

Stella Maris Catholic Primary School BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Term one started with momentum, for not only our students and staff, but also the Board of Trustees. It seems our students quickly got into the swing of things, and the amount of activities and out of school events certainly shows the diversity we have at Stella Maris – fantastic results at the Interschool Swimming, awesome achievement at the Soap Box Derby and a huge number of our kids participating in the Weetbix Kiwi Kids Tryathlon – just to name a few! Back in the classroom, our students seem to have grasped the new approach to Maths teaching, enjoyed exploring their ‘Identity’ concept, and I know some Shine Challenges have also been ticked off – let’s hope this enthusiasm and energy lasts till December!

The Board of Trustees have also ticked a few boxes already this Term and, whilst it may not be as visible as our students achievements, we know we are consistently making sure Stella Maris is performing as best as possible in all areas. The Year always starts with the School Charter and Budget being reviewed and submitted, and this year we put some time into setting up an Annual Agenda (well a triennial one actually!). As Chair, I have been to a number of training sessions put on by the School Trustees Association, and picked up a few useful tools and templates along the way. Our Annual Agenda helps us plan the year ahead strategically, making sure we are dedicating sufficient time to the ‘big picture’ items, as well as the emergent agenda items that pop up as the year unfolds.

Time and effort is also being dedicated to the marketing of Stella Maris. You’ll hear Alan and I say a number of times to each other, “If you always do what you’ve always done, you’ll always get what you’ve always got!” We can’t be complacent and just assume potential families know about Stella Maris. With the population growth in our area we need to make sure families are aware Stella Maris is on their doorstep, offering a quality education in a Catholic environment. Hopefully you’ve noticed the new billboard on the side of St Therese? It’s always important to look at things with fresh eyes and make sure our first impression is the best we can give.

The Nelson family are moving, so Trudi Nelson is retiring from her role on the Board. We thank Trudi immensely for her time, energy and skill set she has brought to us, as well as her amazing efforts with the Friends of Stella Maris Facebook page and the Pastoral Care meals she has organised.

Next Term we have the triennial elections for the Board of Trustees. This is your chance to look at standing or at least voting for the Parent Elected Representatives. There are five positions available, and three current Trustees intend to re-stand (myself, Peter Beckett and Conan Willis). Being a Trustee is both a privilege and a commitment – I can assure you many hours are needed alongside the monthly Board Meeting, and this can vary depending on what projects need commitment. Integrity, honesty as well as time and commitment are a must. If you are interested, don’t hesitate to contact me to discuss things and find out more about what’s involved. There’s also a great clip at www.nzsta.org.nz on becoming a trustee that’s worth a nosey. Please also remember to support our current parent elected reps who intend to re-stand – Peter, Conan and myself are all extremely active on the various sub-committees within the Board, and “we’re not done yet!”

Next term our ERO (Education Review Office) review will also be carried out – we’re just waiting on exact timing for this.

From the entire Board, we wish you all safe and enjoyable school holidays, and thank you to everyone for the support you give Stella Maris and our community – whether it’s on the sports fields, walking to swimming, parent help in the classroom or through our fantastic PTFA initiatives. It is all appreciated. Not to forget our wonderful teachers and support staff – we are so grateful to have each and every one of you – you are valued immensely.

God Bless, Sarah Porter
Stella Maris Chairperson
Ph: 021 995 226
Email: shporter@slingshot.co.nz



Sarah Porter
Parent Elected
Chair Person



Fr Patrick Brady
Proprietor's
Appointee



Peter Beckett
Parent Elected



Trudi Nelson
Parent Appointed

Parent Rep
Vacancy



Nicole Lawson
Proprietor's
Appointee



Peter Watt
Proprietor's
Appointee



Alan Watts
Principal



Catherine Cyprian
Staff
Representative



Conan Willis
Parent
Appointed



Rachel Nui
Proprietor's
Appointee