



Board of Trustees Newsletter

APRIL 2017

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 that this weekend sees us celebrate Easter and complete Term 1. It's been an incredible start to the year – with the new classroom teams in place and actively using collaborative planning and teaching practices, several activities and trips completed – notably the continuation of MindLab sessions and the School Camp. There's more learning opportunities and experiences in store for your children as the year progresses.

Welcome

We would like to welcome all 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.

What we've been doing

The year has started with the Board:

- confirming of our Charter – the next year's actions drawn down from the strategic plan we developed with you in late 2015 – continuing on the progress from last year;
- setting the targets for 2017 – the expected student achievement targets for your children and ensuring the right resources are applied to support these outcomes;
- reviewing of our 2016 Financial Statements – which saw us record a draft deficit of \$33k – as we again continued to apply our reserves to support the educational programme offered to your children. The accounts are undergoing our audit and the final deficit may vary as this completes;
- reviewing parts of our Policy Framework – a notable component being our Complaints Policy. We seek you feedback on this with more information included in this Newsletter.
- planning to ready ourselves for our major building works – which we've been advised is planned to commence later this year.

Board Roles

At our meeting in February we appointed our Chair, as required by the Education Act, and confirmed our officers as outlined within this newsletter. We would also like to welcome Janese Porter to the role of Minutes Secretary, and thank Shona Burrows for her support in this role in the second half of last year.

Principal Sabbatical

Our Principal, Rosemary Kemp will be on Sabbatical for Term 2. Rosemary successfully applied for this opportunity and has several objectives she will be pursuing in this time. The Board looks forward to receiving her report on the completion of the sabbatical and the learnings that can be shared across the school. The Board is pleased to have secured Maureen Grimes as our Relief Principal. Maureen has broad experience as a Principal in Catholic primary schools.

Best wishes for Easter and the holidays
Kevin and your Board

A quote from Catherine McAuley

How rapidly the days, weeks, and months are passing. Another month ended, that seemed but a few days begun. If we have not forfeited the friendship of almighty God, but have been trying to love Him more and more, and to serve Him faithfully, they were blessed days for us.

Catherine McAuley is the Founder of the Sisters of Mercy



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

Complaints Policy – Your input

The Board has been reviewing its policy framework over the last four years and aligning with the “good practice” guidelines provided by the New Zealand School Trustee’s Association. Many of these policies relate to the governance of the school and empowering our Principal and Staff to be successful in the education of your children and the day-to-day operation of the school. Other policies set out the principles by which the Board operates to ensure clear roles and responsibilities in meeting our obligations.

Our Complaints Policy is one of the last to go through this review process. As parents and caregivers this policy is an important part of how you should outline any concerns you have, the process the school will follow and, where necessary, how the Board will address those concerns that progress to being a complaint.

The Board has reviewed our Complaints Policy and a copy of the proposed policy is available at [Complaints Policy – Consultation Version](#)

We seek your feedback on this Policy by 1 May.

Feedback can be provided to olsh.kevin@outlook.co.nz.

Board Chair and Officeholders

At our February meeting the following individuals were confirmed into these Board offices:

Chair	Kevin Maloney
Deputy Chair	Mark Baker
Treasurer	Francine Corbett, to be assisted by Brent Robinson
Secretary	Olivia Tech-Orias

Property

The School has been advised of the Catholic Schools Office’s intention to commence our building works later this year – targeting the start of Term 4.

To confirm the start the Board needs to:

- be satisfied the build aligns with our Strategic Plan;
- be comfortable that the timing is conducive to the operation of the School and the health and safety of our children, staff and visitors; and
- confirm the funding contribution required from the school towards the build.

The Board is committed to the build activity as supporting us to realise the next step in the development of our learners – in providing spaces suited to flexible learning. The Board also believes a start in late 2017 is supportive of the objectives in our Annual Plan for both 2018 and 2019.

We recognise the challenge any building work presents and have worked with Rosemary and the management team on solutions for these challenges. The Board has work planned for late this year to ensure appropriate Health & Safety processes and procedures are in place during the build.

Your continued financial support for our Capital Development Fund donations (\$90 per term) is a key enabler for the financial viability of this project. Your Board thanks you for your continued generosity and your support provides us with the comfort we need to know we can make the required contribution.

With just over \$200,000 in the bank we are well on our way to the target of \$320,000.