

April 2021

Education & Property News

Education Manager Moving On

As many of you will have heard I will be leaving this role as Education Manager at the end of 2021. I have enjoyed the challenges and experiences it has offered, and I have learned a lot on my travels.

I am returning to the role as Principal at St Patrick's in Invercargill. My decision was driven by my desire to have a more hands on role and I am delighted to be able to stay in the Catholic network. With the long lead in time, it will make for a smooth transition and allow us to complete a number of initiatives.

NANO NAGLE TRUST CHEESE ROLL FUNDRAISER 2021

(For Dunedin and Mosgiel residents)

**\$7.50 DOZ OR 3 DOZEN FOR
\$20.00 OR 5 DOZEN FOR
\$32.00**

*Orders by Sunday 9TH May
(Delivery Weekend of Saturday
15th May)*

*If you would like to place an
order please email
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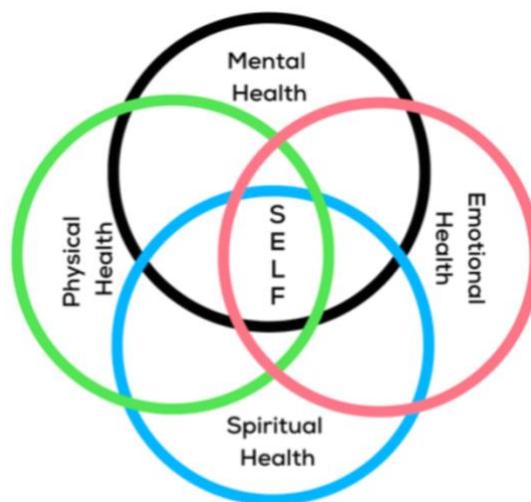
Focus on Wellbeing

When I visited Principals in the latter half of last year one of the key focus areas, I investigated was staff wellbeing, with a particular focus on Principal wellbeing. Using the information gathered I was able to produce a report for the Bishop that has been shared with all Boards of Trustees in the Diocese. The report painted an interesting picture and called for this to be higher on the priority list for our Boards, especially from a strategic standpoint.

Whilst there were pockets of really good practice too much of it was reactive in nature and in many cases, it was not a part of the wider strategic direction of the Board. Moving forward there are challenges for us all in terms of recruitment and retention. At present the number of people seeking a career in education is on the decline as are those willing to step into positions of leadership. This is exacerbated in the Catholic system due to the smaller pool from which we have to draw.

To have a viable Catholic schooling network our schools need to be seen as places where wellbeing is valued and nurtured. This of course is very much in line with our Catholic worldview, which is underpinned by loving and caring for the whole person. To this end we are challenging all schools to keep this at the forefront of their thinking and accept this challenge to strengthen this across our network.

By being proactive in this space we will hopefully be able to attract and retain staff, as well as encourage existing staff into positions of leadership. Leadership, especially Principal positions, are becoming harder to fill due the ever increasing and more complex demands of the job. It has been encouraging in our initial discussions with Principals and Board Chairs this year how willing Boards are to take on this important work. I look forward to sharing some great examples later in the year.



Great Results for Kavanagh

Kavanagh College staff and students were excited to receive our best Scholarship, NCEA and UE results in the last five years and, although 2020 lockdown learning had an impact on senior schools across New Zealand, Kavanagh College experienced a significant lift across the board, particularly in NCEA Levels 1, 3 and in our UE results. Our results across every level of NCEA and UE were ahead of national decile 8-10 data, with highlights being our boys at Level 1, and boys at UE level surpassing the national data for boys in decile 8-10 schools by a huge 22% and 20% respectively. We were also thrilled to learn that our students gained eight scholarships, with two outstanding scholarships, in last year's scholarship exams

Having Life to the Full

It was wonderful to have Lyn Smith working in the Diocese with over 20 staff from our schools recently on the 'Having Life to the Full' Human Sexuality Programme. A 4-day professional development course for staff in Catholic Early Childhood, Primary and Secondary Schools in Aotearoa New Zealand. It aims to assist staff to deepen & develop their understanding of the Catholic Church's perspective of the value of each human person, made in the image and likeness of God

Religious Education Advisor – Katrina van de Water

It has been a lovely start to the year. In Term One all the DRSs Secondary and primary have had meetings. All the meetings were very positive. The primary DRSs commenting how lovely it was this year to have Easter within the school term. The Easter preparations and liturgies were much more meaningful for many students as the Easter they were celebrating was right there. For example, Holy Thursday celebrations were actually on Holy Thursday when often it is in the school holidays.

Last year the primary DRSs had an opportunity to hear all about the new Religious Education Curriculum coming out soon. This year it was the secondary DRSs turn. All have appreciated the time and energy put into creating this curriculum by the National Centre for Religious Studies. Without exception the prospects of the new curriculum have been greeted with positivity and enthusiasm.

In Term One we also launched a video series on Fratelli Tutti presented by David Wells. David Wells is a writer and speaker with more than 30 years' experience in Catholic education and was a keynote speaker at the 2018 New Zealand Catholic Education Convention. These excellent videos are available for you to see on the Diocesan Website. <https://www.cdd.org.nz/twilight1/>. Enjoy



Kavanagh going for Gold!

Kavanagh College is very proud of its two Olympic qualifiers and both are part of our head student team. Head Girl, Erika Fairweather, has qualified for the Tokyo Olympics this year. Her outstanding performance in the pool and her commitment and determination is completely encased in a gentle humility that we admire in her. Erika, who has already swum under the qualification standard in the Women's 400m Freestyle for the Tokyo Olympic Games, lowered her entry time by .69 of a second, finishing with a time of 4:06.54 seconds, during the recent 2021 Aon National Swimming Championships. Fairweather broke her own 17-years Age Group record with this time.. In the 200m freestyle Erika swam a New Zealand 17-year-old record of 1min 57.58sec. We look forward to news of her inclusion in the NZ Olympic Swim Team.

Meanwhile, our Deputy Head Boy, Tobias Devereux, is aiming for the Olympics of a different kind. In January, Tobias was selected for the New Zealand Mathematical Olympiad training squad after being chosen from the top 26 mathematicians throughout the country. The final team of six students to represent New Zealand at the International Mathematical Olympiad in St Petersburg, Russia in July, and the non-travelling reserves, will be announced shortly and we wish Tobias all the best for his inclusion in this team. Tobias received this news earlier in the year after also hearing that he had received the Kee Teo Prize in Mathematics for 2020. This prize is awarded annually to the best undergraduate student enrolled in a second-year mathematics course in distance mode at Massey University.

Delivery of the Learning Support Coordinator (LSC) Spaces into Schools/Colleges

The Property Group is working towards delivery of 18 LSC spaces into our schools and colleges across Otago and Southland.

An LSC space is a small office for a LSC specialist and is designed to assist them delivering learning assistance to pupils as well as a meeting space for the whanau and other staff assisting in this programme.

Installation of 3 spaces is well advanced, drawings for other sites are completed and out to tender; and at least four more sites are advancing on the drawing board.



From the Property Desk

Kia ora koutou,

Here is an update on a selection of school and parish projects.

Hei konā mai

Bill, Craig & Kahurangi

The Property Team

Stage 1 Completed – St Thomas’ School Winton



St Thomas's, Winton: New Verandah & Classrooms

The contractor Jones & Cooper has completed Stage 1 of St Thomas’s refurbishment which includes four newly refurbished classrooms. These were handed over to the School just prior to Easter. Stage 2 is progressing and includes a modest extension to the staff room.

St Kevin’s College Committed to Heritage Building

Built as a stable in 1903 this wonderful heritage listed building has been used for sports change and general teaching space until closed because of seismic concerns. Not deterred St Kevin’s Foundation plans to structurally strengthen the Stables and return it to College use.



St Kevin's College, Oamaru: The Stables

The redevelopment is being managed St Kevin’s Foundation member Jimmy McGeown. Undertakings of this nature don’t come without cost and Jimmy is

Where do the Children go?

Check out this video by Colin MacLeod on exploring the relationship between schools and parishes. It is very thought provoking and one we would encourage you all to watch and reflect upon. [Click here to watch.](#)



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very keen to hear from St Kevin's College alumni who would like to be involved in or contribute to re-establishing the Stables as an integral part of the College.

You can contact Jimmy on 021 352 944 or e: jmcgeown@stkevins.school.nz

Redcastle, St Kevin's College, Oamaru

Priests Retirement Units Receiving Finishing Touches

The two priest retirement units are near completion. Remaining work is mostly external works – including installation of paving, clotheslines and re-establishment of lawn area.



New RE Curriculum

The National Centre for Religious Studies, which happens to have its national office in the Catholic Pastoral Centre in Dunedin, is developing a new Religious Education curriculum for Catholic schools in Aotearoa. Hopefully all principals and teachers are well aware of this as our consultation process has been underway for the past two years. We've received significant positive responses from around the country, including Dunedin Catholic schools and colleges, and work is well underway to resource Levels 1 (years 1 & 2) and 6 (year 11) of the draft curriculum document. This is an extremely complex and demanding process as we collectively outline and resource just what our young people need within Religious Education in our wonderful schools.



Led by Colin MacLeod, the team is blessed by the wisdom and experience of full-time or part time curriculum and resource developers: Laurel Lanner, Anne Kennedy, Jeanette Atabelo, Sam Steele, Jo Bell and Lyn Smith.

The aim is to finish the curriculum document by the end of this year and launch it at the national Catholic Convention in 2022. While it will be authorised and available immediately after launch, schools will have a few years to come to terms with the changes and roll it out in their own places. Each curriculum level will take NCRS approximately two years to fully resource, with the exception of senior secondary where we have doubled the personnel working at each level so we stay in step with changes to NCEA. In the meantime the consultation process continues as the document continues to be revised and refined.

Please, keep NCRS in your prayers as work hard to support schools.