

BOARD NEWSLETTER TERM 1 2016

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen”

Philippians 4.23

A warm greeting to our returning families and a big welcome to the new families joining our Marist community this year. The first term has already flown by, and it has been done in true Marist style with many successes and blessings to give thanks for. Already, we have:

- Welcomed new staff & new students
- Celebrated the appointment of our school leaders
- Begun the transition to our new school uniform
- Participated in inter-school competitions
- Celebrated St Patrick’s Day & raised money for charity
- Been thankful for our active parent community who have already given generously with their time & money in regards to offering support for winter sports teams, providing classroom support & contributing to our fundraising efforts via the PTA
- Supported the new languages on offer as extra-curriculum activities
- Participated in Meet the Teacher, & Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences
- Embraced the introduction of Athletics – an initiative that has made homework time a lot more bearable for many parents!

A Prayer for Teachers

God of Love - Thank you for every teacher who notices a child’s special gift. Thank you for teachers who are listeners and gentle guides. Thank you for teachers who expect much and love enough to demand more. Thank you for the special teacher each one of us remembers.

God of Mercy - Sustain teachers who give everything they have and feel abandoned when society expects too much. Strengthen teachers who assume the blame for so many problems beyond their control. Help exhausted teachers rest.

God of Strength - Encourage teachers to care and inspire them to nourish. Motivate teachers to keep on learning for the fun of it and to make learning fun for children.

God of Justice - Help our country find a way to steward our vast wealth to support teachers in their special calling, wherever they teach and whatever the race or religion or gender or wealth of the children.

We pray these things in the name of our great teacher, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

For a small school, this is an impressive list of achievements only one term into the year.

As a Board, we wish to acknowledge the amazing work that our teachers, under Louise’s inspiring leadership, have done to set the school year off to such a great start. The prayer attached is one we used at our last meeting to do just that.

A warm welcome to our new Teachers

We welcomed two new teachers to our school at the start of the year – Amber Ludwig and Dale Nolan. It is wonderful to have you both as part of the team, and we appreciate the special talents that you each bring to our community.

A fond farewell

As is often the case, hellos and goodbyes seem to go hand-in-hand. This time, we are bidding a fond farewell to Eddy Jesus. Eddy is currently one of our longest serving staff members, having been with us for over 12 years. During that time, she has introduced the majority of our children to the Spanish language, along with providing maths support and undertaking classroom relief teaching. Eddy has been a consistent member of the team as Marist has gone from strength to strength over the years. We will all have fond memories of the talents she developed in our children which were put on display each year during the Spanish assembly.

Thank you Eddy for all your hard work and commitment. We wish you and your family all the best for the new chapter in your life.

Building Programme

Most of you will be aware that we have Ministry of Education (MoE) approval to increase our roll to 300. In order to accommodate the additional students, however, we need to undertake a building programme. This will involve demolishing the existing rooms 4 & 5, and building a new, multi-storied innovative learning environment which will hold the equivalent of 6 classes, behind the existing building.

We are incredibly fortunate to have been able to begin our journey to make the most of the new spaces that will be built by creating a shared learning environment this year with some of our Year 5s and our Year 6's, under the able guidance of Mrs Faulkener and Mrs Costello. The students' reaction to the new learning environment has been incredibly positive, and much of this credit is due to the preparation and ground-work which our senior leadership team and staff have already undertaken in researching best practise and learning from other schools who are already much further down this journey.

At this stage, the building work is scheduled to commence end of 2016. While there will be some disruption in terms of noise and activity, the existing classroom configuration will remain unchanged until the new build is completed.

We are grateful that the MoE and Catholic Diocese of Auckland is able to fund the majority of the development, however, we will still be required to contribute in regards to:

- Furniture
- Landscaping / Fencing - blending of new build and old

Under the guidance of the PTA, we look forward to your fundraising support over the next few years to help create a physical environment that will benefit our children for years to come.

Board of Trustee Elections

The Board of Trustees Triennial Elections fall on June 3rd of this year.

We are very fortunate that our community is full of highly skilled and passionate parents who can add real value to our children's education, our school and our greater community. This is your chance to give back. And a chance to make a real difference to your child's education. While it does require a three year commitment, the actual time commitment consists of one

Board meeting per month. This year it has been the third Tuesday of each month from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Additional work varies depending on the sub-committees that you choose to be involved in.

We have a number of board representatives standing down this year due to their children having already left MCSHB or due to leave in the next year. As such, we want to encourage any members of our community with applicable skills to consider standing for election for the 2016-2019 period.

The timeline for the BOT Elections is as follows:

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| • Call for Nominations by | May 6 th |
| • Nominations Close | May 20 th |
| • Voting Papers sent by | May 25 th |
| • Election Day | June 3 rd |
| • Count Votes | June 9 th |
| • Board takes office | June 10 th |

Role of The Board of Trustees

Along with the Principal who is the Chief Executive to the Board, the BoT are responsible for:

- governance of the school
- School finances
- Property
- Personnel
- The Special Catholic Character

Want to know more?

Please contact Jo Va'auli, Board Chair

Email: rjkvaauli@gmail.com

Mobile: 021 210 7293

If you are interested in standing for the Board, either speak to one of the existing BoT members, or come along to our information evening Tuesday 12th April 6.30pm where we will provide a short informal questions and answers session.

God Bless.

Marist Catholic School Board of Trustees