

St Leo's Board of Trustees – Newsletter Term 2, 2017



Kia ora and welcome to the first BoT Newsletter for 2017.

We hope everyone had a good break over the school holidays and the children are refreshed and enthused about a new term at school. We also wish to welcome the new families joining the school in Term 2, 2017.

Changes to the Board

Sadly at the end of last year Sasha Gillies stepped down from her role as Proprietors Representative on the St Leo's Board of Trustees, due to her taking on a full-time teaching role.

We wish to thank Sasha for all the hard work and passion she has put into our school over the past years and wish her all the best for her new teaching career.

We are pleased to announce that Keir Hansen has agreed to join the Board and we are really looking forward to having someone of his calibre join our team.

We are also pleased to let you know that with support from the Bishop, David Williamson has moved from being an Elected Representative to the role of Proprietors Representative on the Board.

Parent/Community Questionnaire

Thank you to everyone who completed the parents/community BOT questionnaire in Term 4 2016. The feedback you provided certainly gave us a good idea of what the school is doing well and areas that can be improved. Key highlights were as follows:

- The three most important areas for parents were children's happiness, progress in learning and the school's special Catholic Character.
- The vast majority of parents believe their children are happy and feel safe at school.
- Parents believe that the school has a positive Catholic faith environment and it teaches children to respect themselves and others.
- Most parents felt their children were making good progress in learning, particularly in English/reading.
- Parents indicated that they would like more information outlining their child's progress during the year. This is an area that the school will look to improve on during the year.
- Shade sails over the junior playground was voted the most important property upgrade needed for the school. The board has since added shade sails as the highest priority improvement on the property plan.

Key Initiatives

The key initiatives that the Board have been focusing on so far in 2017 is the development of our school charter and strategic plan along with our school budget for 2017. The ramping up of our Community of Learning is also taking shape as we head into 2017. Details on these initiatives are as follows:

1. Our School Charter and Strategic Plan

The school's key strategic goals are as follows:

- To work with our staff, parents, students and the wider community to continue to develop and strengthen our special Catholic Character
- To develop greater parental and key stakeholder engagement in the development of our Learning community.
- To have teachers deliver quality education using Innovative Learning Practices which are focussed, encompass student agency, and teaching as inquiry.
- To ensure that all students achieve their personal potential and wherever possible attain appropriate National Standards - linked to our COL achievement challenges
- To continue to focus on improving our facilities, resources and systems

2. 2017 Operating Budget

In an environment where most Devonport primary schools are facing reducing school rolls the Board of Trustees has been asked about the sustainability of the school.

Please let us assure you that St Leo's maintains sufficient capital reserves to weather a few years of deficit budgets. However our aim as a Board is to operate at a marginal surplus whilst increasing the school roll to sustainably manage the school for years to come.

The Annual budget for St Leo's is primarily driven by the income from the MoE which is based upon the school roll along with the BOT operating contribution (donation).and of course the fundraising during the year..

The BOT are currently budgeting to fully fund a fifth teacher and remain committed to supporting the Principal in securing a new teacher for the school.

Our thanks go to the PTFA (past and present) for their truly impactful fundraising efforts.

3. Community of Learning (CoL)

At the end of last year the North Shore Catholic Schools Community of Learning was endorsed by the Minister Of Education - Hekia Parata. We were one of 32 CoL's to be signed off. There are now 180 throughout NZ, 1503 schools and 95 early learning services and 3 tertiary providers. There are now 495,000 students involved in CoL's.

Our CoL has now appointed 3 of the 4 across school full time positions with the 4th to be appointed at a later date. The across school appointments to date are as follows:

- Jennifer Herbst - Rosmini
- Erin Smyth - Rosmini
- Catherine Mackisack - Carmel

Ideally the CoL would like the 4th position to be a teacher at one of the primary schools.

Congratulations to Adrienne Williams who has been appointed the St Leo's representative on our CoL.

All Principals meet twice a term, with key area's of focus being:

- Achievement challenges
- Professional Development
- Collaboration

We will keep you updated of progress.

4. Marketing of the School

We are also re-igniting various marketing initiatives aimed at driving up the school roll. Our objective is to raise awareness of our great wee school within the local community and beyond. The best support however will come from the promotion that our wonderful loyal parents can spread across their networks about our unique values, small class sizes and remarkable educational results feeding into some of the best secondary schools in Auckland.

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

The St Leo's Board of Trustees