

Stella Maris BOT Newsletter – Term 4 – December 2020

WHATUNGARONGA RO TE TANGATA TOITU TE WHENUA

As the man disappears from sight, the land still remains.

There is no point going on about the difficulties we have all, nationwide and Worldwide, experienced this year with the Global pandemics effects hitting our health system and economy. The old saying “life is 10% what happens and 90% how you react to it” comes to mind. There has been great disruption and inconvenience, plus huge



upheaval of student's daily and weekly routines. But, by and large, most have responded with a maturity level that far outweighs their chronological age. They have showed great degrees of adaptability and resilience and we congratulate them.



It certainly has been an interesting and different year for Mr Alan Watts to farewell the Stella Maris family. But one in which his guidance and stable manner have been needed more than any other. His leadership through the year, ably assisted by our SLT (senior leadership team), our amazing DRS Mr Hobman, our dedicated teachers and support staff, has given our entire Board huge pride. It has been an honour. We thank you. Mr Watts has certainly given the students, plus many of the parents, this year a huge degree of reassurance when the high levels of anxiety that were evident in difficult COVID times. “Don't worry... the school will still be here when lock down has finished, and so will we” was Mr Watts catch phrase as we waved off lots of confused students and parents. The happy greetings at the drop off zone and smiley face tie to make the kids smile are worth more than we can say. Leading by example has never been so well demonstrated.

**"You're off to Great Places!
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting,
So... get on your way!"** Dr. Seuss

The Board would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Mr Watts for his sterling, never wavering service to our Stella Maris community for more than a decade. His leadership is the reason many of us have stood up to be of service to the school in one form or another. The spirit that Mr Watts has instilled in our school community is something that will remain long after his final day on the job. We would also like to express our best wishes and thanks to all others that are also leaving our school community. Our year 6 Huruwharu graduating students depart soon to various intermediate and secondary schools. We are sure you are leaving

us as well equipped as Stella Maris has managed to achieve for you. Good Luck. A number of our families also leave us for good, after many (and I mean many) years of continuous service to the school. In particular I wish to thank, on behalf of the current Board, Peter and Renee Beckett and family, who deserve special note as long serving PTFA and Board members.

To Kelly and all of our other PTFA folk, plus our Board members, the sports coaches, the class helpers, our dedicated swimming walkers, the fund raisers, the bakers and cooks, stall helpers, sausage sizzlers, lawn mowers, the garden and green house helpers, athletics day volunteers etc

.... THANK YOU. THANK YOU. THANK YOU.

I encourage all parents and guardians of our students to take an active role in the school community. It makes the children's journey more valuable and varied. Be assured the BOT appreciates all of the effort that goes on around the school. Your support is valued immensely.

Kind Regards & Blessings - Derek Molloy – Stella Maris BOT Chairperson Email bot@stellamaris.school.nz

News from the PTFA term 4

Wow! What a term! A Disco, fun lunch, calendar art and the end of year picnic has kept our team busy.

We started early in the term with the School Disco. The theme was Let it Glow and it really did glow! It was a hive of activity and the children really enjoyed the first big event together since lockdown. The PTFA raised a massive \$3415! A big thank you to Sheena, Kelly Alder, Jaime and Melissa for organising this event. It was definitely the best yet, we can't wait to see what is in store for next year!

Calendar Art is a fundraiser that is organised with the help of the teachers completing the art work in the classroom. This is a fundraiser that returns every year and proves to be very popular.

We are we very excited to announce we have joined the bike in schools trust. This trusts focus is to create equal opportunity for children to have access and opportunity to learn to ride bikes. We were put forward and were accepted to receive a \$20k grant towards bike storage and a bike fleet. This is very exciting and means we can reallocated funds raised from the wheel a thon to go towards the Sun shelter!

We are in search for a new secretary to join our PTFA team. If this is something you would like to know more about please find me to have a chat about the role.

Earlier this term I sent out a survey asking for parent feedback on fundraising events that we look to do next year. There was overwhelming feedback to have a parent quiz night and a Christmas Gala type event. We are conscious of how Covid has effected this year so are not wanting to pack out calendar with too many events. We want to create a fun social calendar that the parents look forward to each year. We plan to bring back re wild the child in 2022, we will be on the hunt for a venue, if you have some land that could be used for this please have a chat with me. Please check out the school calendar to see all scheduled events for next year!

Each 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.15pm we meet in the school staff room for our PTFA meeting, I would like to invite you to join us, this doesn't mean you will given jobs, it helps give you an understanding of what we have on, what we are trying to achieve and does give you the opportunity to offer help out where you can. All are welcome and you will have the opportunity to join us by Zoom if this suits you better.

Lastly I would like to thank you all for your support in the events and fundraisers we run throughout the year, these wouldn't happen without my great PFTA team, staff and parents helping out when called for and the students enjoying these events it just wouldn't happen and it is all much appreciated.

Finally a big thank you to our Pastoral Care team who so willingly provide meals for those in the school community in need.

Wishing you a happy and safe break see you next year! **Have a Happy Holy Christmas**