

Principal's Report February 2022

[National Education Learning Priorities \(NELP\)](#)

Annual Plan Goals - see bottom of doc

Goal 1: Ensure the future of our Catholic Community in North Otago by building a lifetime foundation in the Catholic faith, growing Catholic leaders and promoting a Christ-centred community.

- I have been engaging in ongoing conversations around our property work and have had a close look at the junior school for maintenance issues. All is reported in property report and diocese-parish-school property meeting today.
- I called a Collective Agreement callback day in the school holidays and the teachers gathered to clear our resources. We planned first how we would make our decisions and filter out what we would keep and not keep and went through the whole senior building quickly, and in harmony in less than five hours. Fantastic, as I thought we'd be back to finish in the next holidays. Incidentally this post on Facebook had a very strong and quick response from our community and the post performed over 80% better than average posts. This indicates some strong support and/or interest in the community for this.



- The first term's focus on the house groups and senior leadership development was really successful as told by this [movie story](#).
- We have been planning our "Encounter with Christ" Special character self review which is the review focus for 2022. We have changed prayers and religious education as a result and this is detailed more in the RE report. Engagement has been really good.

Proclaiming the Word of God

- We are coaching the children to be “Proclaimers.” That is so that they understand when they read the Word of God they are speaking the Word of God and not their own words, or not something that is just written down. We are teaching them that the Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the books in the Bible. At the same time the Holy Spirit inspires us as listeners so each one of us can directly hear the Word of God spoken to us. So we have changed how we do our whole school Monday prayers. Instead of sitting forward facing the stage and only listening, our children now gather in a circle around a lit candle.
- A large group of children have put their hands up to train to be Proclaimers and each Monday morning the Word of God is proclaimed. We choose a reading to support what the children are learning in RE and the behaviours we hope to see around the school during the week. At the end the children sitting in the circle are expected to listen for the Holy Spirit and to speak what is in their hearts. And they do. For the same reason we have also stepped it up at church and now the children are learning to proclaim from the lectern. We are really pleased that so many of our children have stepped forward and want to take up this responsibility.



- We have decided to run our own sacramental program this year supported by the parish. We are in the process of contacting families. I will be contacting all families of children who are not yet baptised to find out if they would like to be Baptised and therefore enter the Sacramental Program. Tua Misiloi, our co-DRS is running the program.

Goal 2: All students have meaningful and engaging learning experiences, striving for excellent outcomes for all.

- We've started work on our movie production. Below are a couple of links to initial trailers. I have connected with Maddy and Bridget who run the Filmmaking in Schools program and they

are really excited about our project. They see it is a “Heart-centred community project.” They will be helping our staff and senior students with some of the technical details.

- I wrote the script for the production and left it sufficiently open that each class will be able to develop some dialogue/drama/dance action of their own. The plan is that the staff and senior students do the filming and the Filmmakers in Schools will be providing training on Thursday 26th May.
- Here's a couple of short trailer snippets for those who haven't seen them on FB.
<https://fb.watch/d40galSdCp/>
https://fb.watch/d40q_uzlfd/
<https://fb.watch/d40r-JV4vR/>
- Our reporting focus on Educa this term is maths, reading and performing arts. All classes are preparing a dance sequence for the movie and all except JH1 are doing an element of drama as well.
- I have attended two full day wanangas, one in the holiday and one on Saturday. A fellow principal kindly offered me further te reo tutoring.
- We have two children on RTLB support and one with extra in-class funding for learning support.
- Our Whitestone Kahui Ako (COL) is feeling very promising this year. We are ironing out some inconsistencies and I believe that all the previous hard work is now starting to come to fruition. The staff have two COL staff meetings a term in place of our staff meeting and we have a SENCO gathering and regular principal's meetings.
- Behaviour and engagement is in a much better place than it was this time last year and I can bring some hard data on this to our next meeting.

Goal 3: Staff experience belonging and loyalty to St Joseph's and give enthusiasm, commitment and excellence.
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- The staff worked really well together on our resource-management during the holidays.
- Ann Dooley is taking Kakapo full time and we have employed two relievers, Bridget McKenzie and Rochelle Moore into one day (each) fixed term part time positions for term 2 and 3. So far we have been fortunate and not had to split a class up due to Covid. Michele Fatafehi is now back from leave.
- We have started practice analysis conversation (PAC) observations last week led by Nicola Winders, our COL Across School Teacher.

- As we had no options for release for teachers at the end of last term I worked only with the teacher aides to update learning needs and allocate priority learning resources to prepare for this term's learning support.
- I have met with each teacher regarding their professional growth goals for the year and teachers are encouraged to focus their PACs on their professional growth goals. Spirals of inquiry are optional but encouraged.
- I have a separate document for this meeting about my own professional next steps.
- Leanne Brookes has finished the training/accreditation in the Better Start Literacy Approach (structured literacy) with Canterbury University and Tua Misiloi is now doing it.
- The whole staff is engaging in training in the Pause, Breathe, Smile program. We have done this before and it had great effect with our learners. This was a children's mindfulness program introduced to address trauma after the Christchurch earthquakes.
- I secured 25 hours training in hybrid learning through MoE funding. I've been using this to guide us with Educa and one teacher has used the opportunity for one to one training to upskill. Its a tailored approach and responsive to our needs.
- All teachers will be attending the North Otago Principal's Conference in Spring holidays.
- As secretary of the North Otago Principals Association I wrote on behalf of the association to the Ministry and to our Attendance Service with concerns about how the attendance service is run in North Otago. The result was a meeting with Datacom who have the contract to run the Attendance Service and several Ministry representatives. The outcome of this was some specifics and some systematic issues to take back to the North Otago principal's group. Coincidentally (but not as a result) the government is having an urgent response to attendance issues. This led to Ministry representatives coming to our last principal's meeting requiring our "blue sky" thinking as to what should happen. I will also be attending a New Zealand Principal's hui in Wellington on behalf of North Otago where the main agenda item will be attendance. From some small grumblings in a principal's meeting we have taken a quick and interesting journey into having some real voice (perhaps) into some change processes.

Our Kahui Ako has secured Liz Kane for two days structured literacy training in November *probably* 14-15 November. These will be teacher only days and school will be closed. We knew we would do this at the start of the year when we planned our days for 2022.

Compliance

Roll = 109

Incoming: 1 new entrant

Goal 1: Ensure the future of our Catholic Community in North Otago by building a lifetime foundation in the Catholic faith, growing Catholic leaders and promoting a Christ-centred community.

<p><i>2022 Action</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property development will support the growth and renewal of our Catholic community. Support our Catholic teachers to develop their faith-based practice growing the understanding that all teachers are leaders and all leaders are teachers. 	Responsibility
Consult broadly with our community regarding the purpose and desire for our Catholic school in Oamaru and incorporate themes into a re-visioning, re-imaging and re-branding for St Joseph's in order to support our development and our new build. (NELP 1, 4, 5). Encourage people to think about their dreams for their future for their families, our school and our community. These dreams will be wrapped into our production and future strategic plans and re-imaging.	Board
Reinvigorate our Home and School Association and highlight the focus of Catholic community - food for parish freezer, pastoral support for families, prayer at meetings, social interaction between families. (NELP 1, 2). Encourage 2 or 3 parishioners to participate as evangelisation. Ensure we have our news in the monthly "Parishioner."	Principal, parents
Special Character internal review "Encounter with Christ." Changes to be made to whole school prayer structure in order to - proclaim the Gospel more fully, be more communal and equal, tied in with learning in RE to support key ideas, and as a basis for the practice of living like Jesus during the week, and the school rewards system. (NELP 1, 3, 4)	Principal, DRS's, Year 8 teacher, SC Head Students.
Staff to plan together more fully to integrate RE and the liturgical year cycle into the curriculum (NELP 3)	DRS, teachers
Create a greater sense of belonging to and competition between houses. Give consistent points for behaviour or day to day achievements (100). Competitions - swimming, athletics, performance, cross country get more points. House meetings to happen once a fortnight and prepare for house choir throughout the year and house leaders plan games or other smaller house competitions. Purchase a flag for each house and the flag goes up for the winning house on the next week. Pool play reward for winning house each term and look for sponsorship for this. Make a visible outside noticeboard to record house points.	Principal, year 8 teacher, year 8 students, students, teachers.

Goal 2: All students have meaningful and engaging learning experiences, striving for excellent outcomes for all.

<p><i>2022 Action</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the local curriculum and modify it to ensure it is meeting our goals and the goals of the Whitestone Kahui Ako. Review assessment and reporting practices that reflect authentic learning. Review the effectiveness of pedagogies used to foster agentic learning and modify appropriately. Spirals of enquiry are used to ensure there is equity for all learners. 	
Continue our work in understanding Te Ao Maori in our local context. Through combining with Moeraki Marae wherever possible to increase our understanding of our local background and culture. (NELP 1, 2, 3, 5)	Principal, Teachers
Teachers encouraged to participate in Whiria Level 1 Te Reo Maori and continue to focus Te Reo learning in staff meetings. (NELP 1, 2, 3)	Principal, Teachers

Continue to engage with Maori Achievement Cluster. (NELP 1, 3)	Principal
Use digital technologies as tools to enhance our performing arts. (NELP 1, 3, 4, 5) Use the junior school robotics equipment to support the literacy and numeracy curriculum NELP 1, 3, 4, 5)	Teachers, students Junior teachers
Engage in year 1 of Healthy Active Learning Partnership with MoE - focus on health and wellbeing and integrating Health and PE into our overall curriculum. (NELP 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)	Teachers, lead teacher
Take our final step in real time reporting - reporting directly against our learning progressions on a “real time” basis using the Educa app and stop mid and end of year reporting. (NELP 1, 3, 4)	Teachers.

Goal 3: Staff experience belonging and loyalty to St Joseph’s and give enthusiasm, commitment and excellence.

2022 Action: Review practices and procedures which support a sustainable, collaborative and professional team culture.

Tie the Professional Growth Cycle in with each teacher’s spiral of inquiry. Teachers to take responsibility for their professional growth cycles. (NELP 3)	Teachers, Principal
Further develop our within school coaching and practice analysis conversations to embed peer support and development (NELP 3)	WST, staff
Continue to involve our learning support team actively in setting and monitoring goals for target learners and develop teacher understanding and use of Universal Design for Learning principles in planning (NELP 1, 2, 3, 5)	SENCO, staff
Tie the Professional Growth Cycle in with each teacher’s spiral of inquiry. Teachers to take responsibility for their professional growth cycles. (NELP 3)	Teachers, Principal