

ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

76 Lisa Crescent, P O Box 8041, ROTORUA 3047

"Striving for Excellence"



PRINCIPAL: Mrs Kristina Crouch

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8th April 2020

Kia ora St Michaels Community,

I hope during this time of change you are all well and enjoying time in your bubble with your families. Thank you to all our families who are part of the essential workers listed by our Government your hard work is truly appreciated.

On behalf of our Board of Trustees, I would like to update you on what is happening at a governance level.

On Thursday the 2nd of April we met for the first time via a zoom conference. Our meeting had a slight change in agenda due to our world's current situation.

The Board of Trustees achieved the following outcomes:

A Covid -19 Response Committee has been formed. This team will be meeting on a regular basis to ensure we are following correct Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education guidelines and are responding supportively to our school community. The are tasked with:

- 1) Considering the wellbeing and support of our personnel
- 2) Ensuring quality learning is being delivered in a 'fit for purpose' fashion for your whanau
- 3) Planning for the support of our parents and whanau during this time
- 4) Financial decision making relevant to the impacts of covid19

Families should know that you are still welcome to attend our board meetings via Zoom. A link to the agenda as well as the meeting link will be sent via the school's app on the Monday prior to the hui taking place. At Board meetings parents are not granted automatic speaking rights. So should you choose to come you will notice that you are muted as you enter the online space. Your voice is still very important to us so should you have questions about the items on the agenda then we encourage you to send these through prior to the meeting for our consideration. bot@stmichaelsrotorua.school.nz. Online meetings were a new process to us all but we managed. Thank you to those community members who attended the hui.

Full Board meeting minutes are available on request by emailing: bot@stmichaelsrotorua.school.nz

This can be a troubling and trying time for people. Strong emotions are normal. We have made a list of wellbeing supports that you may like to access for your family at this time. As always, we are here to listen and help where we can.

Helpful Agencies:

Rotorua - Sue Wilson 027 362 8002

Email: vstation@xtra.co.nz (winz provider)

Talking Heads Counseling Phone: 07 349 3535

Lifeline 0800 543 354

Youth line 0800 376 633

Samaritans 0800 726 666

In regards to your child's learning over this time our Principal and your child's teachers are working together to ensure the best fit for you and your family. I encourage you to make contact with their teacher at any time during the work day to discuss their needs. Our Principal has committed regular times for parents to join live online "Zoom" sessions so you can ask questions. You will be notified of these sessions as soon as possible. You can also email her as you need.

You will also be aware we are in the process of preparing for a Board of Trustees Election. This is still a priority for our school and Board. How and when this Election will be held will differ slightly under the circumstances. I can assure you though we are working side by side with NZSTA and the Ministry of Education. I do ask that you offer us your patience through this time as we are all in a foreign situation.

This time is a great time to pray. To reflect and bring your family closer in relationship to Christ our Father. There is a daily mass presented live through the Hamilton Diocesan website.

For some of our families their financial situation has changed or they are anxious about it changing in the future. If you have any concerns around payments to school please contact our Principal at principal@stmichaelsrotorua.school.nz

If you are concerned about the Diocesan Dues please phone their office on 07 856 6989.

To all our community stay safe, stay kind. May peace be with you all.

Bridget Aitchison Chairperson of the Board of
Trustees