

# JOHN PAUL COLLEGE

## BOARD TALK: March/April 2013

The Board of Trustees hopes our students, parents and caregivers had a happy and holy Easter and have continued to enjoy our Indian summer. This year has begun apace and we have already had our first two Board of Trustees meetings. We wish to take the opportunity of belatedly welcoming to the John Paul College community all our new students, our new parents and caregivers and our new staff. We trust your time with the school is rewarding and that our students experience a successful and enriching school life.

### John Paul College BOT Elections

The current John Paul College Board of Trustees has only two more Board meetings before triennial board elections for parent representatives take place on **Thursday 30 May, 2013**. Much has been achieved over the 3 year period of this board's governance: principally the planning with the Diocese for the Technology and Art Block, significant spending on up-grades in E-learning and Information Technology that have included additional computers, a pod of notebooks, a new file server, the installation of Kamar, the new Student Management System and the installation and cabling of the wireless network.

In our governance role as Board of Trustees we are charged with ensuring student achievement by overseeing the strategic direction of the school, ensuring sound financial and property management, determining policy and as employer, ensuring sound employment practices.

Our Board is made up of 6 elected parent representatives, 4 Proprietors' representatives appointed by the Bishop, the Principal, a student representative and a staff representative. With trustee elections for parent representatives imminent it is now your opportunity to contribute and make a difference to John Paul College by nominating candidates, by putting yourself forward for nomination and by voting for those candidates whose skills and experience will govern and support strong professional leadership and effective teaching encompassing our special catholic character, for all our JPC students.

At the end of this triennial term three current parent representatives will not be standing for election, all of whom have contributed valuable experience and expertise to the Board over a number of years and all of whom would describe their experience as interesting, challenging and above all rewarding.

Liz Lock, the secretary of the BOT is the returning officer for the BOT elections and Liz will be able to answer any of your questions. The chairperson and current trustees are also more than willing to answer any queries around trusteeship that you may have.

### Board of Trustees Election Timeline: 2013

Nominations open:	<b>15 April</b>
(nomination forms will be posted to all eligible voters at the end of this week)	
Nominations close:	<b>16 May</b>
Voting papers issued by:	<b>20 May</b>
Polls close/ Election date:	<b>30 May</b>
Votes counted/ results declared:	<b>5 June</b>
Board takes office:	<b>6 June</b>

## **Technology Block and Art Department Redevelopment:**

Over the summer holiday period the Technology and Arts faculties were moved to temporary premises on the MacKillop site. The old hostel villas have been adapted to accommodate the teaching spaces and equipment needed to meet curriculum requirements for woodwork, metalwork, graphics and art. We acknowledge the compromises that have had to be made but by the start of the school year in 2014 we will have a new purpose built Technology and Art Block. The final stages of compiling the tender documents is underway and we are very hopeful that demolition of the existing technology block and art department, as stage one of the project, will occur early in the second term.

## **Catholic Character Review**

Once again it is the triennial Catholic Character Review of John Paul College conducted by a review team from the Hamilton Diocese who will be at the school from Monday 15 April to Wednesday 17 April. They will be reviewing the promotion of Catholic Character and spirituality within the school and already much work has been done on the documentation required for this review.

## **School Finances:**

- **Audited Accounts**

The auditors were in the school in early March to prepare the financial accounts for the year ended 31 December, 2012. It is very pleasing to note that we have significantly improved our position from year end 2011, where we had a significant deficit, to a situation where we can report a very small surplus. This is due to careful financial management and restraint on spending shown by all staff.

- **School Donations:**

In November last year we advised all parents and caregivers that there would be a \$60.00 increase in the annual school donation contribution toward school funding. You will be invoiced once a term but through automatic payments the donation can be spread over the year. Whilst we appreciate that school contributions must be treated as voluntary donations we cannot stress enough how important your financial contributions are to the school. The reality is that without your contributions we would not have had the mezzanine floor in the Edmund Rice Centre, the International Students' Building, Successmaker, the bus, the transit vans, the server upgrade, and the various ICT improvements. Last year there was a significant outlay in becoming wireless – \$70,000 which we did budget for but which was very dependent on your contributions. The operations grant from the Ministry of Education is simply insufficient to fund curricular and extra-curricular resources as well as necessary support staffing. This year we will be focussing on the equipping of the new Technology Block.

## **Curriculum and Pastoral Plans 2013:**

In the 11 March school newsletter you received the results for the NCEA 2012 exams. As reported by the Principal these were our best results to date and compared us favourably with Decile 9 and 10 schools. This reflects very well on our teachers and we congratulate all staff on these fantastic results. At the last BOT meeting we received comprehensive faculty reports which reflect on last year's academic achievements and look to curriculum objectives for the 2013 year. In these reports staff analyse and compare the results of each class in each subject area. Such analysis forms the basis for self-reflection and continual improvement in the teaching and learning of our students. Each Year Level has also reported back to the Board on the Pastoral plan for that year level for 2013.

We wish you and your families God's blessing. Ma te pono me te aroha.

John Paul College  
Board of Trustees