



St Leo's Board of Trustees – Newsletter Term 1, 2019

Kia ora and welcome to the first St Leo's Board of Trustees Newsletter of 2019. We hope you had an enjoyable holiday and have returned ready for another exciting year of learning.

After lots of changes in 2018, we are pleased to start 2019 with a familiar teaching lineup led by our second-year principal, Maureen Harris. We look forward to building on the successes of last year and growing the St Leo's community.

Education Review Office

One of the key events for the school in 2018 was the Education Review Office (ERO) evaluation, the report for which can be found here:

<https://www.ero.govt.nz/review-reports/st-leos-catholic-school-devonport-09-11-2018/>

The BoT are delighted with the report, which we believe recognises the commitment of our community to ensuring that St Leo's children reach their full potential. We wish to again express our sincere thanks to the teaching team for the hard work they put into this important assessment.

In 2019, Maureen and the teachers will be reviewing the curriculum and teaching approaches with a view to promoting our philosophy of educating the whole child. The BoT will continue to focus on monitoring student progress and ensuring consistent reporting to parents under the curriculum objectives.

Tomorrow's Schools Review

At the end of 2018, the government's Independent Taskforce completed a review of education in New Zealand under the Tomorrow's Schools reforms that were introduced nearly 30 years ago.

The Taskforce's report, *Our Schooling Futures: Stronger Together* | Whiria Ngā Kura Tūātitini, recommends a number of changes to the governance, management, and administration of schools. As parents of children who will be affected by the proposed changes, we encourage you to familiarise yourselves with them and express your views. Public consultation on the report is open until April 7.

Below are links to the report and other relevant information.

Report summary

<https://conversation.education.govt.nz/assets/TSR/Tomorrows-Schools-Intro-and-Summary-ENGLISH.pdf>

Frequently asked questions

<https://conversation.education.govt.nz/assets/TSR/Tomorrows-Schools-Report-FAQs.pdf>

Have your say

<https://conversation.education.govt.nz/conversations/tomorrows-schools-review/have-your-say-today/>

Board of Trustees changes and Elections in Term 2

The three-year term of the current BoT ends in Term 2 and several members have indicated they will not seek re-election. It is important we have a BoT that can provide the support Maureen and the team need to keep the school running smoothly and their focus on student achievement, and we encourage parents to consider standing at the next election in May.

We were blessed to have Father Larry with us for the last two years. His amazing support and highly engaging approach certainly helped draw our community closer together. We wish him well on his



new journey at the Good Shepherd Parish in Balmoral and eventually to Rome. Father John Tollan, the new Parish Priest of St Francis de Sales and a Devonport old boy, has replaced Father Larry as a proprietor's representative.

We would also like to acknowledge the huge contribution made by Lisa Murphy, who resigned from the BoT at the end of 2018. Lisa led the refresh of our Governance Manual and was instrumental in policy and personnel activities during a period of significant change. We wish Lisa and her family well.

Adrienne Williams has stepped down from her position on the Board and is being replaced by Lucia Dawbin as the staff rep. We thank Adrienne for her contribution over the years.

Serving as a school trustee could be one of the most rewarding experiences you have. The role does not require any formal qualifications, only a desire to make a positive difference to our children's learning. Trustees are active leaders in their schools and need to work well in a team, ask challenging questions and have good communication skills. Parents, caregivers and people from the wider community are eligible to be elected as trustees. If you can share your skills you can be a trustee. For more information see <http://www.trustee-election.co.nz/>

Nomination forms will be sent out in April. In the meantime, if you wish to attend a BoT meeting please let us know.

Nga Mihi / kindest regards

The Board of Trustees