow in their love of learning – both of literacy in our Library, and of God's Creation through our gardens. She has also supported the smooth operation of the school, assisting in the school office.

We are glad to be able to continue to appreciate Joan's "green fingers" with the work she will continue within our garden.

We wish Joan all the best and thank her for her service to our students and community.

Property Development – Status Update

Improving our learning environments remains an area your Board is actively working on. The Board have been working with the Catholic Schools Office over the last 8 months to confirm the scope, timing and plans for our property upgrade.

This work is rapidly approaching a stage where the Board will have more certainty over commencement and duration of the project. Our priorities are:

- minimising the disruption that will arise as part of any major property undertaking;
- getting best outcome for each dollar committed; and
- retaining as much of our current grassed areas as possible.

The Board has a clear master plan for the development, which includes:

- A new two-storey building to replace Room 4 and 5, comprising 5 teaching areas in two open plan spaces;
- Refurbishment of the administration area, including relocation of the library, new office area and larger staff room. This will use the space currently housing these areas, along with Rooms 8 & 9;
- Renovation of Rooms 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7

The current status of these planning milestones is:

Milestone	Status
Resource Consent obtained	✓ Granted
Building Consent submitted to Council	□ Due end July 2015
Financial Constraints	□ Due end July 2015

We will share progress on these plans with you in August.

Oral and Visual Language – Student’s Voice

At our Board meeting in April, Erena Olla and Annette Wilson shared with us their review of the curriculum area of **Oral and Visual Language**.

As part of each curriculum review the lead teachers seek to capture the views of the students to inform our reflections. These comments are insightful and remind us of the growth and learning our students undertake. We’d like to share a few of these with you on student challenges:

Oral Language	Visual Language
Having to be confident when leading assembly. <i>Doing prayers in Church.</i>	I worry about making mistakes when I do posters <i>Making ads are hard</i>
Saying my speech in front of a lot of people. <i>Learning to speak clearly.</i>	When it’s a bad mistake it stands out and then I compare it with others who are better than mine
Speaking about things I don’t really know about. <i>When I share my ideas I don’t like people copying my ideas.</i>	<i>Not copying straight off the computer ‘cos you have to make a new idea</i>
Trying to be confident when I am so nervous. <i>Learning my speech off by heart</i>	Turning a story into a poster because of all the ideas <i>To get the right colour for that feeling</i>
I feel scared if I have done a mistake when I’m talking and I get embarrassed <i>It’s hard to talk at the right speed when you’re doing your speech.</i>	To pick the right colours on a poster and to match it with an explanation <i>Making a movie clip to present because you have to get it right when you are filming. It takes a lot of time.</i>
Sometimes it’s scary ... to share at assembly	