



MARIAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Empowered to Learn, Inspired for Life

Board of Trustees Issue 1 | ... August 2020

Tena koutou katoa

Welcome to the first Board of Trustees (BOT) newsletter for Marian Catholic School. The purpose of this communication is to provide the Marian School community with quarterly updates on key BOT activities including the outcomes of recent appraisals, school performance and upcoming governance activities. The newsletter will also be a forum for acknowledging notable achievements within the school.

About the BOT

The BOT is an elected body responsible for overseeing the governance of the school. The Board is the employer of all the school's staff and is responsible for:

- setting the school's strategic and policy direction in consultation with parents, staff and students
- ensuring that the school provides a safe environment and quality education for all its students
- overseeing the management of curriculum, staff, property, finance and administration constantly monitoring and reviewing progress against targets to inform future planning.

In addition to elected parent representatives, all Catholic school boards have Proprietors Representatives who report back to the Bishop through the Diocesan Education Office. The Board delegates the day to day management to the principal. The principal is the board's 'chief executive' and manages the school in line with the board's direction and policies.

Current BOT members include:

Wayne Bates Proprietor's Representative, Chairperson

Neroly Hay Parent Elect, Deputy Chair

Malcolm Barr Proprietor's Representative, Deputy Chair

Sue O'Brien Proprietor's Representative, Treasurer

Andrea Savage Proprietor's Representative

Matt Iremonger Parent Elect

Rowena Moore Parent Elect

Cath Ellice Parent Elect

Angus McKenzie Parent Elect

Bart Karalus Parent Elect

Nicole Higby Teacher Representative
Debra White Principal

School Performance

School Charter

The school charter is a key direction setting document for the BOT. The charter includes the school's objectives and targets. It guides the teaching and learning programmes, and the activities of the school. Each year schools are required to update their charter to address current national and school priorities, strategic planning, annual achievement targets and statements of variance, analysing the previous year's goals and targets. We have included our current strategic goals and initiatives with this newsletter. Plan on a Page 2020

Annual Plan Targets and Results

All New Zealand schools are required to set annual targets and take actions for improvement within a strategic planning and review cycle. This is a summary of our 2018 and 2019 annual achievement data in reading, writing and mathematics. Whole school achievement 2018 – 2019
Students working AT or ABOVE expected levels of achievement: Our strategic goal is to have 85% of our students working AT or ABOVE in the three curriculum areas

	2018	2019
Reading	78%	84%
Writing	66%	72%
Mathematics	67%	77%

Target Students who started the year BELOW expected levels of achievement. Our goal is to move 40% of students working BELOW to MEETING

	2018	2019
Reading Target students movements	32%	57%
Writing Target students movements	17%	39%
Mathematics Target students movements	17%	45%

We are pleased to report this increase in student achievement and congratulate staff on this great result.

Outcomes of recent appraisals

Principal's Appraisal

Our Principal, Debra White is required to be appraised on an annual basis by an independent

appraiser to assess performance. An Educational Consultant endorsed by New Zealand Schools Trustees Association (NZSTA) was chosen to complete this task for last year. This process involved meeting with the BOT, surveying BOT members and staff, onsite visits to seek parent feedback, interviews with staff and students, classrooms visitation and review of school documentation. This was a lengthy and involved procedure. The appraisal was viewed by the BOT in March 2020 and we are pleased to announce that Debra received a positive overall report. Debra has forward goals and plans in place as leader of the school. We look forward to continuing to work with Debra to support the progression of the school.

Special Character Review

The Catholic Special Character review is designed to look at the work the school has done, in its internal evaluation and development, to grow Catholic Character. It affirms what the school has done and the opportunities for further development the school has discerned. It challenges the school to be more transformational. Reviewers encourage and commend best practice, and work with the school to analyse opportunities to further strengthen and develop the Catholic culture.

This year we had our triennial Special Character Review involving a team of five reviewers onsite 3-5 March 2020. The School received an excellent report as a result of this review. The Report comments that staff and students, at all levels, have pride in and good understanding of the charisms of the school. The motto of “Bring Christ into the World” is lived out throughout the school as members of the school community clearly understand what it means to be the hands, the voice and the face of Christ. The full report can be accessed through the following link and it is well worth reading. [Full Report](#)
Our congratulations to Nicki Whyte and her RE Team.

Upcoming activities

Ten Year Property Plan

Schools are required to develop 10 Year Property Plans (10YPP) to ensure that their school is well maintained, and the physical environment supports teaching and learning, within the budgets provided by the Proprietor and the Ministry. The 10YPP sets out the property work to be completed over a 10-year timeframe. We are due to start our planning for the next ten-year property plan. We will work closely with the Catholic Schools Office who will appoint a lead Architect. Part of the planning process and options analysis process will involve consultation with our community.

We are very aware of issues with traffic and congestion in and around the school, and within the wider Hamilton East community. Focussing on this challenge will be a priority 10YPP. Thank you to the families who utilise the safe meeting spots to collect their children, (the Whare, under the tree on Clyde Street, Kelvin Place for older children), these options help ease congestion and keep our school a safer place. We ask that you please be considerate to others when parking, dropping off and picking up your child, and avoid stopping outside The Whare, on yellow lines or curbs on Clyde Street.

Appointment of Deputy Principal

The BOT is currently beginning the process for the appointment of a new Deputy Principal at Marian School. This is a key role within our school community and members of the BOT will be directly involved in the recruitment of this position. We look forward to announcing this appointment through our next newsletter if a successful candidate is found.

Community Communications

We thank you for your patience as we work through the most effective way to publish our school newsletter. Under our new Student Management System: HERO the previous PDFs were difficult to read on a mobile device. Addressing this, we are using SWAY a mobile web friendly platform for our school newsletters. These will be published fortnightly.

This first Board of Trustees newsletter is in paper copy and being sent home with each family.

Please update your current contact details - email address with the school office to ensure you receive future school communications via email.

If you have a QUERY? QUESTION? PROBLEM? please follow our process - which is firstly the classroom teacher - if not rectified, the leader of learning, if not rectified, the DP, if still not satisfied, the Principal. This process is encouraged in every instance - the staff and the management are here to help.

We thank you for continuing to be active in your child's learning in what has been a disjointed year with COVID 19. We wish you and your families the best of health and happiness over the coming months.

Kind regards,

**MARIAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**