

Term 2, 2020

## NEW EMAIL SYSTEM

In order to streamline our communications, we are now using the Mailchimp email system to manage our email communications. If you're not already on our mailing list simply send an email request to:

[stellaptfa@stellamaris.school.nz](mailto:stellaptfa@stellamaris.school.nz)

and we'll add you to the list.

## WE CERTAINLY DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING!

The polite way to describe the first half of 2020 would be "interesting". I never would have believed we'd spend four and a half weeks confined to our homes, and another two and a half weeks under heavy restrictions before being able to return to school. And what a welcome return it was! Among many lessons learned over alert levels 3 and 4, I learned that I'm a terrible teacher – and I only had one student. A huge shout of thanks to all our school staff, for what they do on a day-to-day basis, and particularly for how quickly they were able to adapt to the online learning environment during a stressful and unusual time.

## HOW THE PTFA IS MOVING FORWARD

Alert level 4 meant the postponement of the PTFA AGM, and the cancellation of all PTFA activities to the end of term 2. Our AGM is now scheduled to be held on Thursday 02 July 2020, at 7pm in the school library and will be a restart of the PTFA's 2020 year. All parents, teachers and friends of the

school are invited to attend. The AGM is where committee positions are elected, and everyone is invited to put their hand up for a position of interest. Positions are: Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and pending an amendment to the constitution, Fundraising Officer. We're always looking for extra pairs of hands outside of elected positions as well, so let us know what you can offer.

Following the AGM, we'll be holding our June General Meeting. This will be a scaled back version of our usual General Meeting and will primarily set our activities for Term 3. We'll be looking for help to run activities like fun lunches, and the kids disco. Come along and share your ideas!

## GOALS FOR 2020 AND BEYOND

At the first meeting of the year we confirmed our goals for 2020, which included purchasing a scaffold tower for Steve to assist his "working at heights" tasks around the school. We're pleased to have been able to achieve this one already. We'll also be looking to purchase a container to convert into bike/scooter storage in the not too distant future.

Our big project is to get sail shades over the playgrounds and sandpits. This is another lofty goal which will likely be a multi-year project. We have begun getting quotes with more to come and early indications are that our fundraising target will need to be in excess of \$30,000. We've already proven we can do it! Our amazing staff, led by Mr Hobman, have already begun organising our big fundraiser for the year; the "Wheel-a-thon" will be held on Friday 11 September 2020. More information will be sent home about this soon.

Here's hoping for a calm and predicible rest of 2020!

Roxy Pringle  
Chairperson, PTFA

## Stella Maris BOT Newsletter – Term 2 – July 2020

*“There is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about.”* Margaret J Wheatley

Well it appears that our students care about our school so much that they have strong views, some more LOL than others, regarding what our school Principal should be like. In the Board of Trustees process of filling the Principals vacancy after our valued Mr Watts retires next year, we have gone to the school student committee to ask their views. The perception and maturity of some of the views were a revelation. Some of those from the junior school were beautiful – Our new Principal should “play football with us”, “be phenomenal”, “make playtimes longer”, “should make the school into a massive playground” and my personal favourites were “to shake hands properly” and “to have hair.”



Some of the older children’s responses included a good range of our Marian Values, which is great to see that they are ingrained as important qualities – plus being generous, confident, courageous, patient, loving and caring, funny, joyful and intelligent and “have a school pet.” ☺ I think the next comment reflects a Principal in the making (hence the cartoon at the bottom). “We need someone who wasn’t a perfect student at school so they know how people struggle and know how to support them when it is hard.” Rest assured we will do our utmost to fill all of these important criteria that the children have noted as qualities no doubt seen already in our current Principal, except maybe not the school pet and hair will have to remain optional.

Some other changes of the guard at school is that we farewell one of our strongest supporters of the school from our Board, as Kerri Tait steps aside from her Parent Elected role. The entire BOT thanks Kerri for ALL her contributions - past, present and future and recognises the efforts of a true Stella stalwart. Kerri is replaced by another strong supporter and contributor, Druh Kelay, who many of

you will know from the Pasifika group, sports coaching and classroom helper. We welcome Druh to our team and appreciate her standing up to contribute.



*“I UNDERSTAND THE SCHOOL HAS A POLICY OF PROMOTING FROM WITHIN, SO I’D LIKE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR YOUR JOB WHEN YOU RETIRE.”*

I encourage all parents and guardians of our students to take an active role in the school and Parish community. It makes the children’s journey more valuable and varied. If you ever feel that you wish to step up to assist the school in any way there are many opportunities, on the PTFA, the Board, around the grounds or sports or cultural groups etc. Be assured the BOT appreciates all of the effort that goes on around the school. Your support is valued immensely.

Kind Regards - Derek Molloy – Stella Maris BOT  
Chairperson Email [derekm1966@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:derekm1966@yahoo.co.nz)