

Marist Herne Bay Catholic School

Mid-Year Board Newsletter

St Francis Prayer

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.

Kia ora, talofa, ni hao, malo e lelei, kia orana, namaste, Kumusta and hello!

We hope you and your families are keeping well over the winter months.

Innovative Learning Environments

It's been heartening to see the level of interest and engagement from the School community about the new learning spaces introduced this year.

In the lead up to the opening of the new learning spaces, all staff undertook extensive professional development to ensure the transition was as seamless as possible. Our new learning environments allow our teachers to work collaboratively, share their strengths and support each other to plan, deliver and assess each student's progress. They are well resourced to be able to make the most of these opportunities and as such deliver exceptional teaching to our children.

It is well noted that innovative learning spaces support teaching and learning to transition to a model that enables students to become confident, connected life-long learners. It is our view as a Board that this model of learning sets up our children for the future, including changes to the future workforce where increasingly we know our young people need to be problem solvers, resilient, agile and team players.

Change is usually challenging and is also rarely without teething difficulties. I want to acknowledge the deep feelings that have been expressed over the past few months. We are blessed to have such a caring and engaged community who feel able to express their views - whether of concern or of support for the changes that have taken place.

I'd like to thank you for your ongoing support and trust in the process. At the end of the day, your child's best interests are at the heart of every decision the Board, management and teaching team make. The teaching staff are absolutely passionate about providing the best education for our children.



New Website

Our new school website is now live! A huge thank you to Carla Rotondo and Dan Joint for the significant time and effort that went into capturing the stunning images that reflect the spirit of our School so beautifully. Thank you also to Jo Va'auli for her work with the web developer to make this happen.

The website has all the latest news, upcoming events and photos of recent activities. You can also find the School's governance policies along with all relevant procedures.

Springboard Trust

Congratulations to Louise who has been accepted on to the Springboard Trust Strategic Leadership for Principals Programme.

Springboard Trust is a charitable organisation offering professional learning and development to principals.

This year long programme helps to further enhance the strategic leadership capability of principals through workshops, strategic planning and leadership coaching.

As a Board we are thrilled Louise was selected for the programme. Research shows the importance of good strategic leadership for improving school performance and student outcomes.

Upcoming events

In late August we welcome the Catholic Schools Office into our School for our Catholic Character Review. As part of this review, they'll speak to students and members of our community while also observing classroom teaching and learning. Thank you in advance for making them feel welcome.

This September we celebrate the 90th Jubilee of Marist Catholic School Herne Bay. A number of events are being planned including a celebratory mass and afternoon tea on 8 September for current and past students, staff and community members. Keep an eye out for notices and information on our website.

Finally later this year, we want to talk to the School community about the evolution of our strategic plan for the coming years. We are committed to ensuring our community voice is reflected in these plans. The Board and teaching staff will value any and all contributions. Details will be available in Term 4.

Property Update

We are delighted that the new turf has been well-used in the first half of the year. We are in the process of working through getting the front field drained and bleachers installed which were identified as a priority issue by the community during our consultation.

We are also at the initial stages of planning an orchard or food forest beside the hub and would love the involvement of families in the planting and maintenance of what we hope will be a fabulous resource.

If you have an interest or expertise in this area, please get in touch with Louise.

Thank you

We would like to officially welcome Marianne Gapes to our School. She has settled quickly with warmth, enthusiasm and professionalism. It is great to have you as part of the team.

We farewell Veronica Gardonis and thank her for her three and a half years of service to our School. Best of luck on your Canadian adventure and all that follows.

We'd like to pass on our thanks to all our teaching staff for their huge effort and commitment this term.

Our gratefulness and thanks also to Louise and her leadership team for their work over the term, and during the year to date. The challenges our School has experienced recruiting new teaching staff is not unique to us and an issue of real concern for all Auckland Schools. Louise has done exceptionally well to attract great talent to our school in this tight employment market.

Finally, we'd like to acknowledge the information, guidance and support Louise and her team have provided to the School community to support our transition in the new learning hubs. As always, we warmly welcome any inquiries or questions and can be contacted through board@maristschool.co.nz

Ngā mihi and God Bless

Board of Trustees - Marist Catholic School Herne Bay