

JOHN PAUL COLLEGE

BOARD TALK: July/ August 2012

The year is fast disappearing and senior students are soon to begin end of year preliminary exams. We wish them well in their studies. The year has continued to demonstrate the wonderful achievements of our students in all aspects of endeavour and we congratulate them all.

Casual Vacancy:

The Board of Trustees resolved to fill our 'casual' vacancy on the BOT, created by the resignation of Jared Dawson, by 'selection' and in accordance with Section 105 of the Education Act advertised our intention to do so and provided the opportunity for our constituency to request a by-election. We had no such requests and at the last Board meeting on 27 August we welcomed Jason Lock as our 'selected' parent representative. Jason is a detective with the police force, a former student of the College and will have children at the school. Apart from his career skills Jason has a particular interest in and experience with property – buildings, contractors, maintenance and grounds. We welcome Jason to the Board.

Enrolments:

Once again the applications for enrolments have far exceeded the places available. It is with very real regret that around fifty applicants have been advised they will not have a place at John Paul College in 2013. Decisions around the intake for each year level, and the enrolment criteria of our enrolment scheme have determined those turned down. It is so very frustrating to see students with preference cards who wish to come to John Paul College turned away due to the constraint of our maximum roll of 1100. If we exceed our maximum roll we receive no funding for those students or the staff required to teach them and we invoke the wrath of the Ministry and of other schools. We have again, through the auspices of the Hamilton Diocese, applied to the Ministry of Education for a further roll increase of 100. This application has been forwarded from the Rotorua MOE office to the Ministry in Wellington. We would urge you or any prospective parents, whose child has missed out on a place to John Paul College, to contact the local Ministry of Education office.

Technology Block and Art Department Redevelopment:

The drawings for the new Technology Block and Art Department are now finalised with the Faculty Heads and teachers and the architect will now be consulting with the engineers and contractors on the detail and costings. The demolition of the existing technology block and art department will, of course be the first stage in the building programme and this, plus the time to build, poses some major logistical problems for the departments affected and the school in general. With Graeme Roil, Hamilton Diocese Schools' Manager, we are strategizing how to house woodwork, metalwork, art and graphics over at the MacKillop campus by converting some of the hostel villas.

Building is still planned to commence in the second term of 2013 but the reality will be that for most of the year those departments will be without a permanent home. This dislocation and disruption will be rewarded with a new purpose built Technology Block by the end of 2013.

School Finances:

Our new financial management system is in place but still requires some modification to integrate with Kamar, the Student Management System. As with any new system there are hiccups but we are very confident that the efforts of our Executive Officer, Rolf Drost and the hard working office staff will deliver a financial management system that provides the information and financial reports we need to have effective control of our finances.

- **School Donations:**

We signalled in our last Board Talk that there would be an increase in the school contribution for 2013. We envisage an increase that, spread over the year, will still be manageable for most families but we are still working on this and looking at rationalising any increase. We cannot stress enough how important your voluntary financial contributions are to the school and we are very appreciative of your willingness to pay. 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. This year there is a significant outlay in becoming wireless – \$70,000 which we have budgeted for but which is 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.

Our next Board Talk will advise you of those increases.

Technology Matters:

We have revised our policies around the use of technology and e-learning devices at school in conjunction with cyber safety policies and rules. We now have a comprehensive set of policies and agreements with the addition of one further agreement which was discussed at the last Board meeting on 27 August, 2012. This was in response to the spate of degrading posts of staff and students on Facebook pages by current students and former students. Such behaviour cannot go unchecked particularly when it is defamatory or amounts to cyber bullying.

Attached is the proposed agreement to make it clear that such behaviour is not tolerated and that there are consequences to inappropriate ICT behaviour. We propose to introduce these agreements at the beginning of next year for all students to sign.

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

John Paul College
Board of Trustees