



## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT, ANNUAL PRIZE GIVING, 2021

Good Evening to our invited guests, *Rev Fr Aherne* – St Anthony's Catholic Church's **Parish Priest**, *Mr Casimiro* - **Board Chair**, Parents and Caregivers and most of all you, our ***Tamariki Te Kura ō Hato Antoni***.

We need to congratulate ourselves for having successfully conquered the **COVID Delta Variant Year, 2021**. We were able to have a smooth transition through each MOE dictated Levels with great resilience and success. As a school we went into the world of **Distance Digital Education** with reassuring ease, in fact within 48 hours. We are among the few schools that provided a personal Chromebook for each student. Our dedicated teachers provided individualised digital resources, activities and home work sheets for the children to use. We encountered your children with two dedicated Zoom / Hangout periods one session in the morning and one session in the afternoon to maintain our Room Teachers Weekly Curriculum Delivery Plans. This resulted in a maintenance of academic achievement and progress over the 'learn from home' period of COVID, in Terms 3 and 4 especially. We would like to thank the parents for assisting and supporting the Distance Digital Education Programme of the teaching and learning of your children over this period - together we made it a success.

We have a stable projected roll of about **51** students to roll over to start the next Annual Plan for 2022, making us a four teacher school. This indicates that people in the Huntly Parish and wider community, want to put their children into St Anthony's Catholic School. You, as parents and caregivers, are the best advocates for our school, by the positive way you speak about our school to your friends and neighbours in the community. And you, our *tamariki*, are the best ambassadors, in the way you conduct yourselves in the community and at community events. I thank you all for this wonderful marketing and publicity that you give our school.

Our school exists, because of our call to nurture the spiritual needs of our students. In Term 3, we sent the Parish a list of **seven** of our students to make their **Reconciliation, First Holy Communion** and **Confirmation** with Bishop Steve Lowe, sometime in Term 3, 2021. These students and their parents went

through a Sacramental Preparation Programme, with parishioner, Mrs Elaine Kannan in Term 2 and 3, 2021. We thank Fr Anselm Aherne and our St Anthony's Catholic Church Community for keeping all our children in their prayers over 2021. Unfortunately, COVID L3 restrictions resulted in the cancellation of the event. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide our students and parents, to make a faith choice. We will again ask for student names in **Term 1, 2022 for Baptism at St Anthony's Catholic Church**, as COVID did not allow us to register names with the Parish this year. Our students are participants in the rituals and prayers of our faith, daily in class and at our Term Start and Finish School Masses and Term School Parish Holy Masses over the year. **End of Term Four Holy Mass** with the **School Leavers' Blessing** was at St Anthony's School this year due to COVID L2 Restrictions, at 9.30am, Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> of December. This year all our Year 8 Leaver boys have secured enrolment for secondary education in the St John's Secondary Catholic School in Hamilton. We wish them all the best in their secondary education, at this prime Catholic institution.

This year we strategically targeted **English Literacy Reading, English Writing and Mathematics Strands**, across the school. There has been a significant shift in both achievement and progress in our Reading, Writing and Mathematics Strand levels across the school.

This year in **Digital Technology** each Year Level completed Food, Soft Material, Design and Visual Communication Technology and Digital Software Technology modules. In **Science**, all Year Levels completed **four topics** from the Living World – Biology, Material World – Chemistry, **Physical World – Physics** and Planet Earth and Beyond, completing all four strands. In **Social Sciences**, In **Health and Physical Education**. In **Fine Art**, more extensively.

The Board in consultation with representatives of our community has come up with a **Charter, Strategic Plan 2022 – 2024** and an **Annual Plan for 2022** to focus on the four goals:

- Goal 1: *Special Character- To support each child in the pursuit of Holiness***
- Goal 2: *To Raise Levels of English Literacy – Reading and Writing***
- Goal 3: *To Raise Levels of Mathematics Numeracy – Strand Based***
- Goal 4: *To develop the ICT, Social Science and HPE Curriculum strands throughout the School, and train and plan for collaborative teaching to prepare for possible Innovative Learning Environments (ILE) Diocesan Plan for 2022.***

Our Proprietor, **Bishop Steve Lowe**, Bishop of Hamilton and his Property Development Team, have accepted two property development plans for 2022 with the EPMP allocations for our school.

I extend my personal thank you, to **Mr Marvin Casimiro** and each member of the **Board of Trustees**, for the support and encouragement that has been given me through 2022. I have felt supported in my role, knowing you trust my ability to meet the needs of our students and community. We work together as a team with our focus on the educational outcomes of our *tamariki*.

Thank you to our **teacher aides** of 2021, *Mrs Margaret O'Hara – ICS and Library Teacher Aide, Mrs Lana Neho – ORS Funded Student and Mrs Barbara Baker – ESOL*. You have supported our children, with great dedication and commitment. Thank you.

Thank you to our dedicated **Relief Teachers**, *Mr Gary O'Boyle, Mrs Flerinda Valondo, Mrs Gillian Russell, Mr. Ethan Vincent and Mrs Gillian Ball*, who are always happy to come to St Anthony's and relieve our teachers on CRT, Sick Leave and Professional Development leave.

At this time, it is appropriate for me to thank the **Whanau – Aiga- Pamilya Parent's Group**, for their support of our Maori, Pacific and Filipino voice and student needs at our Term Meetings over 2021. Parents and Caregivers, please continue to attend these vital **Parent Group Meetings** held once a term through 2022, as it guides us, as to what you want for the educational enhancement of your children. Our **teachers** attend these meetings and explain to the parents what they are doing in support of their children. It is our shared vision for our children that helps to do the best we can to educate them at St Anthony's.

Thank you to our many *volunteer parents and parishioners* who give of their time to help our children with running the *Breakfast Club*, and those who help in any capacity to assist in school. You add value to our children's lives and show them another dimension of *love in action, Caritas*.

I acknowledge and thank the following **Pastoral Staff**, who look after our *tamariki*, **Miss Prosperine Kadiya** -SWIS Worker, **Mrs Barbara Phillips-Walters** – DHB Nurse, **Ms Christina Finch** – Specialist ORS Teacher (Terms 1 and 2), **Mrs Hendra Janse van Vuuren** – Specialist ORS Teacher (Terms 3 and 4), **Susan Harris** – RT Lit and **Ms Sherie Higgins** - RTLb, and finally **Mrs Phillipa Crequer**, Counsellor- Pukehau Therapy, Hamilton. You all form our **St Anthony's Pastoral**

**Care Team**, as outside agencies, who so willingly support our students to deal with their lives and enable them to progress academically.

Thank you to **Mrs Julie Grut**, our diligent **School Office Secretary**, for running a smooth and efficient School Office. We are grateful for the expertise and tradition you gift us with.

We have had four exceptional **Prefects** and **House Leaders** to run our **School and the House System through 2021**. A sincere thank you goes to our **Head Prefect, Liturgy Prefect** and **Gaines Barbier House Leader- Euan Casimiro**; **Deputy Head Prefect, Liturgy Prefect** and **Barbier House Leader -Jimrex Bautista**; **Pompallier House Leader – Dominic Steiner** and **Poynton House Leader – Shelby-Ann McQuaide**. You have been excellent role models of **servant leadership** and **humble service** to the entire school. These students have worked diligently throughout this year, and have created a student voice and cheerful team spirit in our school and parish community.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge our *tamariki*. They have punched well above their weight, at Inter-School level, Inter Catholic Schools and Regional level, in EPRO 8 Technology and Athletics. Unfortunately, COVID put paid to the Inter Schools – Swimming and Cross-country Competitions this year. We acknowledge these milestones at our School Assemblies. Our aim is to produce confident young people, blessed with the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, willing to participate and give things a go. This is the Catholic educational philosophy of *'Faith in Action'*.

Finally, I must mention and acknowledge the fantastic work by our dedicated and vocational, Teaching Staff Team. **Mr Alan James**, Senior Teacher, Senior Administrator and Room 4 Teacher; **Mrs Cheryl Casimiro**, DRS and Room 3 Teacher and **Mrs Aimee Lucido**, Room 1 Teacher; thank you for your constant support and excellent care of our children in their **Spiritual** development, **Pastoral Care, Academic Achievement and Progress**, and **Co-curricular activities**. Each one of you have enabled each of your students, to meet all the milestones and targets that we set out in the **ERO-School Partnership Evaluation Plan, 2022**. We are where we are because of the focus, hard work and consistency that each one of you has helped maintain over this year in your teaching. It is my pleasure to lead such a proficient team of vocation-oriented professionals.

Our year has been an exciting capacity building and developmental time. A special thank you to **Mr Paora Stucki – ERO -School Partner**, **Mr Kapeli Martinez**

– *MoE Advisor* and **Mrs Vicky Saunders** - *SAF MoE*, for the academic achievement and progress direction, guidance, funding and support through 2021, in setting up a good **ERO-School Partnership Evaluation Plan, 2022**.

I leave you with a quote from our School's Patron, St Anthony of Padua:

*"Actions speak louder than words; let your words teach and your actions speak."*

I wish you a Happy and Holy Christmas 2021 and Christ's Peace and Joy in the New Year 2022.

Thank you

God Bless each one of you

*Nga mihi Ata Maria* and Good Evening

*Kevin V. C. Kannan*

**Dr Kevin V.C. Kannan** *EdD*

**Principal**