

Good evening everyone!

The Sacred Heart School board of trustees would like to congratulate our school leavers for what they have accomplished this year. As you start high school next year, may the Sacred Heart Way guide and help you.

Sacred Heart School had big changes this year. This is our first year with Frank as our school principal. Frank has done an outstanding job as a first-year school principal as reflected with what Sacred Heart School has achieved this year. At the same time, the board has also appointed Liz as the deputy principal. As the school principal, Frank has made a good decision in bringing in Naomi, Olivia and Karli for this year. What we have now is a faculty made up of a combination of youth and experience. We have teachers who have a lot of skills and talents to impart to our children.

Sacred Heart School remains a part of the Kahukura Cluster made up of 8 other schools in this area. As part of this cluster, board members have attended joint forums with them and they have treated us as an integral part of this cluster. At the same time, we have been working with them in the implementation of the New Pedagogies for Deeper Learning. This year, our teachers have had success in the Collaborative approach to literacy teaching and learning. Liz, our lead teacher for the NP4DL project has done a submission to Core-Education which in turn will submit it to the Deeper Learning Conference in Seattle, USA.

The board would like to commend Kate and Olivia for the continuation of the "Reading at Home Program." We have received good feedback from the families involved in this programme. It has been noted also that there is greater participation now from our parents in relation to the home partnership program with the focus on Information and communication technology safety this year.

As part of the Maori Learning Programme headed by Paula, the highlight for this year was the visit to the TeWhatu Manawa Maoritanga o Rehua Marae. It was a learning opportunity for our children to be in a Marae. An opportunity to learn and understand the Maori culture.

In the field of sports, Sacred Heart School continues to participate in Basketball, mini-ball, swimming, cross country and athletic events. Music and dancing also plays an important part in the development of our children so they have participated in the Jump Jam competition and the Children's Choir. The school disco was a success with the kids having fun and the parents as well. They have also showcased their talents during the Arts Festival which I personally felt was one of the best arts festival we've had. All of our children were of course the stars of the show.

Swimming classes continued this year and will continue for next year. School camps were held earlier this year with teamwork, discipline and unity as some of the core values we wanted our children to develop.

Sacred Heart School is now Ultra-fast broadband capable as part of the Ministry of Education's School Network Upgrade Project. In addition to the 80 or more Ipads that we have, the board has allowed the purchase of 31 chrome books. With this significant number of electronic devices available, more students are able to use them as tools to help them with their learning. The school library has its share of improvements too, we continue to add more books for the kids to read especially when the weather is not great and they have to stay indoors. The board has approved the purchase of additional furniture and board games to be used in the library.

A new reporting format has been introduced this year showing the progress of the children in relation to the national standards. We have had positive feedback with the new record of

achievement and development. The board regularly monitors student achievement and checks on the progress of specific target groups in all subjects.

On the spiritual side of things, we had the sacraments of confirmation and first communion this year. Kath, our director of religious studies, has played an important role in the strengthening of the Catholic faith through the different liturgies. Kath has been helping Mike Nolan of the Catholic Education office with the Religious Education Online assessment research project. Father Tom and Father John have been very supportive with all the religious activities this year.

I would like to thank our support staff. To Claire Gibson, our school secretary, who has done more than what she is supposed to. Claire has taken the task to upgrade our school clinic. To our teacher aides Sue, Rowela and Carla who have been excellent in doing their respective tasks in helping out the teachers and our children. To our school caretaker Bryan, he has done a good job looking after the school and with the school garden making good use of the space where our toilet block used to be. And also, Bryan has been given the Caretaker award for 2015. At the same time, Sacred Heart School has been highly commended for its waste minimisation and recycling endorsement and was given the 2015 School Environment Award.

The board would like to thank Bev Reid for her time with the board, she has been with the school board and has been the treasurer since 2001. Bev has been looking after the school's finances and has done an outstanding job on keeping an eye on all the school's accounts.

Now, we look forward to another productive school year in 2016. The school will have its Education Review Office or ERO Review next year, we have been having 3 yearly reviews and we are aiming for a 5 yearly review. The school board will also work with Mike Nolan from the Catholic education Office to come up with school plans as part of the Bishop's 12 year property plan with repairs and improvement due in 2017. Hopefully, the school will be granted a substantial amount and the board will be working on these plans to develop a modern learning environment for Sacred Heart School.

As we are about to end another positive school year, let me share to you children, to you parents and to all who are present here tonight a motto from John Wesley that I heard from one of Father John's homily.

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can." If you do this, then consider yourself great and God will love you for this.

Thank you very much.