



Board of Trustees Newsletter

Term 2 2018

Dear St Heliers School Community

I suppose it is too late to say welcome to the 2018 school year, since the month seemed to change from February to May in the blink of an eye. We certainly hit the ground running at the beginning of the year, thanks to some wonderful preparation from the staff whose holidays ended many days before that of the children.

There were many highlights last term including the Meet the Teachers Evening, the School Picnic, and the first ever Family Easter Quiz Bingo night. This was such a fun evening for both parents and children, and I very much hope that we will see this event back in 2019. Thank you so much to the PTA for coordinating all of the above events, and to everyone who gave even the smallest amount of time to help out. It makes a difference to the children and the entire school in so many ways.

Term 1 also saw the swimming sports, a mufti day, many exciting class trips and sports tournaments and our special Anzac Ceremony on a very cold and blustery day.

The Board were so pleased to see work begin on Block 3 (Rooms 4, 5, and 6), which will result in St Heliers School enjoying some modern and innovative learning areas, as well as some specialized teaching spaces. The delays we experienced with asbestos removal were unfortunate but we are pleased at how the building program has been managed. Clearance has been given, and everything is now back on track. We look forward to this wonderful space being available for our teachers and children later in the year.

Are you also aware of the recent refurbishment of our old dental clinic building behind Room 3? This is now a new well-configured Language Room. Mrs Harris, Ms Bryant and Mrs Sheffield are very much enjoying their new space.

Professional Development

It is important for the Board to take learning opportunities provided to ensure we have the knowledge and skills to best serve our school. Last term many members of the Board attended an evening seminar focusing on financial governance. Rob Stickland attended a course on the role of the staff representative, and I gained a number of insights at a course about leading an effective Board and at a workshop about Innovative Learning Environments.

This term I was also invited to join the NZSTA (NZ School Trustees Association) Executive Board. As part of the Auckland branch of this national board, I will be part of a team who provide support, education and networking opportunities to 429 school boards in our city. I am pleased to have this chance to be connected with the education of our children at this new level.

Principal Appraisal

A key component of a Board of Trustees' responsibilities is to conduct the annual Principal's appraisal, which we have just received. This is handled externally for the Board by education consultants EDSOL NZ. A very comprehensive process is followed to assess Craig in areas of Principal Professional Standards, Performance Objectives and Compliance.

Once again, this appraisal document is an absolute credit to Craig and his dedication to the children, staff and entire community of St Heliers School. Our appraiser commented that all involved with the school should be very proud of our recent ERO Report. He acknowledged that 'Craig sets the tone for a culture of continuous high achievement', and that he found it 'exciting to watch the learning processes at work' in our school. The Board would like to congratulate Craig on the standard of this appraisal report. We appreciate that a huge amount of work goes in to operating at the level that he does.

COL Appointment

Our School is part of a Community of Learning (COL) with Glendowie School, Churchill Park School and Glendowie College. You may be aware that Anne-Marie Biggs from Glendowie School has been our COL Lead Principal for the past year, and has done an outstanding job during these early stages. As part of the COL Appointments Panel, I was recently involved in the interviews for our next Lead Principal who will guide us into the next stage of collaboration toward our shared achievement challenges.

I am pleased to announce that Craig McCarthy will take over this role for one year from 23 July 2018. Craig will do an excellent job for the COL, as well as continuing to meet the needs of St Heliers School with the support of our wonderful Leadership Team and Staff.

Congratulations again to Craig!

Looking Forward

Now is the time for us to be finalising our next Three-Year Strategic Plan for the school. In doing so, we consider our 2017 Community Survey, ERO Report recommendations, Policy Reviews and National Education Priorities. The Annual Plan then brings this to life on a daily basis for the school.

This term will see more great trips, sports tournaments, visiting speakers, a dance crew, school photos, cycle safety sessions, science roadshow, PTA movie nights, a book fair, and school reports with parent teacher interviews to top it all off. This is such a busy term for our teachers, and the Board would like to thank them for the extra hours that we know they will be putting in over the coming weeks.

Enjoy the last weeks of autumn everyone. Stay well, and have a great term.

Kind regards



Kathy Harding
Chair

St Heliers School Board of Trustees