

St Francis Catholic School

Board Of Trustees Newsletter



Our Mission:

“Providing a Catholic Education that develops the whole person.”

Our Vision:

“To provide challenges for all students, enabling them to develop as well-rounded individuals and socially responsible Catholics.”

Kia ora St Francis Catholic School community and welcome to the first newsletter from our newly elected Board of Trustees. Thanks for taking the time to read through this information. We hope it provides you with a good overview on what we've been working on since we first came together in July this year.

The Board is responsible for the governance of the school and we're committed to ensuring every student attains their highest possible education.

Meet our new Board of Trustees

Lisa Bateman

- Principal



I have now been at St Francis Catholic School for two terms, and I am loving every moment of it. This is a wonderful place to work and I am surrounded by hard working, dedicated people. At my previous school I was the Staff Representative on the Board of Trustees for seven years. During that time, I worked through ERO visits, employment issues, the

development of new school buildings, tackling massive waiting lists and updating / re-designing the school vision.

My husband and I have been married for almost 15 years. We don't have any children, but we do have a very spoilt Cocker Spaniel called Rocky. We belong to the St Paul's Parish in Massey and are currently in the initial stages of building a new house in Waimauku, near Muriwai Beach. I look forward to a long and successful relationship with the St Francis community.

Callie Fell

- Co-Chairperson & Parent Representative



I am very privileged to continue my tenure on the St Francis Board. This will be my second term as a Proprietor's Representative and this term, as Co-Chair with James Murphy.

Co-Chairing allows us to share the responsibility, which demonstrates creative thinking, innovation and commitment to the governance of this very special school and

community. Our new Board of Trustees members offer a great range of skills, knowledge and experience in different fields and this diversity ensures we will challenge each other and continue to provide strong governance for St Francis.

My husband Matt and I have a son, Liam, in Year 4 at St Francis and my daughter, Olivia, left last year to start her Intermediate/College life at Baradene College. I have a long history with St Francis dating back 70-plus years, with my mother being a student here, followed by her siblings and their children.

James Murphy

- Co-Chairperson & Parent Representative



My tenure on the St Francis Board started last year when I was invited into the team. I feel privileged to have the opportunity, to be part of the new St Francis board once again, Co-Chairing with Callie Fell in providing the governance needed to ensure each of our students reach their highest possible standard in educational achievement.

With our new Principal Lisa Bateman and a revitalised Board, the future is looking bright for St Francis.

My career background has seen me work across multiple industries at a senior management level and I'm a true believer in working together with our parents, community and parish to provide the very best for our students.

My wife is Rachel Murphy and we have one daughter Jessica who is in Year 6 at St Francis. She started in 2015 after our family returned from Australia. Jessica will be starting at St Mary's next year.

Susan Milne

- Staff Representative



Susan Milne has lived in Pt Chevalier all her life, she attended St Francis Catholic School, just like her mother before and her two children after her.

Susan has taught here for 20-plus years and is currently a Year 5 and 6 classroom teacher, the Team Leader for Year 5 and 6 and the Assistant Principal.

Susan keeps our school running like clockwork with her fantastic organisation skills and her amazing energy and enthusiasm.

This is Susan's second term as the Staff Representative on the St Francis Board of Trustees.

Parent Representatives

Caroline Botting



My work experience is in the media and I've worked as a journalist for 20 years.

For the past three-and-a-half years, I've also been chair of our local daycare board, which has given me previous governance experience.

One thing I always notice about St Francis is our dynamic and very supportive school community

and it's been great to get to know so many families in the short time we've been here. I'm passionate about children's education and I'm excited about working with the Board to help our students reach their full potential.

My husband is Cameron Nicholas and we have two children, Leo who is in Year 2 and my daughter Alex, who will join St Francis next May.

Philip Jaggard



My career background has provided me with a wide range of skills, knowledge and experience that I will bring to my role as a Parent Representative on the Board.

I am a part owner in a consultancy firm, offering a range of project management and master planning services across infrastructure

and development projects. Prior to working for myself, I held senior management roles planning and delivering large and complex infrastructure projects in Auckland.

We are extremely lucky to have such a great local school with its fantastic culture, staff and community. I am looking forward to working collaboratively with the other Board members and management team to support and develop the educational opportunities for our children.

My wife Veronika and I have three children at St Francis; Samuel is in Year 5; Sasha is in Year 4 and Stella is in Year 1.

Victoria Farry

I work for NZ Red Cross in the international tracing programme with families who have lost contact with loved ones due to conflict and other humanitarian crises, and have had a varied career as a social worker.

I am excited about joining the Board and very much look forward to contributing to the governance of our wonderful school as it continues to provide each and every student with the support and guidance needed to succeed.

I have two children at St Francis, Isla who is in Year 5 and Jude who is in Year 2. My eldest son Noah finished at St Francis last year and is in Year 7 at St Peter's College. I am married to Jeremy Sutton.



Emma Uhila

I have a rich connection with this amazing community with my family who used to teach here and myself helping with after school care when I was at high school!

I am excited and honored to have been elected as a parent board representative and look forward to contributing to learning and growing in my tenure ahead.

I am a mum of nine children including four sets of twins and a singleton. Seven currently attend St Francis Catholic Primary School. Micah is in Year 6 and our girls, Ava and Lily in Year 4, Isla and Eden in Year 3 and Emme and Indie in Year 1. Mia and Levi are enrolled and will start in June 2020.

All of our tribe love going to school and have always felt loved and nurtured which means so much to both Loma and I as parents.



Proprietor's Representatives

Stuart King



My background is in banking and finance and I had spent more than 15 years overseas before returning to NZ six years ago.

I am the chairman of the Parish Finance Committee and look forward to being an active member of the Board of Trustees.

My eldest son Marcelo is in Year 2 at St Francis and my other son, Leonardo, is 4 and is at Pt. Chevalier Kindy and is looking forward to joining the school family in June 2020.

Carla Sheldon



My career spans over 25 years in marketing and general management, working across a range of industries and projects.

I am excited to join the board as Proprietor's Representative and look forward to working with the rest of the team to provide strong governance that improves student outcomes.

I'm married to Neil Sheldon and our son Daniel is in Year 5 at St Francis.

I like to get involved, and throughout Daniel's time at St Francis, I have been an active member of the Friends of St Francis. I feel privileged to join the Board to further contribute to our amazing school community.

Fr John Webb

- Proprietor's Representative and Parish Priest

I was appointed to Pt Chevalier Parish August 2014 and became a member of the Board of Trustees upon my arrival.

I have had a positive and fruitful experience working with St Frances School, helping to build bridges of mutual support and cooperation.

I was very happy to welcome our new Principal, Mrs Bateman at the start of Term 2 this year. I am very pleased to say that the spirit of cooperation has continued to grow during the past months and I'm very happy to continue serving on the Board of Trustees.



What we're working on

Strategic plan and updating our school policies

In term four, the Board will be developing its new five-year strategic plan, which sets the goals we want to achieve with our students, community and culture. Our school policies are also being reviewed and updated and will be available to view on our website once this work is complete.

Catholic Special Character Review

We'll also be working alongside the NZ Catholic Education Office on our Catholic Special Character Review. The Board, along with the schools' Proprietor and the Ministry of Education has a legal responsibility to maintain the school's Special Character. Areas to be reviewed include Religious Education, staffing, property and student enrolment.

Housing NZ development

The Housing NZ Development along Pt Chevalier Rd, which backs onto the school is still in its planning stages.

Through our own investigations, the Board has identified a number of issues with the proposed development.

We have set up a sub-committee to look into every aspect of the build and the Board members involved will be working closely with Housing NZ and Auckland City Council to work through these concerns.

Thanks to the Friends of St Francis!

We wanted to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the enormous amount of work the Friends of St Francis is putting into our Food & Wine Festival (November 16).

This is our biggest fundraising event, and it requires a massive amount of organising and planning. Without their support, projects such as our wonderful new landscaping project would not be possible.

We really appreciate your efforts!

Addressing concerns or complaints

It might be tempting to tap a board member on the shoulder in the school grounds to discuss an issue, it's important to know they work as a team and are bound by important guidelines. If you do have any concerns or complaints, please address them as follows:

- If your concern or complaint is of a classroom matter, the first step is to always contact the relevant teacher
- If your concern does not involve a classroom matter OR you feel the issue has not been resolved by contacting the staff member, the next step is to write a note or phone the Principal to discuss your concerns
- If your concern or problem has not been resolved by the Principal, you can write to the Board. Your complaint will be acknowledged, and you'll be given a timeframe of when you can expect a resolution

Please note only in exceptional circumstances will the Board accept a complaint that is not in writing. Contact details for the Board of Trustees can be given by the School Office if required.

A friendly reminder that Board meetings are open for anyone to attend, if there are sensitive issues, then non Board members will be asked to step out of the meeting.

We look forward to working together and will endeavour to drive great strategies for the future of our wonderful school, students and teachers.

Manaakitia e te Atua