

## **Principal's Report May 2019**

**Goal 1: Integrated and authentic curriculum led by our special character.**

**Goal 2: Provision of relevant, challenging and safe EOTC within our integrated curriculum, supported by our community.**

**Goal 3: Full Board ownership of policy review.**

### **Special Character**

**GOAL 1:** Laudato Si remains at the heart of our Enviroschools work.

Our Friday morning prayer group participated in the Lenten prayer program led by Jan Plieger.

Some of the staff have been reading "Tools and Fuels," which is about vocations to teach in Catholic schools and we have found it very uplifting.

Three teachers and myself went to visit Mary Horn to discuss our Dominican tradition and how we carry this forward into the future in our school. We will be presenting a workshop at the Dominican conference in Invercargill in October.

School celebrated Holy Week in the last week of term with re-enactments of Palm Sunday, the Last Supper and Stations of the Cross.

I have done an extensive long term data analysis of our RE work dating back to 2014.

### **Leadership for Equity and Excellence**

**GOAL 1:** There has been a lot of leadership work around curriculum in the last couple of months. We are coming to the point where we can enter the "growing" phase of our charter goals and we are taking steps towards more authentic curriculum. What has helped with this is staff professional development in teaching literacy and numeracy effectively and systematically in a play-based learning environment and two days away with two teachers learning about project-based learning. This is as well as our external professional development which is focusing in the first place in "learning to learn," and increasing student agency. It is a challenge to keep the many threads moving in the right direction and gradually help develop a sense of coherence.

Many aspects of our work need to come together at the same time in order for authentic curriculum to happen and I'm working hard to ensure teachers can see the links and that the

links come together in order for us to reach the critical mass of understanding and commitment to move us forward as a team into the next phase.

Our Enviroschool work is lending itself very well to authentic curriculum.

### **Educationally Powerful Connections and Relationships**

**GOAL 1:** We have slowed down as a COL and continue our robust conversations at principal-level regarding what we are trying to achieve.

**Goal 2:** The day before the board meeting, the year 7 & 8 teachers and myself will have visited our camp locations for 2019. We will be conducting our own risk analysis of the environment and had conversations with our activity providers and gathered their RAMs forms. The whole risk assessment for the camp will be ready to present to the board at the next meeting.

I attended the Catholic Principals AGM in Dunedin in March. Also the next meeting in Winton on May 10th.

### **Responsive Curriculum, Effective Teaching and Opportunity to Learn**

#### **GOAL 1:**

Junior swimming lessons have been completed.

We hosted the Aquavan which provided opportunities for our students to learn about our coastal and marine life.

Some senior children are learning drumming and ukelele-playing. Some are attending the kapa haka group and some the Pasifika group.

Staff have done work on maths.

I am working with the year 4-6 teachers to reintroduce the peer writing program.

The whole teaching staff has started working on back-mapping curriculum. This will mean learning to use our curriculum document as a working document more than a planning document.

We are going for “less is more” and trying to streamline our curriculum and go deeper.

## **Professional and Collective Capacity**

**GOAL 1:** I have done class observations of all teachers and completed their appraisal cycles. All teachers have met the Code of Professional Standards and have successfully completed their 2018-19 appraisal cycle.

We have had a staff meeting about the social studies curriculum and how to tie it in with Enviroschools.

## **Evaluation, inquiry and knowledge-building for improvement and innovation**

**GOAL 1:** Staff have had their first professional learning group (PLG) meeting to discuss their spirals of inquiry. All have reported feeling more positive this year due to the changes made as a result of feedback in 2018.

As a staff we have read and unpacked "Weaving a coherent curriculum" by Rosemary Hipkins published by the New Zealand Council for Educational Research.

I have done extensive longitudinal data analysis to establish trends and correlations in our core curriculum areas: maths, writing, reading and RE.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

### **Goal 3:**

Roll: 164. 3 leavers - moved to North Island

Incoming: year 4, in transit to Dunedin

### **Personnel**

Nothing to report.

### **Finance**

Assets = \$132075

Liabilities = \$56,338

Working capital = \$75737

Our Ops Grant has been confirmed at \$277,551.10 net which is \$9,206 more than budget.

Staffing is confirmed at 11.23 FTTE (Full time teaching equivalent) which includes 8 classes, based on our predictions from last year.

We have received \$16800 plus GST back from last year's staffing.

Actual staffing is now only for 7 classrooms with a reduction in management release time - this will come into effect next year based on a similar roll. We have been notified by the Ministry that we are not able to make permanent appointments in 2019.

Note: MoE statement on confirmed staffing notice:

Your 1 March confirmed staffing is 1.30 FTTE and 1 UNITS lower than your provisional staffing.

You are therefore receiving staffing entitlement greater than your actual roll generates.

This is an indication that your board may have to manage a staffing reduction in 2020.

Boards in this position need Ministry approval to make permanent appointments for the remainder of the year, as making permanent appointments can result in a surplus staffing costs.

If you need advice about managing your staffing, visit [www.NZSTA.org.nz](http://www.NZSTA.org.nz), contact the NZSTA helpdesk

on 0800 782 435 or contact your NZSTA advisor.

If you want to make a permanent appointment this year, or if you want more information on the process, please email [resourcing@education.govt.nz](mailto:resourcing@education.govt.nz), and we will be happy to help.

We will not have to manage staffing reduction as our 8th classroom is presently fixed term as we knew the funding would drop.

This year I am using Facebook as a school publicity tool. I am paying to boost certain posts to reach a larger audience. A boost costing \$30 for our enrolment notice reached 4,434 people. Out of this I got 6 enrolment inquiries within the fortnight, unfortunately none of them meeting preference criteria. We are presently enrolling for 2020.

### **Property**

I completed our 10 year property plan. This was sent out prior to the meeting. The diocese is still working on the 10 year property plan and we believe we will have it soon. However we did not have it in time for this year's audited accounts and annual report and after two years without a plan we would have been non-compliant if we hadn't completed one.

### **Health and Safety**

We have had two lockdown drills, one for during classtime and one for playtime. Both were very efficient and effective. Our children have been practising them for two years and are not unduly worried.

We have also had a fire drill.

I have updated the newsletter with our location for pick up in case of tsunami warning. This is on the far side of the reservoir reserve on Reservoir Road.

Items reported from staff Thinktank sessions:

- Successful lockdown practices this week. Make sure to lock hall doors. Itinerant teachers also given the procedure so they know what to do if they are here. For a lunchtime lockdown leave by the staffroom outside door, not through office.
- Allocation of DPs students in emergency if LFR offsite.

