

BOARD NEWSLETTER – TERM 4 2016

Prayer to End a School Year

God of wisdom, we thank you for all the gifts you have given us throughout this school year.

We praise you for giving us life, for saving us in Christ, and for choosing us to be your people.

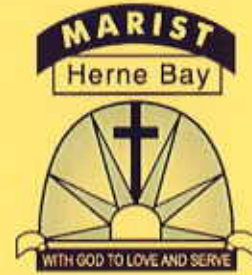
As we come to the end of this school year, we voice our gratitude for the good things you have done in us, and we praise you for all who have shared in the work of this school.

We ask you to bless them in your love and give them refreshment and peace.

We praise you, God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns forever.

Amen.

Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers/Revised Edition. USCCB



Hello, Kia ora, Talofa lava, Malo e leiei, Kia orana and Namaste!

BOARD RETREAT

In November, the Board was fortunate to have the opportunity to spend a Saturday at the St Francis Retreat Centre in Hillsborough, in retreat led by Father Bernie Thomas.

This was a wonderful opportunity for us all to reflect on our role as a Board and, as a newly formed team, to get to know each other better. Father Bernie led a session to help us better understand the Marist Charism and its philosophy to put the needs of others before our own. We discussed how we can bring this charism into our Board work and how we can keep it alight in our school community, underpinning all Board policies and school procedures. We shared the Eucharist together before spending the afternoon developing an Annual Plan for 2017.

Celebrating our special Catholic character is at the heart of our identity as a Catholic school and it was a blessing to be able to dedicate ourselves to ways in which we can weave the beliefs, traditions and teachings of our faith into all dimensions of school life.

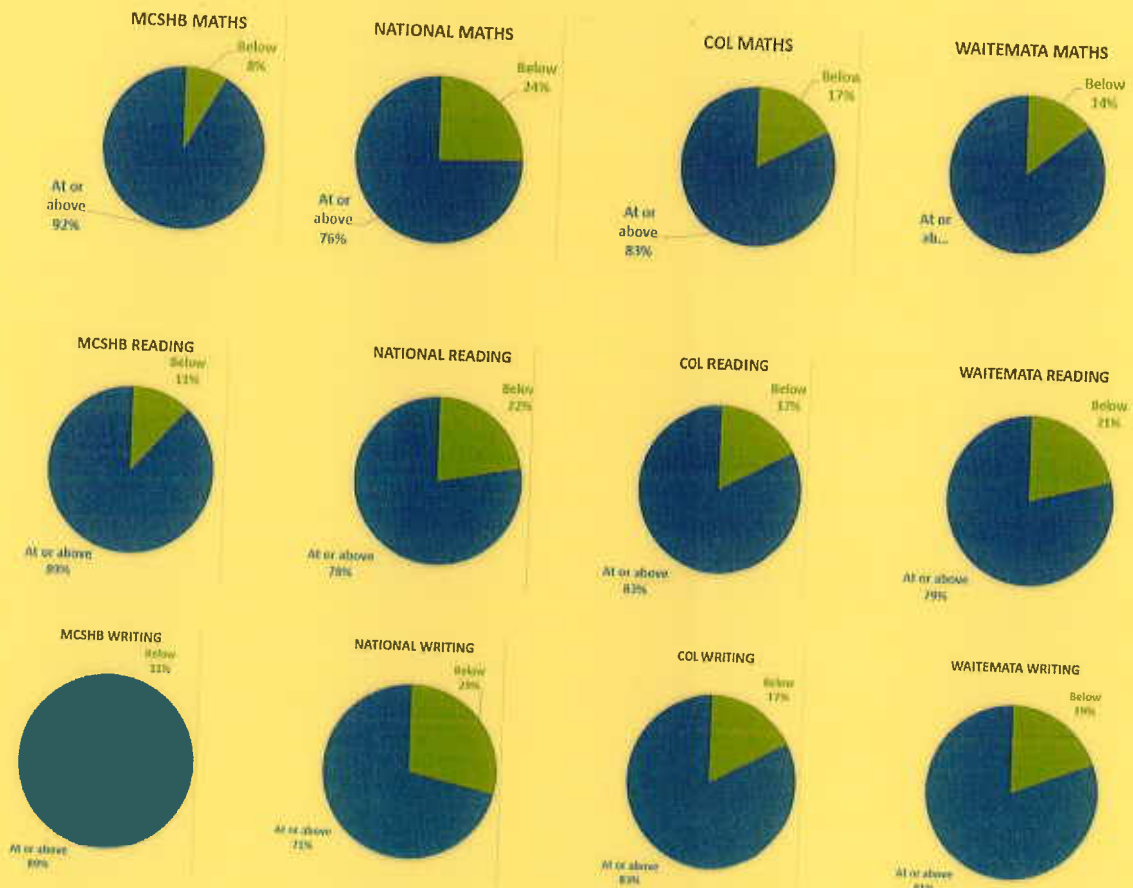
Thank you to everyone on the Board for giving up your Saturday, sharing your thoughts and aspirations for the school and for your ongoing commitment.

QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

As a board of trustees, it is our primary responsibility to ensure that every student at Marist Catholic School Herne Bay is able to attain his or her highest possible standard in educational achievement.

We are delighted with the 2016 year-end National Standard reporting, which showed that our children are performing very strongly against these requirements across all subject areas, when compared nationally, across our central Auckland Catholic School Community of Learning (COL) and across other neighbouring schools including Westmere, Bayfield and Ponsonby primary schools in the Waitemata area.

The pie charts below summarise this information and tell a clear story of our success. Specific learning plans are in place for all those that are currently below the National Standard.



Our sincere thanks and congratulations to Louise and the teaching staff for the wonderful job they have done.

EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE EVALUATION – MARCH 2017

Our school is scheduled for its ERO review in March 2017.

During this review period, the main task for the Board of Trustees and the school leadership team is to focus on student outcomes, transparent sharing of information and ongoing evaluation of performance in relation to goals and targets. The core question that ERO will ask of us is 'What difference do your practices make for students, and how will we know?'

The ERO review will evaluate how effectively the school promotes and accelerates students' learning and achievement and will include a deliberate focus on how the school ensures equity and excellence for all and a specific lens on outcomes for Māori and Pacific learners.

The review will include meetings and evaluative discussions with school leaders, teachers & staff, parents & whanau, students and trustees. It will also include classroom visits, walk-throughs with students and school leaders and evidence gathering from documents. Findings will be evaluated and discussed and a set of agreed actions identified. Once the review is finalised, it will be published at www.ero.govt.nz as it is important that parents, whanau, families and the wider community know about the quality of teaching and learning at our school. If you would like to know more about the review process, there is some useful information on the ERO website.

<http://www.ero.govt.nz/publications/your-childs-education/>

INVESTMENT IN SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

Nurturing our positive environment is a key strand in our strategic plan and will be a very important focus for the Board over the coming year. We have commissioned APS Ltd to paint the exterior of the administration block and interior of the hall over the summer holidays as part of our regular maintenance programme.

As you will be aware, building consent was recently granted for the construction of six new teaching spaces. Exact timing for construction start is yet to be confirmed, but we expect that works will begin early in 2017 and may be before the beginning of the school year. We will be working with the Catholic Schools Property team and the contractor to minimise disruption as much as possible.

Thank you to all those who responded to our property survey early in Term 4. We have taken this information and will be using it as an input to our Ten Year Property Plan. We expect to have a draft plan available for feedback and discussion with the school community early in Term 1, 2017. If you would like to be actively involved in this process, or have any suggestions, please email office@maristschool.co.nz.

2017 SCHOOL FEES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

As an integrated school we do not receive the same funding as a public school and therefore must seek the support of our community in the form of financial contributions so that we can provide teaching resources such as computers, teacher aides, Athletics, support staff and reading recovery programmes.

In 2017, our attendance dues and voluntary contribution structure will be as follows:

Item	2017 annual cost
Catholic Diocese of Auckland – Attendance Dues (compulsory)	\$420 / child
General Purpose contribution	\$195 / child
Special Character contribution	\$50 / child
Activities fee	\$60 / child
Mathletics	\$30 / child
Building contribution	\$120 / family
Family Assistance Fund contribution	\$15 / family

For example, for a family with one child at Marist, the annual fee will be \$890. For a family with two children at Marist, the annual fee will be \$822.50 per child, or \$1,645 per family.

You will note that Catholic Diocese of Auckland has increased the compulsory attendance dues by \$8/ year.

The general purposes contribution has been increased by \$42 per child per year. This is the first time this contribution has been increased in five years. The Board of Trustees use the General Purpose contributions to meet the needs of our school community, over and above the funding that is provided by the Ministry of Education. This also incorporates a \$6 / per child fee that the school is required to pay for religious education teaching resources.

At our Community Dreaming Day in 2015, we received a strong message that the school community wanted to see more teacher aides in classrooms, Tikanga and Te Reo Maori more embedded in all learning areas, more sports opportunities and more green learning and sustainable thinking. In order to ensure that each classroom is appropriately resourced in line with this direction, including

employing additional teacher aides, the Board has identified that it is necessary to increase the value of this contribution.

We will send more information early next year to explain each contribution in more detail, as well as payment methods and due dates.

If you think you may have difficulty in paying this account, please contact the school office at the beginning of the year to discuss. We can set up payment options to help you as much as possible.

THANK YOU

Our school would not be where it is without the dedication of our teachers and their willingness to give their best. We celebrate our passionate teachers, focused on our children and their learning. Thank you Mrs Louise Campbell and your teaching team for your enormous efforts throughout a very busy and challenging year.

Once again, a huge thank you to the PTA for the wonderful work that you do in our school. We are so lucky to have you all in our community and really appreciate all the time, effort and love that you put into everything that you do.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I also thank Father Rory, parents and many friends of our school for your care and support throughout the year. We are truly blessed with a community that cares, gives and works together in partnership so that our children can learn in an environment that nurtures teaching and learning, imbued with our special Catholic Character.

We thank those students and their families who leave Marist Catholic School this year. You will remain in our hearts as you take your RICH values and everything you have learned at Marist with you to your new schools. May the road rise up to meet you and the wind be always at your back.

Board members, I thank you for sharing your skills, experience and time as together we look to the future and make decisions that have a positive impact on student achievement.

FAREWELL

It is with sadness that we farewell Miss Amber Ludwig, Mrs Meg A'Ho and Mrs Vicky Coney. We thank you for all that you have contributed to Marist Catholic School and wish you every success, happiness and many blessings for the future.

If you have any questions, we warmly welcome inquiries and will do our best to assist.

We wish everyone a very happy and safe Christmas

Nga mihi and God Bless

Board of Trustees - Marist Catholic School Herne Bay