



Board of Trustees Newsletter

3rd Term 2020

Greetings from your Board. It has been some time since we corresponded with our school community, but we hope that this newsletter will be a regular feature of each term's engagement by your Board. We believe it is important to bring you news and goals, prayer points and an opportunity for you to provide us with feedback. Because we believe we are one community, attempting to bring about excellence for all through God's influence and our service for Him. As we move into the last term for the year, I would like to extend to you a sincere Thank You for sticking with and supporting your school especially during some very challenging times. Also, I would like to express our appreciation to our principal and staff who have worked extremely hard to provide as least a disruptive academic year as possible for our students.

2020 will no doubt go down as a year to remember, as we faced an unexpected pandemic and an equally unexpected lockdown to help in the fight against COVID-19. But rather than make this another review of the situation and its implications; which has little to do with what your Board of Trustees is all about, I will stay true to our calling and let you know how the Lord has directed the Board and what we have achieved just lately.

This year has provided its interruptions but overall, the Board has managed to stay on task and address the necessary issues as we have seen them and moved forward with singular focus. The following points are highlights for the year which we feel encouraged to share with you.

- **Preparation and lodgement of our application to become a fully composite school, teaching classes from Year 1-13**
 - We must thank Wendy and Deryk for working tirelessly during the time prior to the lodgement of the application which in the end was seen by the Ministry of Education as one of the best prepared and presented. It's no wonder that we were successful!
- **Strategic plan**
 - This document is essential to ensure that clear goals and phases of advancement for the school are properly drawn up and arranged so as to keep us informed as to what our next steps will be and how we will achieve them. This is nearing completion and should see our school well prepared and organised to continue our progress for the next three years.
- **Bicultural journey to enrich and connect more deeply with Tangata Whenua**
 - As a Board we have been working on how to partner with our whanau and community in bicultural development and implementation. Our goal is to connect with our Local Iwi and to have our community supportive and engaged; and for our tamariki to have a strong sense of belonging; identity and purpose.

- **Governance policy improvements**
 - We constantly review and amend as necessary the governance policies for our school so that we are always operating in a fair and effective way and according to best practise.
- **Refrigerated water filter and fountain**
 - We now have a filtered and refrigerated water fountain in the home economics/tech room to provide for the needs of our students and staff. We are grateful for this addition to the school facilities as it will be much needed in the final term of the school year.

Please do feel free to contact myself, the Board Chair and Wendy Gabriel to make any comments, share any ideas and provide feedback at any time.

Regards,

John Smolka
Sonrise Christian School Board of Trustees Chair