



ST IGNATIUS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

BOARDTALK

June 2020

Introduction

Term 2 started very differently to what we normally expect and I do admit that I struggle for words when writing this introduction. So much has changed since the last edition of BoardTalk, it is hard to know where to start.

The Board, just like everyone else, has had to re-adjust to the new norm which, in fact, is constantly changing as we adapt to the guidance and updates issued by the Government, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education. We held our first ever online meeting, juggled multiple commitments and followed the situation with Covid-19 very closely.

The Board's job in this constantly changing world was made so much easier by the dedication and hard work of our teachers, support staff, and the incredible leadership shown by our Principal. I was so impressed that every time I spoke to Jane she was always a step ahead and had an updated plan including all the latest guidance. The amount of proactive planning for each stage of the lockdown and for each week of remote learning required a huge effort. The clear and concise information that Jane and the teaching staff shared with us was outstanding. The dedication, care, and kindness shown in such a difficult time makes me feel truly grateful to be part of such an amazing community. Judging by the feedback provided by many of the parents, I don't think I am alone.

The last few months have not been easy and it is often that feeling of community spirit and belonging that gives us comfort and encouragement during difficult times. Thank you to the entire school community for your support, kindness, and for upholding our school values that are so well ingrained in our children.

We acknowledge this is a difficult time and encourage anyone who is experiencing hardship to reach out to Jane in the first instance.

The Board remains focused on creating the best possible place for our learners to achieve their highest learning potential and we are going ahead with a review of our strategic plan in term 2. We do appreciate your feedback and you will shortly receive a link to a survey. Please make sure that you have your say to influence our planning session by responding with fair and constructive feedback.

Thank you all for your ongoing support.

Nga Mihi,

Sylvia Langridge, Board Chairperson.

Strategic Planning

The Board has a planning session scheduled for the 20th of June to review and update the Strategic Plan.

We are seeking your feedback to guide our focus areas. The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete and is tailored around our current strategic goals.

This is a great opportunity to provide us with constructive feedback on areas that you believe are working well and what you feel could be improved.

Please complete the survey by clicking on the link below by 17th June.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Kk9WV5dUHuxvHi8zVKobubHgeZ3Vlib_gsLJnTxTais/edit

The Board will also run focus group discussion based on interest expressed in the survey.

School Policies

As outlined above, in the role of the board we are responsible for "setting the policies by which the school is to be controlled and managed".

Instruction on how to view our school policies can be found here:

<https://www.stignatius.school.nz/our-place/policies/>.

All our policies are on a 3 year review cycle, and the Board usually reviews 2 policies each school term. The school docs system allows board members, staff and parents (where relevant) to comment on procedures under review online.

Email address change for the Board

Please note that the Board of Trustees has updated its email address. If you are trying to reach us please use board@stignatius.school.nz.

The school website has also been updated with the new email.

Our Faith: Connecting School & Parish

In our Term 4 2019 BoardTalk the Board of Trustees invited St Heliers Parish Council, Glendowie Parish Council and Parish volunteers for a social meet and greet with a period of brainstorming on how we can actively connect school parishes.

The following are some of the ideas discussed:

- Glendowie Parish and St Heliers Parish family masses;
- Major feast days and school masses could be celebrated in a special Sunday mass in a parish;
- Family masses prepared by children from St Ignatius School;
- Combined children's art afternoon;
- PTA/parents run an event after morning mass where school families and parishioners are invited, e.g. sausage sizzle, fun games for children;
- All Saints and other feast days 'parties' at the parish centres - aimed at the younger children;
- Parishes mass and picnic once a year;

- Outside activity - amazing race and then family picnic;
- Outside Sunday mass at school with picnic afterwards;
- Music/choir/band - expand between parishes;
- Continue and build the tween group/teen group/young adults with both parishes.

We invite you to be active in this area and consider joining our committee to become involved in organising one event per year. If you are interested, please contact Karen Rassic at karenrassic@gmail.com

Staff News

We welcome the following new staff to St Ignatius Catholic School:

- Miss Megan Lobo who began at the beginning of Term 1. Megan previously taught at Arahoe School in New Lynn. She is teaching Year 3 & 4 children in Atawhai.
- Mrs Kieran Allaway also began at the beginning of Term 1. Kieran and her family have immigrated to New Zealand from South Africa. She is teaching Year 5&6 children in Kia Hari.
- Mrs Kuilei Pulotu began with us at the beginning of Term 2. Kuilei has previously taught at St PiusX School in Glen Innes. Kuilei is our new Director of Religious Education.
- Mrs Jennifer Lancaster began with us part way through Term 2 and has come from Mt Carmel School in Meadowbank. She is teaching Year 5 & 6 children in Kia Hari.

Finances

In current circumstances BOT is managing the budget and finances carefully. Accounts for 2019 will be published on the school website in the next few days.

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