

St Francis Catholic School

Board of Trustees Newsletter - June 2022



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.”

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Kia ora koutou St Francis whānau,

How wonderful has it been to see smiling confident tamariki, independently walking through our school gates throughout the first half of this year!

Despite the challenges Covid brings, having our ākongā (students) back at school for long periods of learning and enjoying more normality is great to see. We'd like to say a very warm welcome to our new ākongā and their whānau who joined us in 2022. We're so pleased to have you at our fantastic school and part of our special community.

We've got a lot of great information to share in this newsletter, so read on, but before we do, a huge thanks to our committed and professional staff!

They've had to juggle a lot during the first half of the year - not only their classes but also developing and managing online learning and supporting their colleagues who were isolating or sick.

And a big thanks to our supportive and positive parents who've helped us over the last six months, thanks for helping to keep our ākongā learning safely - we could not do this without you!

School Rebrand

One of the biggest visible changes we'll see in our school will be the result of our 2022 rebrand. This exciting project will help to energise and revitalise our school. The consultation process is in full swing with teachers' and whānau focus group evenings held. Teacher/whānau surveys have also gone out and we're also working with senior ākongā to hear their thoughts.

If you haven't had your say, please do by clicking on this survey link: <https://bit.ly/3mHmuXj>

We've had some amazing feedback that will help create our look along with our updated vision and mission statements. All will be revealed later this year.

Strategic Plan - 2023-2025

Visions, ambitions, priorities and targets will all be up for review in the new strategic plan for 2023-2025. Planning for this will kick off after the school rebrand is complete. We'll be sending out a whānau survey to help build ideas and we look forward to working with our school community, Lisa and staff to create a plan for our ākongā and school for the next three years.

Te Reo Māori and Our School

St Francis is committed to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and this means building on and understanding more about Te Reo Māori. Part of this, is by increasing our use of Te Reo words and phrases in our school and classes. From 2023, Te Takanga o Te Wā and Aotearoa New Zealand's histories will be part of all schools' curriculum. We're excited to take this journey as a school.

Get on Board - Board Elections

Board elections are taking place online between 5 September and 23 September 2022. They're a chance for our community to vote for candidates who can use their skills and experience to make a positive difference and help form the direction of our school. Interested in becoming part of the board? Come along to a board meeting and see how the process works. If you have any questions, please contact Co-Chairs Caroline Botting and Phil Jaggard, or Lisa. The board meets once a month (details are on the school [calendar on our website](#)). Our next board meeting is at 6.30pm, Tuesday June 28, 2022.

ERO Review

Over the next few months, the Education Review Office will be working alongside Lisa and our senior leadership team as part of their three-year review cycle. It's a great opportunity to see what we're doing well and where we can continue to develop further. To find out more about the process visit <https://ero.govt.nz>

Assessment data

Assessment data has helped us identify what areas were affected by last year's lockdowns. It evaluates reading, listening, spelling, and mathematics and shows how ākonga are progressing. Recent data shows positive results and while we're on track, we have been impacted by learning loss from Covid. Those who need support have been identified and are being aided with additional assistance.

School Activities

There's been a fantastic response to our new after school activities - a big thanks to our support teacher Kate Hanly for her work implementing our new speech and drama classes, art lessons and playball!

Covid Response

We're grateful we have not had to implement a school closure this year, but with winter here, a close eye is being kept on case numbers. We want to avoid new infections or reoccurring infections with our staff, students and school whānau. Risk mitigations are in place including disinfecting procedures, ventilation protocols and air purifiers purchased for classrooms that need them. The board has guidelines ready in case of another outbreak, including teacher / ākonga ratios for keeping the school open, and criteria for mask use.

Vaccine Mandate

With vaccine mandates removed on April 5 this year, boards across the country worked through details related to the employment of unvaccinated teachers. The board's role is to support and protect our staff and ākonga, particularly those who are immuno-compromised or have underlying health conditions. A policy has been developed whereby health and safety risks are evaluated before an unvaccinated applicant is considered for a role.

Property Maintenance

The Diocese owns our buildings and assets and we work under its administration to keep our school property tidy and modern. Recently we've completed:

- Fencing upgrades along the east side of the school
- Concrete upgrades
- Bargeboard replacements
- Drainage and plumbing projects



Artist's rendition of the canopy

- New netball/basketball hoops and football goals
- Additional vegetable gardens and fruit trees

The board was successful in obtaining grants that paid for:

- New netball/basketball hoops and football goals
- A new mobile Aluminium tennis net and Outdoorable Loose Parts Ball Run equipment that will be arriving later this month

This term there'll be a complete refit out of Room 10. Cloak bays in Room 6, 7 and 8 are being transformed into breakout spaces and Autex acoustics improvements which help control excessive noise and echo in classrooms.

School Canopy

We are inching closer to getting our school canopy project off the ground. This is an independent build led by our school. Once built, the canopy will allow ākonga a space to play and learn outdoors year-round. Friends of St Francis recently raised a fantastic \$1200 towards the project at the school cross country cafe.

Friends of St Francis

It's been tough to hold school community events over the past year with Covid restrictions, but with some normality returning, we hope to have more. We encourage new whānau to join Friends of St Francis (FOSF), it plays an integral role in our school, helping to raise funds for important school projects, but also strengthens and builds on our school community. Keep an eye on the school newsletter for the first FOSF meeting of 2022.

Parish News

We welcome the return of the Sacramental Programme. We are so fortunate to have our programme run by Father John Webb. It takes place after Sunday mass and takes our tamariki on a journey through the Catholic faith. The programme (which has limited places) is open to ākonga aged 9-plus who are already baptised but looking to do the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.



Kāinga Ora Development Update

Resource consent has been granted to the Kāinga Ora development adjacent to St Francis (1255 Great North Road, Point Chevalier) for 63 x 1 bedroom apartments. Construction was due to start in May 2022. The board works with Kāinga Ora to address our school community's questions or concerns. Please forward any questions you may to Lisa, or email the developer's community engagement lead, Samantha McCluskey, Samantha.McCluskey@kaingaora.govt.nz

Point Chevalier Road Upgrade

Auckland Transport announced their upgrades to Point Chevalier Road will start in late 2022. A raised table pedestrian/bicycle push-button (signalised) crossing will replace the existing pedestrian zebra crossing, outside 67 Point Chevalier Road (near Tū Street). For more information on the project visit:

<https://bit.ly/3QcUqIK>

Policy Update

Reviewing school policies is part of the board's work. Health and Safety Management (Safety Management Systems, Risk Management, Hazard Register and Audit, Health and Safety Induction, Visitors) was recently reviewed with Emergency, Disaster and Crisis Management next.

We welcome comments, observations and suggestions you may have. Please contact Lisa or email bot@stfrancis.school.nz. Our school community can view our policies online:

Website: <https://www.schooldocs.co.nz/>

Username: **stfrancis** Password: **brave**

School pick up and drop-offs

Parents and drivers who drop off and collect ākonga please take care around our school zone.

- Do not U-turn on Montrose St, swing into or park across driveways.
- Be patient and take a moment to drive to the bottom of our road to turn safely.
- After school, turning left instead of right at Montrose St may add a few more minutes to your journey but it will ease traffic banking up along our street.

These things will help us to avoid an accident and ensure the safety of our tamariki, pedestrians and ourselves.

Complaints and Concerns

We are passionate about providing the very best educational environment for our ākonga and value our partnership with whānau. It's important you know you can discuss issues or concerns. Here's our process for handling concerns and complaints:

- Is this something that is happening in the classroom? It's important to address your concern with your teacher.
- If you're not satisfied with the outcome, talk to the relevant team leader. They, along with the principal, make up the management team of St Francis.
- If you are not satisfied with the outcome after talking to the team leader or if it is a more generic issue you should talk to the principal.
- If it is a generic issue, or you are still not satisfied after talking to the principal, you should contact the board by sending a letter or email outlining your concerns for consideration and discussion. Your letter or email should be addressed to the Board of Trustees, c/o the Chairpeople, labelled 'In Confidence', and either emailed, posted or handed to the office staff who will pass it on unopened.

Thanks for taking the time to read this newsletter and have a wonderful remainder of term two. We're looking forward to working with you all to give our ākonga the best learning environment possible!

God bless

Manaakitia e te Atua

Board of Trustees

Principal: Lisa Bateman

Co-Chairs:

Caroline Botting and Philip Jaggard

Proprietor's Representatives:

Stuart King, Carla Sheldon and Father John Webb

Parent's Representatives:

Emma 'Uhila, Victoria Farry, Caroline Botting
and Philip Jaggard

Staff Trustee:

Susan Milne