

Marist Catholic School, Herne Bay

2024 Annual Report



The following report highlights the progress we have made as a school and school community over the 2024 year.

Annual plan reports remind us of all that we have achieved, not only in the classroom but also as a school community.

As we know, a school cannot function successfully without an invested community surrounding it, and in our case, here at Marist, an invested Catholic community.



Our theme this Year was 'The Journey Matters' and this theme was all about children understanding that together as a community we embark on this journey with God in faith, love and hope. We enter this journey to grow and learn as God's children, we are supported and guided to use our gifts and achieve greatness.

We embedded our reviewed school values this year. The values supported our theme through the fact that belonging and embracing our 'journey' is what God wants for us all. The theme was very successful and throughout the year, the teaching and learning all centred around this theme.

Before I summarise each of our goals that we have worked through this year, I think it is important to just celebrate first and foremost, the wonderful, dedicated and highly professional staff, teaching and non-teaching, that we have working at 82 Kelmarna Avenue. Their dedication to our tamariki and our wider community are a credit to our school culture that we have developed over the years.



Annual Goal 1: Special Character

The main reason for our school here in Herne Bay, as it was in 1928, is that we are a Catholic school. The Special Character sits at the heart of our school and is at the forefront of any decisions that are made.

For our children, it means that they are taken through six years of religious education, and alongside this their faith grows and starts to make sense in their world.

Parents will always be the children's first faith teachers, and as a Catholic school we walk alongside them ensuring that their faith grows and develops into something that they will hold dear, for the rest of their lives.

This year, 78% of our students went onto Catholic secondary education, which means that they will continue on this journey as they enter into adulthood.

We are very blessed here at Marist to be part of a small and tight community within a large city. This community allows our children to feel safe and secure. Some of our families have been pupils here themselves, and this only builds on the sense of belonging.

A big part of our community feel comes from the fact that we are a Catholic school first and foremost, and this year we have been working with the Parish to try and build on an already positive foundation. We support the Parish with the childrens' first Holy Communion celebration and have also led Parish/School masses throughout the year. Marist, Herne Bay, is unashamedly Catholic in the way that we approach all aspects of a child's learning and development here at school. We start our day with Christ, and we end with Christ.

Our internal review focused on growth in knowledge at Marist, focused on our communities understanding of the Catholic teachings. Recommendations from this review were based mainly around communication and ensuring that our community know what is being taught during Religious Education through newsletters, but also through Family evenings and open days.

We are blessed to have Father Rory as our faith leader who is always extremely supportive of the school's needs and our Parish Council. As we know, the future of our Catholic church sits in primary and secondary classrooms, and having a Parish that supports our school is a blessing.



Annual Goal 2: Teaching and Learning

Research tells us again and again that with quality teachers and quality learning environments, a child's growth will be expedited, not only academically, but socially and emotionally as well.



Through the past few years we have been able to embed a strong team culture, which enables us to build on the professional learning we have had, and share this learning across all our classrooms. Even though we have had staff changes we have always ensured we have a learning focused environment that is very beneficial for our children, as it means that collectively as a staff we are able to offer our parent community a high level of teaching practice and an internal monitor of high expectations.

The staff have taken on many opportunities of professional development this year. Our Junior team worked through PD in Better Start Literacy (BSLA) which is a Structured Literacy Programme.

Our Senior team continued their learning around developing structured maths practices in their classrooms as well as the new Religious Education curriculum which we look forward to introducing in Year 3/4 in 2025.

Marist Catholic School continues to review, and change where necessary, practices and our physical environment when it comes to health and safety. Ensuring that your children are safe and loved here at school is paramount, and to help us continue this we have a very dedicated Health and Safety Team, made up of staff from each of the teams.

Student Achievement outcomes 2024

| | Goal set for 2024 | How did we go? | Goals set for 2025 |
|----------------|--|---|---|
| Reading | 89% of our children are working 'At' or 'Above' the required Curriculum level. | 89% 'At' or 'Above required Curriculum level. | 90% of our children are working 'At' or 'Above the required Curriculum level. |
| Writing | 85% of our children are working 'At' or 'Above' the required Curriculum level. | 83% 'At' or 'Above required Curriculum level. | 89% of our children are working 'At' or 'Above the required Curriculum level. |
| Maths | 88% of our children are working 'At' or 'Above' the required Curriculum level. | 87% 'At' or 'Above required Curriculum level. | 90% of our children are working 'At' or 'Above the required Curriculum level. |

Māori and Pasifika Achievement outcomes.

| | Māori | Pasifika |
|----------------|--|---|
| Reading | 80% 'At' or 'Above' required Curriculum level. | 80% 'At' or 'Above required Curriculum level. |
| Writing | 90% 'At' or 'Above' required Curriculum level. | 72% 'At' or 'Above required Curriculum level. |
| Maths | 80% 'At' or 'Above' required Curriculum level. | 64% 'At' or 'Above required Curriculum level. |

Annual Goal 3: Community

In 2024 we worked on building connections with whānau both within school and socially, firstly through our Whanaungatanga Hui early in the year. This was an opportunity for old and new families in the school to connect with each other as well as the staff.

We have been exceptionally fortunate to be able to say that we have strengthened our PTA further, and have carried out many school and community events - from discos to parent nights; from Quiz Nights to a Colour Run we have provided opportunities for us to gather as a community. These things cannot happen unless people have a vested interest in our school. Within our PTA we also have our Pastoral Care Team work behind the scenes in making sure that we can provide a safe and caring community to our families. All of these events were aimed at bringing our community together in fun as well as fundraising for our new senior playground. All these events achieved their desired outcomes with us achieving our fundraising target as well as our families coming together and building a stronger community.



We were pleased to have many of our whānau come in and support many of our school based activities such as our multicultural day, Stardome Trip, Matariki Breakfast and Book Week to name a few. We were also able to build our connection with St Paul's College who had students come over and work with our tamariki during cultural weeks.

We were also pleased to be able to take students to The Little Sisters of the Poor to entertain the residence for the first time since 2018. Our Irish dancers were a hit with the elderly residents and this was a great opportunity for the students to experience outreach.

This year we have worked on our evangelisation through supporting five students through the baptismal programme, having both students and parents participating in the programme. This is a part of the work we are doing to build a stronger connection with the parish. We are regularly in communication with the parish through Fr. Rory and ensuring that our students are experiencing regular masses and creating a stronger relationship with the church for our tamariki.

Annual Goal 4: Wellbeing

In 2024 we worked with the Mitey Approach through the Sir John Kirwan Foundation. Our teachers had professional development in how to enhance the wellbeing of our students and ensure that they are able to share their thoughts and feelings. This approach will continue to be part of our curriculum moving forward and integrated into our classroom programmes.

The Board is informed about Health and Safety issues in the school each month. This includes not only physical issues but also children and staff’s wellbeing. Our annual wellbeing survey shows that an overwhelming 100% of the students are proud of being part of MCSHB, as well as feeling safe and happy.

2024 Community Events:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Whanaungatanga Community BBQ ● Masses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parish/School Masses, Ash Wednesday, ○ Holy Thursday/Easter ○ Marist Day ○ EOY Mass ○ Pasifika & Maori masses with the Kahui Ako ● Multicultural Day ● Celebrating Holy Week ● Student Disco ● Celebrating Book Week | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cross Country ○ Athletics ○ Football taster ○ Zumba taster ○ Swimming ○ Cricket taster ● Student led fundraising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pyjama & Soft Toy Day ○ Marist Milo Mornings ○ Non-uniform day ● Stardome School Trip ● Parent Quiz Night ● Colour Run | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Celebrating language weeks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Māori, ○ Tongan, Samoan, Cook Is, Fijian, Niuean ○ NZSL ● Life Education Van ● Parent Interviews ● Art Exhibition ● Oral Language Festival ● Year 5 Retreat ● Year 6 Camp ● EOY Concert ● Prizegiving |
|---|---|---|



Our Board of Trustees continue to be supportive of our staff and have shown great vision by getting some projects over the line this year, such as maintenance throughout the school. They have also worked with the Diocese to have our school hall renovated making it a more inviting place to commune. The school in general is now in excellent condition, and we are proud of the work that we have achieved over many years.

What’s happening in 2025

In 2025 Marist Catholic School, Herne Bay is moving into single cell classes. This will mean less students in classes and less distractions so that solid teaching and learning can occur.

2025 brings a change to our New Zealand curriculum in English and Maths. In our classrooms we will be continuing our work with the structured literacy programme and taking a deep dive into how we teach and support our children as they develop their reading and writing skills. We have also signed up to be part of the trial for the Best Start Literacy Approach (BSLA) in years 4-6. This is a structured phonics programme and has proven to be a game-changer when it comes to teaching children how to unpack unfamiliar words and then

transferring this into their writing. This was a Canterbury University accredited paper and Austin & Bernard staff completed this professional development this year.

We will be introducing our new Maths programme called Maths-No Problem. This is a structured maths approach with a structured maths scope and sequence for teachers and students in Year 0-8.

We are looking forward to continuing the Mitey approach with our community focusing on wellbeing for all our students, staff and whanau.

In 2025 we want to continue the work we have done this year to further develop the idea of Marist, Herne Bay becoming a 'Community of Care'. This concept would sit above all groups within the school and would become the backbone to all that we do here at school.

As a new family enrolls at Marist we want them to understand what a Community of Care feels like in the way that they are welcomed, supported and walked beside, as their child grows up and becomes a positive young adult.

Our theme 2025 - We are the Storytellers

In 2024, our overarching theme was, "The Journey Matters". At Marist Catholic School, we are embarking on a journey that shares our unique stories and the power of storytelling across all areas of learning. This introduces our 2025 theme, "We are the storytellers."

In the Catholic tradition, storytelling is more than just a way of passing on information, it is the sharing of faith, building community, and fostering a deeper relationship with God.

At Marist Catholic School, as a community we embark on the sharing of our unique story that is embedded with our deep cultural heritage, with God to love and serve. Inspired by the rich narratives found in the gospels, our tamariki will explore the art of storytelling, learning how stories have been used to share important messages and values throughout history. We share our history to grow and learn as God's children.

Together we are entrusted with the gift of understanding, connecting and sharing both the knowledge and wisdom rooted in our Catholic and Te Ao Maori traditions. As a community we share a rich culture within our NZ history and we are responsible to work together every day because "We are the storytellers".

- Marist Catholic School embraces our story through:
- Term 1: We are the storytellers, of our heritage (Identity)
- Term 2: We are the storytellers, making our mark (States of Matter)
- Term 3: We are the storytellers, bringing it to life (Systems)
- Term 4: We are the storytellers, with God to love and serve (Community)