



St Leo's Board of Trustees – Newsletter Term 3, 2018

Kia ora and welcome to this edition of the St Leo's Board of Trustees Newsletter.

We have had a busy and successful Term 3 as a Board of Trustees (BoT) and we are sure that our children, teachers and families are now looking forward to a good break over the school holidays and returning refreshed for the Kiwi Spring and Term 4.

This second term for our Principal, Maureen Harris, has been another positive step forward for St Leo's school as we hosted the Education Review Office (ERO) for their three-yearly evaluation. The preparation for this review takes significant planning and effort and although we have yet to view the draft report, we received a positive verbal appraisal from the ERO evaluators. The BoT wishes to express their sincere thanks for all the hard work that Maureen and the St Leo's team put into this important review. We will share the official report with you all in Term 4 when it becomes available.

St Leo's has an enviable record of academic, sporting and cultural achievement, as well as participation in the wider community accomplishments. We aim to enhance this record with a curriculum review planned in 2019.

The ERO Report is important, not only for parents as a guide to the quality of education that we provide at St Leo's but also for the school as a guide to areas where strategic and annual planning can be enhanced. We will be using this feedback as well as a recent New Zealand School Trustees Association (NZSTA) Internal Evaluation Survey to set the goals for 2019 in Term 4.

One aspect that the BoT will be focusing on as we refresh our strategic direction is community consultation. To that end we are planning to host a parents evening in Term 4 to share an overview of the work the BoT undertakes and hear what changes parents and caregivers would like to see at St Leo's.

This consultation is especially important as we head towards the BoT election in June 2019. Several members of the current BoT will be stepping down, and it is important that we start transition planning to ensure a new BoT can provide appropriate support to Maureen and the team. We encourage community members to attend either of the two BoT meetings in Term 4, on November 8 and December 6. Please advise the school of your interest to attend a week prior to the meetings so we can share the meeting agenda beforehand.

We wish to share the great news of the growing school roll, which is now at 85 children. We expect to finish the year with a roll of 88 but this number will drop back at the start of 2019 as we lose a large 2018 Year 6 class. It is important that we grow our roll to 100 to guarantee Ministry of Education funding for five teachers. Currently, we are funding a fifth teacher out of our operating grant and our cash reserves, which creates an unsustainable deficit. Parents and caregivers are the best advocates of our school and our most important marketing channel. We regularly hear new parents cite the importance of values as one of the key reasons they decided to send their children to St Leo's. We hope that you can reinforce our emphasis on values and student achievements in the community to promote our great wee school.

We welcome the three new families who joined St Leo's in Term 3 and look forward to more new families joining us in Term 4.



As Father Larry mentioned in his homily at the previous school Mass, our school endeavours to instill Catholic values but also to nurture and grow the faith of our students. This element of faith formation is unique to us as a Catholic school.

Finally, we look forward to celebrating the 125th anniversary of St Leo's school with a Mass on November 11. This historic event will celebrate the value of our school and values that it brings to our community. This event recognises the special place that St Leo's has in the history of the Devonport community. We are proud to be part of that history.

Nga Mihi / kindest regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael".

The Board of Trustees