



## MARIAN SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### NEWSLETTER

Term 4 2009

Members of the Marian Community,

Since the end of last term, the landscape of Marian School has changed as some of our projects become reality. We are fortunate to have the support of a solid community and PTFA in achieving positive change for the future direction of the school, our children and the community.

#### **Building Projects**

The long awaited Library project is underway with the groundwork having commenced over the holidays. The project continues the focus on improving facilities and infrastructure with the added benefit of providing additional teaching space both in the new library as well as classroom space in the St Mary's block when the current library relocates. The design of the new library remains on the Board of Trustees notice board in the school office foyer.

The caretaker's shed is in the process of relocation as a result of the Library being built upon the site of the old shed. The new facility for our caretaker, Mr Jordan, is being built at the end of the brick sheds adjacent to the junior school.

The Board is grateful for the assistance of the PTFA in supporting an additional project in the junior school. As part of the caretaker's shed relocation, the junior bag area and seating is being upgraded. New aluminium seating is being installed with a covered roof across to the St Teresa's block.

#### **Community Consultation Meeting**

As mentioned in the school newsletter, the Board of Trustees is holding a community consultation meeting at 7.30pm on 21 October 2009 in the school hall to consider the ongoing direction of aquatic programmes at Marian School. At this meeting the pool subcommittee, lead by Mr Matthew Cooper, will present the facts surrounding our current pool and site, the possible options and ask the community "what do you want?"

If you are unable to attend the meeting and wish to provide your views, please leave a comment in the Board communication book at the office or contact the subcommittee through the Board secretary.

#### **Reporting on Achievement**

In 2010 the Board of Trustees, through the school leadership team, will be reviewing the school's processes surrounding assessment and reporting to parents. This review will sit alongside the implementation of the new national curriculum in 2010 and the lead in to the new national standards being introduced by 2012. Through the auditing of current processes the Board intends to ensure consistency of reporting to the community in plain language about your children's progress and achievement.

#### **After School Care Holiday Programme**

With the approval of the Board of Trustees, Marian After School Care trialled a holiday programme for students that attend After School care. The trial was run over 3 days in the second week of the holidays and will be evaluated to determine if such a programme should be provided on a regular basis during holiday times. If future holiday programmes are considered viable and appropriate the community will be informed via the school newsletter.

### **Director of Religious Studies**

The permanent position of Director of Religious Studies (DRS) became vacant with the resignation of Ms Bronagh Crook earlier this year. The Board has taken the opportunity afforded by Ms Crook's resignation to review the role of DRS in our school.

As a school founded upon our special Catholic character, the Board and school leadership acknowledged the need to ensure that the role of DRS is appropriately resourced in consideration of our school's size and ongoing needs. Marian Catholic School is the second largest Catholic primary school in New Zealand and as such the Board reviewed current approaches to the DRS position and resourcing in primary and secondary schools in both New Zealand and Australia, with the aid of Mr Coulam's recent research on religious education.

Through thorough consideration of the full needs of our school, the Board resolved to strengthen the role of DRS and provide greater resourcing to the position by establishing and advertising for two DRS positions, with the new positions commencing in 2010. The new positions should allow the combined DRS greater time and resourcing with less impact upon classroom teaching.

### **Morning Tea for Ms Crook**

In recognition of the 24 years of dedication given to Marian School by Ms Crook, a morning tea will be provided by the Board for Ms Crook in the school hall at 10.55am on Mission Day, Friday the 23rd October 2009. The morning tea will be an opportunity to say thank you and goodbye to Ms Crook. All members of the community, past and present are welcome to attend.

### **Sports Co-ordinator**

At the September Board meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the establishment of a part-time sports co-ordinator role at Marian School from the beginning of 2010. The establishment of this role was made in consideration of the needs of our school given the time required to co-ordinate the many sports and sporting activities as well as the views of the community from our last community survey.

### **2009 Outstanding Levies**

The Board is aware that a large amount of 2009 activity levies are still outstanding, with the amount greater than in previous years. The whole school is reliant upon the payment of the cost of additional items not covered by the Ministry of Education. Without the reimbursement of these additional costs the Board may not be able to provide the additional staffing resources that we have committed to provide if funds are needed to be reapportioned. With the global recession the Board can no-longer be assured of income from other income streams such as foreign fee paying students.

The Board acknowledges that there will be genuine cases of family hardship and if you are in this situation please contact the school administration. Hardship forms are available on request.

### **2010 Board of Trustees Election**

Marian school is one of the nation's leaders in Catholic education with an excellent staff and senior leadership team. The Board provides governance over the school and often makes decisions in consultation with the community, the Diocese and other key stakeholders impacting upon the future direction of the school. The Board consists of real people just like you and it is there to represent the community from which we come.

In 2010 the triennial Board of Trustees elections will be held for the parent representatives and staff representative. If you have a sense of community and a willingness to assist in setting and maintaining the direction of the school, please take some time to consider standing for election to the Board of Trustees.

All members of the Board of Trustees are approachable; if you have any queries about standing for election, feel free to ask any one of us.

### **BOT Notice Board**

For those that are unaware, in the school office foyer is a notice board with a communication book for the Board of Trustees. Also located on the notice board is a schedule of Board policies for review and renewal.

Members of the Board of Trustees can be contacted through the Board secretary, Mrs Stephens ([jstephens@marian.school.nz](mailto:jstephens@marian.school.nz)) or feedback given through the communication book for the Board of Trustees at the school office. The Board also welcomes members of the community to our Board meetings. The upcoming meetings are on Monday 9 November and Tuesday 8 December 2009.

Baden Hilton  
Chairperson  
Board of Trustees  
14 October 2009