



Board of Trustees Newsletter – Term 4, 2015

Term 3 was once again a very busy time with some of our children moving into new classrooms 12 & 13. These are fantastic spaces for the children to learn in – and they have the best view in the school!

Over the last three Board of Trustees meetings, we were presented to by Mrs Wilkie (ALIM Accelerated learning in Maths Project and results of IKAN testing for mathematical knowledge), Mrs Jones (Catholic Character report), Mrs McGivern (Reading Progress and Achievement Tests) and Miss Mc Cowan’s G.A.T.E (Gifted and Talented Education) professional development programme..

These presentations gave the Board great insight into the rigorous assessments being done throughout the school curriculum to ensure we deliver on our Nag 1 Curriculum goal which is part of the school’s Strategic Plan Overview “To develop and implement teaching and learning programmes giving priority to student achievement in literacy and numeracy, through a range of assessment practices to monitor the progress and achievement of these students”.

Other News

- ❖ PTA News. Our school Gala was held on 7 November and now runs like a well-oiled machine. We had some new stands and lots of new parents plus some ex-St Francis students helping this year, so many thanks to those who gave their time and money for this bi-annual event. The organisation of the Gala is a mammoth task and we can’t do without the help of our Sponsors, parents, and our Parish. A special thanks to our PTA Chairperson, Nicola Pye who lead the whole event this year. She had some pretty amazing helpers too who went above and beyond the call of duty.
- ❖ The \$53,200 raised will be used for refurbishments to the Hall and the old Room 10 which will be turned into a science/home economics room. In addition to this, a Garden to the Table programme will be implemented so our children can extend their learning through gardening and cooking.
- ❖ Our Pastoral Care group are doing some amazing work in the community and the Board would like to thank Liz for leading this initiative and delivering meals and baking for families in need.
- ❖ Parish Update. We had almost 50 children make their Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. Thanks to the leaders who worked with the children and to Father John for his preparation of the parents.



- ❖ Father John Webb's 40 year anniversary as a priest. We celebrated this milestone with Father John in many ways – a senior school Mass, staff morning tea, not to mention that the children got to enjoy some cupcakes baked by Father John's sisters. This really was a special occasion.
- ❖ Staff Changes. We welcomed back Mrs Pereira in Term 3 and new teachers Mrs Hira and Ms Smith. We hope you enjoy being part of our St Francis family.
- ❖ We would like to acknowledge Board member Kimberly Atkinson who has stepped down as Parent Representative. Kimberly has been a wonderful member of our Board and will be greatly missed.
- ❖ We had lots of sports events in Term 3 including the ICSS Netball , Soccer, Ripa Rugby. In addition we had the school speech finals, breakjamas breakfast and the Arataki sleepover for Year 4s. We also have the Year 3 & 4 school swimming programme this term which is fully funded by the Board. We are really fortunate that our children are able to have some capability in and around the water.

There are many more events planned for the rest of the term and its fantastic to see our children and their families being immersed in our school community.

The Board is preparing for our school's ERO review which is planned for 2016. We are also getting up to speed with amendments to the Education Act, and the new Vulnerable Children's Act which will require a new Policy. There will be more information to follow on these changes for next year.

Before we know it, the weeks will fly by and our Year 6 children will end their journey with St Francis Catholic school. They will begin a new journey next year as big Year 7 children.

It's such a pleasure to see our children leave the school as happy, healthy, well rounded individuals who will go on to be whatever they aspire to be in this world. We wish them the best of luck for the future.