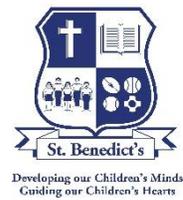


Board of Trustees Newsletter



Welcome!

Hello everyone and welcome to the Annual Board of Trustees newsletter. Since we last published, a great deal has been happening at our wonderful school.

At the beginning of the year we welcomed our new principal Michael Hinds. We are extremely blessed to have an individual with such exuberance and vision for the future of our school.

The school has undergone many positive changes within the first three terms this year. First our school working bee took place over a weekend and brightened up the whole environment. This was followed by our seismic strengthening work that took place through winter. This has now been completed and certified.

The school production took centre stage late last term and as usual was a sensational event by our very talented students. Then during the last school holidays the back bank next to and behind the Tui block came to fruition with a much-needed makeover. Also, the top classrooms and library were given an upgrade of new carpet and vinyl.

In between all of this, our four yearly Catholic Character Review took place. This review thoroughly explores how we teach and promote Religious Education within the school. I am pleased to say that the outcome of the review was extremely positive and commended by the Cardinal and the Archdiocese education team.

Of special note is our school role having reached its highest levels since our maximum role was introduced back in 2016, within the last 12 months. There are a number of factors that have contributed to this, but we are almost at full capacity and now have waiting lists in most year groups, which I believe is unprecedented in St Benedict's history.

Throughout this newsletter you will be fully informed and updated on the Board's progress and happenings at St Benedict's.

Kind regards

Richard Uerata-Jennings
Chair, Board of Trustees

November 2018

In this newsletter:

Welcome from Board Chair

Property Update

Catholic Character

Communication

Mid-Term Trustee Elections

HoK Thanks

Board of Trustee Meeting Updates



Board Members

Richard Uerata-Jennings (Chair)
Shane Nahu
Angela Houston
Steve Lucas
Claire Venn
Camilla Peet
Jane Wellik
Ruth Burns
Father Doug Shepherd
Anne Minto (Teacher Rep)
Michael Hinds (Principal)

Property Update

It has been a very busy year for the property portfolio at school with a mix of smaller works that have really brightened up the school grounds, and a major project you wouldn't really know had been done.

The scene was set early on with the great "working bee" of 2018. The whole school grounds had a makeover with water blasting, staining, painting and general tidying up, which improved the appearance of the school grounds tremendously.

Nearer the end of the year earthquake strengthening work was undertaken and we would have all noticed the disruption this caused for pupils and teachers. The whole school managed so well over this time and a massive thanks to our wonderful staff who just got on with it. For all the work completed you would be hard pressed to notice what has been done!

In addition to the above, plenty of other activity has happened over the year to improve our school grounds and property. The list below captures some of these.

- HoK back bank Nature Walk developed
- Stage backdrop reimagined and repainted
- Values pencils placed along the driveway
- Basketball backboards and Target wall repainted
- High-vis markings placed around poles
- New bench outside rooms 3 and 4
- Reflection corner developed between rooms 5 & 6
- New fencing, vegetable gardens and planter pots outside room 4
- New carpet and vinyl laid in Rooms 8-12, and the library
- New lost property boxes made
- New emergency lighting inside the school
- Seven new resource cupboards
- Clearing out of dead wood around the school's grounds
- New safety treads on the external stairwells

All in all a busy year, and a big thanks to everyone who has helped out. Next year now awaits.



Catholic Character

The Archdiocese of Wellington recently conducted a Catholic Special Character review at St Benedict's. The review was to assess how we are growing our students' faith in the school and to provide recommendations on how to further strengthen and develop the Catholic culture of the school. We are very pleased with the results of the review. The school's Catholic Character is very evident in the interactions of our leadership, staff, students and parents. The EPIC values (Empathy, Perseverance, Integrity and Creativity) are demonstrated and promoted regularly, and fully support the pastoral care which is clearly evident throughout the school.

The recommendations given will ensure we continue to further strengthen our Catholic Character, in particular, continuing to encourage students to receive the sacraments, integrate RE with other curriculum areas, grow in Tikanga Maori and build strong links with our parish community. Pleasingly, work has already begun on these recommendations and we will regularly monitor our progress in these areas.

A full copy of the 2018 Catholic Character Report can be found by clicking on this link: http://www.st-benedicts.school.nz/?page_id=60

Communication

A few activities have taken place through the communication committee. The website has been updated and the google calendar is now kept as up to date as possible.

The newsletter has been moved to a digital format, rather than a PDF format.

The communication's team have also been supporting the communication around the uniform review process.

Our Board of Trustees web page has been updated and is kept current with meeting minutes and the audited financial report.

http://www.st-benedicts.school.nz/?page_id=116

Mid-Term Trustee Elections

Coming up in June 2019 are the mid-term board of trustee elections. In these mid-term elections, three parent elected positions are selected.

Any parents, caregivers, or community members who are interested in standing for election next year are more than welcome to contact Richard Uerata-Jennings or other board members to discuss what the role entails.

Further information will be available in the New Year.

HoK Thanks

The Board would like to thank the HoK committee and helpers for their ongoing fundraising efforts for the school and our students.

This fundraising is essential to the resources we provide for our students and helps bridge our funding requirements making it vital to the well-being of the school.

Recent funding from HoK has contributed to the development of the nature walk on the back bank.

Recent successful fundraising activities included the annual Spring Fair where we raised in excess of \$23,000. This event contributes greatly to the sense of community we have at St Benedict's School. Please help with your support of HoK



End of Year Parent Meeting

The annual end of year 'bubbles and Christmas cake' parent meeting will take place at:
7.30 pm
Wednesday 5 December
in the library
Hear from the Board Chair, the Principal and from HoK.



Some of our wonderful parent volunteers

Board of Trustee Meeting Updates

The following is a brief list of some of the key matters the board has been considering this year:

6 December 2017 Meeting

- School seismic strengthening works
- Cohort entry to school

14 February Meeting

- Annual goals confirmed
- After school care programme reviewed
- Strategy for the back bank by Tui block

28 March Meeting

- Planning for upcoming Catholic Character review
- Successful working bee
- Future approach to year 8 camp

9 May Meeting

- PAT results (Term 1)
- Update on Annual Goals
- Seismic strengthening works
- Health and Safety Policy and Guidelines Reviewed

20 June Meeting

- Roll size
- Annual Audit report adopted
- Special Education policy review
- Uniform survey

1 August Meeting

- Uniform survey
- Strike action
- Catholic Character Review

12 September Meeting

- 2019 MOE staffing and budget
- Catholic Character Review Report
- Uniform

24 October Meeting

- PAT results (Term 3)
- Vision and Strategy for 2019
- Update on Annual Goals

Full meeting minutes available on the Board of Trustee's page on the school's website.