

St Brigid's School – Board of Trustees 2018 News

The Board are extremely grateful to Linda and all our school staff for all their hard work and continuous efforts during 2018. This hard work and effort was reflected in a very pleasing ERO Report (see below) following ERO's visit in May 2018.

Student Progress

Our basis for tracking student progress changed at the beginning of 2018 from using National Standards to track progress to using the expectations of the NZ Curriculum Document. Linda's Reports to the BOT (presented at each meeting) include the results of various tests used to measure student progress throughout the year, and to make Overall Teacher Judgements for students. Throughout 2018, these tests continued to show very positive results which were reflected in the end of year Overall Teacher Judgements as follows:

| % / (number) of Students | Not at NZC Expectation | Not quite at NZC Expectation | At NZC Expectation | Above NZC Expectation |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Reading | 0% (1) | 7% (22) | 61% (183) | 31% (92) |
| Writing | 1% (2) | 10% (30) | 73% (217) | 16% (49) |
| Mathematics | 2% (5) | 10% (31) | 68% (203) | 20% (59) |

For those children who need extra support, we have seen the continued use of robust specialist learning programmes, and our teacher aides working alongside individual children and targeted groups. Going into 2019, Pauline Sharp's role has evolved such that she is now our dedicated Special Educational Needs Coordinator for the whole school.

Education Review Office (ERO) visit – May 2018

ERO visited our school in May 2018 to complete a review. There is a link to the final report on our school website but it was very pleasing to see that ERO identified our key strengths as areas that are fundamental to school life:

- *Achieving outcomes for students that show consistently high levels of achievement*
- *Leadership, systems and practices that ensure ongoing improvement in teaching and learning*
- *Pastoral care that fosters student wellbeing and supports their learning success.*

ERO also said in its Report, "*There is a **relentless** focus on supporting all learners to achieve well and be successful*". This is of course is a reflection of the never-ending commitment and drive of our teachers and staff at St Brigid's who are consistently going beyond the call of duty to support our children.

Property

Early in 2018, the outside of the junior block was repainted and a number of the windows and doors replaced. More recently, parts of the outside of the senior block have been repainted. A number of improvements have also been made to the playground areas including; new decking near the shed, new decking near the stream, new fencing around the top of the crib wall, planting and seat in the prayer area, new shade cloth and seats in the senior playground. Perhaps the most successful improvement (and the one most used by our children) has been the installation of artificial grass outside Rooms 5 and 6. We're very grateful to the Friends and Family Fundraising Team and to the Catholic Schools Board for their contributions to these property projects.

During 2019, we will look at further enhancements including improvements to the junior playground, and modernising Rooms 12, 13 and 14.

Fundraising

In November 2018, the Friends and Family Fundraising Team ran the very successful Food and Cultural Festival. It was lovely to see the community come together to celebrate our cultural diversity and enjoy the fabulous food cooked by our many ethnic groups. An amazing \$10k was also raised on the day which will be used for projects approved by the Friends and Family Team.

Board members

At our final board meeting for the year, we said goodbye to Father Peter Fitzgibbon and John van den Heuvel who were both long standing members of our Board. We will miss both Father's and John's experience and wisdom, and are very grateful to them both for their hard work and efforts over the years.

Strategic Plan

A link to our strategic plan can be found on the website. We're grateful to those families who took the time to complete the 2018 parent survey and provide us with feedback that can be fed into the strategic plan.

Looking Forward

2019 will see some changes to our BOT as we have the triennial elections in June 2019. This will give our community the chance to nominate themselves to be a parent representative on the BOT and/or vote for five parent representatives for the BOT. We welcome anyone who is interested in joining the BOT to have a chat with one of our existing representatives.

The Government has also issued new recommendations (the Tomorrow's Schools Report) for schools which will significantly change the governance, management and administration of our schools. We are currently reviewing these recommendations to understand how they might affect our school, and to provide feedback to MOE on the proposals.

Carol Winter

Board Chairperson