



## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT, ANNUAL PRIZE GIVING, 2020

Good Evening to our invited guests, *Rev Fr Aherne* – St Anthony's Catholic Church's **Parish Priest**, *Mr Casimiro* - **Board Chair**, *Mrs Sonam Chand* - **Board of Trustees Member**, our **Guest Speaker** – *Mr Shaddai Manatsa*, 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 19 Year, 2020. We were able to have a smooth transition through each MOE dictated Level with great resilience and success. As a school we went into the world of Digital Learning with reassuring ease, in fact within 48 hours. We are among the few schools that provided a personal Chrome Book for each student. Over this period the Board rushed through an approval to lease extra Chrome Books so that each of our students had one to use. Our dedicated teachers provided individualised digital resources, activities and home work sheets for the children to use. This resulted in a maintenance of Academic Achievement and Progress over the 'learn from home' period of COVID. We would like to thank the parents for assisting and supporting the Distance Learning of your children over this period - together we made it a success.

We have a stable projected roll of about **65** students to roll over to start the next Annual Plan for 2021. 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 4, we sent the Parish a list of **six** of our students to make their **Reconciliation, First Holy Communion** and **Confirmation** with Bishop Steve Lowe, sometime in 2021. These students and their parents will go through a Sacramental Preparation Programme, with parishioner, Mrs Elaine Kannan in

Term 1, 2021. We thank Fr Anselm Aherne and our St Anthony's Catholic Church Community for keeping all our children in their prayers over 2020. 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 2, 2021 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. We invite you to the end of year, **School Leavers' Holy Mass** at St Anthony's Church tomorrow at 9.30am, Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of December, where we will celebrate the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** and offer our intentions for our Year 8 School Leavers. This year all our Year 8 Leaver girls and boys have secured enrolment for secondary education in Sacred Heart and St John's Secondary Catholic Schools in Hamilton. We wish them all the best in their Secondary Education, at these two prime institutions.

This year we strategically targeted **English Literacy Reading and Writing**, across the school, funded by the Ministry. There has been a significant shift in both achievement and progress in our Reading and Writing levels across the school. A sincere thank you, to **Mrs Ruth Foulkes**, from Waikato University, for the teacher support and capacity building she has given us in lifting our students **English Literacy Reading and Writing Progress** and helping us on our **Accelerated Literacy Learning** journey which helped enable us to gain an excellent ERO Report.

This year we also strategically targeted **Mathematics Numeracy**. As a staff we taught, assessed and reported, all five strands namely – **Number, Algebra, Measurement, Geometry** and **Statistics**, across the school. Our students have made very good achievement and progress in this strand based *ako* of this curriculum area.

This year in **Technology** each Year Level completed Food, Soft Material, Design and Visual Communication Technology and a MOE required **Digital Technology** module. 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. We as a teaching staff completed the following Curriculum Areas in our delivery of Curriculum namely **Social Sciences, Health and Physical Education, and Fine Art**, more extensively.

The Board in consultation with representatives of our community has come up with an **Annual Plan for 2021** 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 2021.**

Due to COVID, our Proprietor, **Bishop Steve Lowe**, Bishop of Hamilton and his Property Development Team, are reassessing the Property Development Plans for our school, and will let us know when there is a more definite plan of development for our ILEs. Next year we will keep you updated with the progress of the plan and how we as a school will train and implement this change.

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 2020. 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 2020, *Mrs Margaret O’Hara – ICS and Library Teacher Aide, Mrs Lana Noho – ORS Funded Student, Mrs Barbara Baker – Rainbow Reading, Mrs Jenny Doyle – ESOL MOE Funded and Mrs Elisapesi Norman – High Health Needs MOE Funded*. 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 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 2020. Parents and Caregivers, please continue to attend these vital **Parent Group Meetings** held once a term through 2021, 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 *literacy* and 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, **Mrs Susan Harris** – RT Lit and **Phillippa 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 2020**. A sincere thank you goes to our **Head Prefect, Liturgy Prefect and Barbier House Leader- Raivenne Sarmiento; Deputy Head Prefect, Liturgy Prefect and Poynton House Leader -Sean Antazo; Gaines House Leader - Alexa Navarro and Pompallier House Leader –Rangimarie Mahara-Moana**. 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 Syndicate Leader and Room 4 Teacher; **Mrs Cheryl Casimiro**, DRS and Room 3 Teacher; **Mrs Alex Harwood**, Room 2 Teacher and **Mrs Aimee Lucido**, Junior Syndicate Leader and 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 Action Plan 2019 - 2020. 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.

For public note, we underwent an **Education Office Review in Term 3**, in the middle of COVID 19, which was a successful culmination of a two-year Longitudinal Review Plan. I will quote the final conclusion statements, of the Confirmed ERO Report which we received in Term 4, for you to join us in the celebration of success:

***“The school is in a stronger position to sustain and improve its performance than it was at the time of the 2018 ERO review. Teachers, leaders and trustees have made progress in strengthening the areas identified for review and development in the 2018 report. The school is in a good position to focus on improving student progress and achievement.*”**

***On the basis of the findings of this review, ERO ‘s overall evaluation judgement of St Anthony’s Catholic School (Huntly)’s performance in achieving valued outcomes for its students is: Developing***

Our year has been an exciting capacity building and developmental time. A special thank you to ***Mrs Ruth Foulkes - PLD Facilitator, Waikato University*** and ***Mrs Vicky Saunders, SAF MOE***, for the academic achievement and progress direction, guidance, funding and support through 2019-2020 Action Plan.

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 2020 and Christ’s Peace and Joy in the New Year 2021.

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**