

Chairperson's Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2016

*E mihi atu, kia koutou, i tenei po
Ki nga Kaumatua , nga kuia, nga tangata whenua, o te rohe nei
Kei te mihi, kei te mihi, kei te mihi*

A very warm welcome to all students, staff, parents, family and whanau.

*Hutia te rito, o te harakeke,
Kei hea, te kōmako e kō?
Kī mai ki ahau, he aha te mea nui o tenei ao
Māku e kī atu, he tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata*

*If you remove the main shoot from the flax bush, from where would the
bellbirds sing?*

*If I was asked, what was the most important thing in the world;
I would reply, it is people, it is people, it is people*

... these appropriate words are from a Proverb titled the “Harakeke Flax”

The Sacred Heart School board of trustees would like to congratulate our school leavers for what they have accomplished throughout the year, as we draw a conclusion to what Sacred Heart can offer to you as your school, let us celebrate what you can take away with you on your new journey.

“The Sacred Heart Way” has offered to you a friendly place, where our pupils, our staff and our parents have demonstrated - **excellence, respect, honesty, consideration, responsibility, courtesy, sustainability and diversity,**

These core values have strengthened your foundation and will enhance and shape your new direction as leaders in your new school in 2017.

You are now our ambassadors as you continue your growth, you have lived and led “The Sacred Heart way” as our senior students and our school is grateful, I appreciate your efforts and thank you for your leadership.

Sacred Heart School is great shape as we end this 2016 year, our school is developing well under the passionate leadership of our principal and his team.

Frank you have encouraged and delivered some great initiatives this year, your actions and your delegation style has been noticeable, especially creating change, encouraging personal development and offering clarity around reporting, your passion drives a vibrant team culture and it enables our school to strengthen.

Thanks Frank for your passion and your actions and here is an example I will share with you.

We have a goal in our charter “to deliver a balanced Curriculum for all our students”, personal development this year has created new ideas, collaborative thinking is now the new normal, we are accepting and adapting to new ways of learning and all of these attributes have triggered the perfect time for us to further develop our staff and student connectedness.

What I can proudly report to you today, is that we are progressing, the team is led by Liz our deputy principal and our very own talented hard-working teachers are driving these changes.

Our Teachers will allow this to evolve from our culture, they will create a style that is inclusive of our new learning ways and environments, and they will consider innovative ways to tailor our Curriculum to be a nice snugly fit for our pupils.

Thank you to all for participating, your abilities and your collaborative vision is humbling.

This year we had our (Religious Education) RE review, it was again pleasing to read some great results and report it to the board, so I will share this paragraph with you from that same report, Thank you Kath Clark and the team for your efforts that contributed to these encouraging results – this statement can only make us proud.

”The prayer and liturgical life bears strong witness to the Catholic nature at our school, Sacred Heart works closely with the parish and together they give witness to a joyful shared faith and practice. Senior students welcome opportunities to lead in the Sacred Heart Way”

As a school, we participated this year in a number of Cultural festivals, including a special Filipino dance at Horncastle arena and our children have delivered some beautiful performances.

Our “Song to Mary”, titled “Ka Waiata” has been sung multiple times and always offers a reaction of overwhelming emotion...

... however the absolute stand out performance this year is our Children's behaviour, in my opinion our behaviour at this school, is our best form of marketing and it is a market leader.

Our children's strength comes to life and is dominant when we are on public display, we do not require multiple teachers actively intervening and addressing our behaviour, we believe in our children to be respectful.

Our children are together patient, they show respect and they stand quietly and allow their collective behaviour to take centre stage.

Children I thank you for your actions, these actions reward our teachers and our parents and it demonstrates to the audience that our "Sacred Heart Way" is real and is lived – thank you children of Sacred Heart for giving back to us.

I will share a comment made to me from Frank recently, "I have complete trust of our children and I believe we can take them to most places, they are so respectful, even when we visited a retirement village recently... it is amazing!" yes, it is amazing I agree.

Next year presents us another new start, the board will have some exciting challenges, we have an opportunity to enhance and make a significant difference to the property of our school and we also have our delayed ERO review, this takes up a lot of time and it requires some energy zapping competent discussions, these are two major focuses that we have in front of us as a board in the New Year.

We will continue to have our Swimming, our School Camps, our Cultural Festivals, our Sports Days, our Performances, our Talent Shows, our Disco's and many more exciting things I am sure.

All of these exciting things cannot be accomplished without the calibre of our people;

- Our caretaker continues to look after and improve our grounds.
- We have a church as our neighbour allowing us access for that close spiritual connection, and we are thankful for Father John and Father Tom's guidance.
- We have motivational teacher aides that always want to help out and go that extra mile without question.
- We have Claire in our office with her experience and knowledge, whose contributions are valued and allows us to have some extra horsepower when required, Nova pay is an example of this.

- We have intelligent teachers that are hard-working, they work extremely well as a collaborative, with a joint vision to enhance our school as I mentioned earlier, they challenge and support because they care and they are devoted to our school, Sacred Heart.
- We have our board that is committed to improvement and will continue to develop ideas in the New Year.
- We have passion, accountability and leadership from our Principal Frank McManus, and Deputy Principal Liz Williams.
- We also have a great community and a great culture, who are inclusive and involved, and parent help is always offered and appreciated.

I thank you all collectively for sharing a vision together,
I thank you all for being yourselves and for being good people, and I thank you all for your contributions this year to Sacred Heart School.

I am excited about what we can accomplish together next year in 2017, “we are blessed”.

My name is Brendan Bourne and I am proudly the Chairperson of Sacred Heart School and to mirror the proverb that I started with, titled “The Harakeke Flax”,

The board is committed to supply to Sacred Heart School, the strongest shoots on our Flax Bush, so we can offer the ideal spot for all our Bellbird’s to sing.

And if you asked the board, what is the most important thing in the world, we would reply.... it is people, it is people, it is people.

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Kei hea te kōmako e kō?
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