



## **Board of Trustees Newsletter – Term 1, 2016**

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I'd like to give you an update of what's been happening in the school from a governance perspective. Last year some of the parents suggested they'd like to hear more of what the board is up to, so we'll endeavour to finish each term with a newsletter.

It's hard to believe we already have the first term behind us. There are three key focuses of the Board from this time that we'd like to highlight.

1. **CHARTER** - At the start of the year schools submit their *charter* to the Ministry of Education. A charter is the school's plan for the next three years. It sets the high level focus for the school and how it should develop. The Board then delegates responsibility to the Principal to put the plans in place for the next year that will take it towards these goals. And throughout the year the board monitors how the school is progressing against these plans and takes any corrective actions necessary

Mt Carmel's Charter focuses on five key goals for our school:

1. *All Students Achieving their Potential* - New Zealand's education system encourages us to focus on each individual child and helping them achieve to their own potential. We want to keep this as a focus, with appropriate programmes in place for all children to achieve.
  2. *Developing the Mt Carmel Learning Philosophy* - This is about how we teach our children to 'own' their learning journey and develop into life-long learners. A good example you'll see is a greater focus on the Mt Carmel Kid and the values being discussed when awards are handed out at assembly.
  3. *Engaging and Representing our Communities* - As a Board of Trustees our job is to be representatives of the community, and ensure the school is set up to deliver to our needs. Things like this newsletter, consultation groups (eg Te Puna Manaakitanga) and surveys will allow us to improve how we do this.
  4. *Continue to strengthen the Catholic Character of Mt Carmel* - Our Catholic Character is something that defines us and makes us unique. It is a focus that we wish to maintain and enhance. We're lucky to have a strong relationship with Fr Sam and the parish and had a good [Catholic Character review](#) by the diocese last time (the next one is due in 2018).
  5. *Enhance the use of ICT in teaching, learning and administration of the school* - Technology can be a great enhancement to the teaching of our students. We want to ensure that children have access to technology and our staff know how to get the most out of it for student's learning. Both through the children's direct usage of it and using it to monitor and develop their educational progress.
2. **EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE** - This term we had the Education Review Office (or ERO) do their three yearly evaluation and report of how we're performing. So far we've had the evaluation and a verbal report to the Board. We're awaiting the written (final) report which will be with us early in the new term.

The verbal feedback was positive and the areas of focus they recommended were in line with what we expected and are focusing on in our Charter. Many thanks to Annette and the team for all the hard work leading up to ERO and throughout the week they were here. When the full report is available we'll share it with the community and use as part of our planning for the next three years.

3. **SURVEY** - In line with goal three of the school's charter (Engaging and Representing our Communities), the board will be sending out a survey at the start of the next term. This is a chance to provide direct input on how our school is performing and how you want it to develop. Please take the time to give us your thoughts. It's a chance for your thoughts to influence our future focus.

Have a good break and we'll see you and your children in term II.

Many thanks  
Andrew Martin (Marty)  
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