



Stella Maris Catholic Primary School
BOARD of TRUSTEES Announcement June
2020

“When educating the minds of our young, we must not forget to educate their hearts.”

**Dalai Lama*

The tone and spirit of a community or school are always influenced by the individuals within that community. The teachers and support staff of a school have a huge impact on the feel of the school character, its level of respect for students and teachers, and its values that it upholds. There is no more single person who has a greater impact on these values and the character of the school than the school's principal.

Our Stella Maris Catholic School community has been blessed to have at its head Alan Watts, who for a good percentage of our school's life has been our principal and leader and our major influence on Stella Maris life and our school “feel”. This tenure, sadly, is coming to an end. Alan has announced his retirement to the school Board of Trustees and staff, to be effective January 2021.

We will be extremely sad to see Alan go when the time comes for his last duty of “drop off zone” or walking the students to the bus pick up zone. I certainly remember through my schooling years (quite some time ago) the principals would never do such a thing as stand at the drop off/pick up zone daily greeting the children as they arrived. It would have been considered beneath them. But, then that is why here at Stella Maris Catholic Primary School we have a great character, great spirit of caring and we uphold our Marian values with pride. This comes from the TOP and Alan has had a huge influence on setting the tone of “educating their hearts”.

As the Board of Trustees chair person it is my job to inform the school community of parents, students and caregivers of Alan's upcoming retirement officially, plus also assure the wider school community that the school leadership team and Board of Trustees are already active in the process for finding a suitable candidate to take over from Alan next year. As this is a close community, please feel free to contact myself if you have any questions, concerns, suggestions or views you would like to share.

Kind Regards.

Derek Molloy – Stella Maris BOT Chairperson

Email derekm1966@yahoo.co.nz

