



# Board of Trustees Newsletter

## APRIL 2016

### From the Chair

Dear parents and caregivers

The Board trust that you and your family have had a wonderful start to the school year. It's amazing to think we've already celebrated Easter and that we are approaching the end of Term 1.

#### **What we've been doing**

This year the Board has been focusing on the completion of a number of items as we prepare for the end of our current term and the 2016 Triennial elections. The year has started with:

- confirming of our Charter – the strategic plan that you provided input to as part of our consultation process last August/September;
- setting the targets for 2016 – the expected student achievement targets for your children and ensuring the right resources are applied to support these outcomes;
- reviewing of our 2015 Financial Statements – which saw us record a deficit of \$55k – as we applied our reserves to support the educational programme for your children;
- gaining and understanding of how Rosemary and her team will achieve the objectives set in 2016; and
- being advised of a 9-month delay to the start of our major building works – due to funding reallocations by the Catholic Schools' Office.

We have more on what this year has in store later in this newsletter.

#### **Board Changes**

In January the Board accepted the resignation of Sarah Somerville from her parent elected trustee role. The Board has thanked Sarah for her service and would like to acknowledge the work she put into leading our Policy Working Group and in her role as Secretary. Given we are a few months from the election, the Board resolved not to fill this vacancy.

#### **Elections**

The election process has commenced – and we are progressing towards a number of key dates early in Term 2. As we look to elections we have more information in this newsletter, but note the following key dates:

Nominations close	By noon, 20 May
Voting Day	By noon, 3 June

Should anyone be thinking of serving on the Board or would like to know more, please contact any Board member.

#### **Welcome**

We would like to welcome all of the new families, staff and children that have joined our community this year. We trust you are feeling part of our community and we look forward to supporting you in your time with our school.

Best wishes

Kevin and your Board

**A quote from  
Catherine McAuley**

“Keep patience at your side,  
you'll need it for a constant guide.”

*Catherine McAuley is the Founder of the Sisters of Mercy*



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

**Elections – 2016 Triennial Election**

The election process has commenced – and we are less than 2 months away from our Voting Day of 3 June. The Board has appointed Sarah Somerville as the Returning Officer for this election.

This year sees elections for the five (5) parent representatives and one (1) staff representative on the Board. Our four (4) Proprietor representatives will also stand down, and subject to their acceptance be reappointed to the Board, post election date.

**Election Timeline**

There are a number of key dates related to the election process, which we have outlined below. All the effort takes place in Term Two – and you will receive nomination forms and voting papers in the form required by Statute and Regulations.

Key Event	Date
Nominations open by	Friday, 6 May
Close Electoral Roll	Wednesday, 18 May
Nominations Close	by noon, Friday, 20 May
Send Voting Papers by	Wednesday, 25 May
Voting Day	by noon, Friday, 3 June
Count Votes, confirm result	Thursday, 9 June
New Board takes office	Friday, 10 June
First Board Meeting	Wednesday, 22 June

**Are your address details correct?**

To ensure your participation in our election process and so that you receive the election correspondence, please ensure the school has your correct postal address details.

**Considering being Nominated?**

We will have vacancies on the Board as we have not filled the current vacancy and some incumbent members may not seek re-election.

If you are interested the Board has prepared a Candidate Briefing pack which is available to anyone who is considering seeking election, or just interested in “what does the Board do?”.

If you would like a copy please contact any Board member or Kathie in the office. If you have any other questions, please don’t hesitate to contact any of the Board to discuss these.

**Key items achieved across the School in Term 1**

The School and community have celebrated and progressed a number of activities this term, including:

- Welcoming **new PTFA Executive**, under the leadership of our Co-Chairs Kirsty Scully and Rachael Gulliver;
- Held the first **Parish-School Mass** on 3 April, being Divine Mercy Sunday;
- Submitted **grant applications** to support additional ICT devices;
- Had our **“Meet the teacher” evening**, and understood more on the teaching approaches applied to support your children to achieve;
- A successful **Dad and Kids** night at Pt Chevalier;
- **Fundraising mufti-day** to support cyclone recovery in Fiji;
- Started preparations for different performances, including **choir and Kapa Haka**
- **Coped with The Drive roadworks**, which has also provided the children with some outside the classroom learning opportunities

## Innovative Learning Environments –Update

### **Activities Completed**

The first term has seen progress in three areas for our continued progress to Innovative Learning Environments, being:

- new furniture for Rooms 4, 7 and 9 – following the pilot of furniture in Rooms 5 and 8 last year. This furniture provides your children with options to complete their work in a space that best suits their particular tasks;
- Auckland Council issuing the Building Consent for the works on Phase 1 and 2 and signing off Phase 0; being the use of the relocatable classroom
- Relocatable Classroom – Our “Room 4A” arriving from the old site of Monte Cecilia School.

We have progressed our Capital Development Fund to \$178k of the \$268k required for Phase 1 and 2. Your continued generosity to this funding is an important enabler of the work we are seeking to do.

### **Relocatable Classroom**

You will have not been able to miss the arrival of our temporary classroom, positioned across from the Parish Hall. This room arrived in late January and has been commissioned into a flexible learning space. We would like to thank the Dads that painted the classroom, and our caretaker Brian Nichols and our cleaner Toe Ikimau for all their efforts to make the room “ready for use”.

Since its arrival it has been used as a breakout and collaboration space, by our Kapa Haka group and for a variety of other school activities.



*Arrival of our relocatable classroom*

### **Phase 1 - Demolition of Room 4 and 5; Construction of New space**

Despite having received the Building Consent, in late March we were advised by the Catholic Schools’ Office (CSO) of a delay to our work programme. This arises due to the requirement to apply available CSO funds to address urgent building issues at other Diocesan schools.

They advised that we retain our position on the list, and that the expectation is funding will be available for the tender, demolition and construction of our new block to proceed in 2017.

### **Next Steps**

Disappointing was the best word to summarise this delay, but the Board remains committed to progressing with our Master Plan.

Through consultation there was a clear desire from our community to complete the entire scope of works proposed. This delay provides the Board with the opportunity to progress Phase 3 – the refurbishment of Rooms 1, 2, 3 and 6 and the building of an additional resource room through to Building Consent.

This will then provide the Board with options as to whether they:

- Tender Phases 1, 2 and 3; or
- Progress Phase 3 independently of Phases 1 and 2.

The key determinant of what happens with Phase 3 is funding these works. The Board is currently assessing the options available to us to secure the required funds to achieve this outcome. The money required for this is over and above the \$268k required for Phase 1 and 2.