



St Leo's Board of Trustees – Newsletter Term 4, 2016

Kia ora and welcome to the first edition of the Newsletter from the new St Leo's Board of Trustees.

Introduction

It is hard to believe we are already at the beginning of Term 4 and that we are entering into the lovely but busy season of Christmas.

For those of you who are unaware, the St Leo's Board of Trustees is comprised of the following members:

- 4 elected representatives: Kevin Law, Lisa Murphy, David Williamson and Damian Wallis
- 3 Catholic Character representatives appointed by the Bishop: Jody Gill, Sasha Gillies and Peter Wolfkamp
- Principal: Elizabeth Walker
- Teacher representative: Adrienne Williams

Since the Board of Trustee elections held in May the new Board has had four meetings and initiated some new programmes whilst also continuing to govern via the existing foundations laid by the previous Boards.

We want to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to those previous Board members who volunteered their time and resources to provide extra-ordinary service to the school. They have laid solid governance foundations and provided a seamless handover process. In particular, we wish to thank Rachel Steel, Jonathan Lockyer, Paul Firkin, Bill Maloney, Corenna Rooke and Bernie Ranford for all the time and effort they have put into working tirelessly for our school.

Our role as a Board is to enhance student progress and achievement whilst monitoring financial and resource management. At St Leo's we also have the additional responsibility to ensure our school lives by our special Catholic Character, which we believe is what makes our wee school so special.

Key Initiatives

We would like provide the wider school community with an overview of some of the key initiatives that we have been working on over the last two terms and what will be focusing on for the remainder of 2016

1. **Catholic Character** - In Term 3 we had the pleasure of welcoming the Catholic Schools Office to St Leo's to undertake an external review of our Catholic Character. The resulting draft report speaks very highly of the significant progress the school has made towards its Special Catholic Character Development since the school's last review. One quote from the report

said “St Leo’s Catholic School is an authentic Catholic community where Mercy values are central, faith is nourished and Catholic celebration is highly valued”. We thank all who were involved including our principal, staff, parents, students and those in the parish community who warmly welcomed the reviewers and all shared openly their thoughts and opinions.

- 2. Health Curriculum** - Thank you for your participation in the recent Health Curriculum Community consultation. The Board has considered all feedback and can confirm with strong support of the community that we have adopted the 'Health Statement'. The Health Curriculum Policy including the Health Statement will be available on the School website for viewing in the near future. The board would like to thank you for your participation and support of the 2016 Health Curriculum Review.
- 3. Parents/Community Survey** – You should have received an invitation to participate in an online survey which will help the board develop its three year strategic plan. We are really interested in hearing your feedback on what the school does well, but also on the areas that we can improve. This will enable the Board together with Mrs Walker, to develop appropriate strategies that will best enable higher performance.
- 4. Community of Learning (CoL)** – Some of you may have read about a new opportunity for schools that is being driven by the Ministry of Education called Communities of Learning (CoL). The aim of creating CoL’s is to create like-minded communities of schools to share expertise and learning, support, and collaboration with the key objective of lifting student achievement and to support children/young people through their whole pathway of learning. We are pleased to let you know that the decision has been made for St Leo’s to join the North Shore Catholic School’s CoL together with St Joseph’s, St Mary’s, Stella Maris, Carmel College and Rosmini College. The Minister of Education, Hon Hekia Parata has congratulated our school on joining this CoL and has committed to providing us support.

Looking forward

The focus for the Board for the remainder of the year will be to formulate the school’s strategic plan for 2017-2020 and to agree the school operating budget for 2017.

Marketing our Great wee school

With the 125th year anniversary of St Leo’s in 2018 the Board have started to turn their attention to how we might seize this opportunity to celebrate our rich history. We want to use this opportunity to initiate some projects that can involve the pupils and their families, Alumni and the wider community.

The next school Newsletter will have some more specifics and be canvassing parents to register their interest as we start framing-up these initiatives.

We wish you and your families God’s blessing. Ma te pono me te aroha

The St Leo’s Board of Trustees