

Board of Trustees Term 1 2018

13th April 2018

We are a quarter of the way through the school year, and already our Stella Maris community and students are shining bright! There is always something going on – whether it be sports, musical or community involvement, and the showcase of talent at the Welcome Picnic certainly highlighted how fantastic our students are, not to mention the support they get from their teachers, tutors and staff!

The Board of Trustees has started the year as we set to continue – tending to necessary functions of the Board such as Finance, Property, and Special Character; as well as constantly looking at our much larger goal and focus of **Student Achievement**. We farewell two of our Board members this term, both Peter Beckett and Conan Willis are standing down due to other commitments. Both have been integral members of the Board for a number of years, and generously shared their skillsets to constantly improve our school. Thank you to both Peter and Conan for all the work you have done for our school and the community, it has truly been appreciated.

The Board is looking at succession planning for the future, as a number of Board members have also indicated they will be stepping down when the Board Elections roll around next year. This is certainly not a negative, just a timing factor as their children leave the school. Now is certainly the time to let me know if you are interested in joining the Board of Trustees! Do get in touch (P: 021 995 226 E: shporter@slingshot.co.nz) if you have questions or would like to know more about the Board's functions and Governance role.

Our PTFA held their AGM last month, and Renee Beckett has finished her term as Chairperson. Whilst there are always many people to thank within the PTFA, special mention has to go to Renee's incredible passion, dedication and commitment to the cause! Not only as the Chair, but also the massive undertaking she has nearly completed with the school playground enhancement project. Renee, "you are amazing and our school community is so much better off having you part of it". Thank you.

I am constantly reminded of how unique our Stella Maris community is. Whether it's at the pizza and chip night with new families, in the school carpark, or on walks to and from swimming lessons; students, parents and staff are so incredibly proud of our school and make such a huge effort to be involved.

So again, this is the opportunity to say thank you. To everyone who plays such an integral part in our community. Our students who are constantly striving to achieve and who live out the Marian Values every day. To the staff who always go above and beyond what is needed, and do so with such pride, passion and love. And to the parents and friends of Stella Maris, whether it's walking the kids to and from swimming, our PTFA, cheering and coaching from the side line or just that friendly chat and connection when new students and families join our school. You are all appreciated immensely and really do help make our school something extra special.

Enjoy your school holiday period, and thank you again for the part you play in making our Stella Maris community the best there is.

God Bless,
Sarah Porter
Stella Maris Chairperson
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