

13 October 2021



Kia ora tatou,

I write to you today on behalf of our St Joseph's Board of Trustees, at a time when again we all find ourselves waiting, wondering and hoping for what comes next for our families and our school community. I know that each one of you will have a story, positive, challenging or probably a mixture of both, of what this latest lockdown has meant for you and your tamariki. Indeed, an event as significant as a worldwide pandemic will generate stories that we will be telling our grandchildren and great-grandchildren one day!

As a Board, we wanted to take this opportunity to recognise and thank you for all that you have done over the past few months to support your children as we have returned to home based learning. We know ourselves that this is not always an easy thing to accommodate, particularly when you are juggling the other demands of family, work and your own well-being. We hope that you have had moments of satisfaction and pleasure as you have seen more closely what goes into your child's learning journey, and that these have helped to balance out some of the challenges that may have been encountered along the way.

I would also like to take this chance to honour the huge effort and commitment made by all the staff of St Joseph's to continue the education and support of our children under these circumstances. Lead ably by our principal and senior leadership team, we know that staff have gone above and beyond to provide quality learning opportunities, as well as pastoral care as needed. Their efforts have been a great example of love in action.

Our last two Board meetings have been held via Zoom, which holds its own set of challenges, but which has allowed us to at least continue with the basics of school governance. As usual, these meetings involved hearing updates, debating ideas, approving finances, making decisions and, as always, praying together. Looking ahead, we discussed our hope that some of the special traditions of Term 4 would still be possible, even if they may need to be run differently. We were also excited to see proposed plans for the development of a dynamic new playscape area in the grassed space by the pool, which will be supported by funding from our wonderful PTA and St Joseph's Development Trust.

Each year around this time, we invite the community to make nominations for "The St Joseph's Award", which was established to recognise outstanding voluntary service to our school by any member of the wider school community. Please think about anyone you know who you feel would be a fitting person to acknowledge in this way. You can access the [Nomination for St Joseph's Award](#) form here and return it to bot@stjosephs.co.nz by Week 2 of the new term.

Finally, I wish you all a positive beginning to our final term of the school year. However it unfolds, may you and your children make the most of your blessings and grow stronger and wiser from any challenges that come your way.

God bless

Simon Dykes
Chairperson
St Joseph's School Board of Trustees