

We come to the end of the third term of 2011 with a lasting reflection of our schools being covered in snow in what felt like an alpine environment. Although it was very picturesque it certainly brought challenges to us all especially around travel. The schools were able to remain open and they coped very well with only minor damage to spouting on some buildings. It's an experience that we probably won't see in the Wairarapa in the near future.

The TSTB has continued to work towards completion of the Strategic Plan and put in place changes to ensure we support the schools in the most efficient and effective way.

TSTB Strategic Planning

The TSTB has continued to progress the strategic planning program and are now drafting the Strategic Statement that will define and support the Trinity Schools Trust Board's direction through until 2020.

The team is unanimous that our aspiration is to work together as one – to become a true family of schools. This needs to be visible to all. Looking beyond the next year or two, there was overwhelming agreement that our "future aspiration" is to be seen as one School, but to maintain our very important historic school brands.

Our actions will be based on some key values - providing educational environments that incorporate:

- Visionary Leadership – provide a vision for the future and embrace change
- Excellence – aim high, preserve and enhance our special character and facilities
- Respect – obtain an open mind, appreciate each others point of view and no surprises
- Accountable – think beyond tomorrow and drive the outcomes

As we have progressed the planning process, a number of key issues have been considered and some addressed:

Rights of passage of our children through the Trinity system.

It has been agreed that there should be a guaranteed right of passage within our Trinity Schools system. One of the impacts of this is the passage from Hadlow to both Rathkeale and St Matthew's.

It has been decided that:

- There will be a guaranteed right of passage from Hadlow to Rathkeale in Year 9
- There will be a guaranteed right of passage from Hadlow to St Matthew's in either Year 7 or Year 9. Any move in year 8 would be based on availability of positions.

These guarantees reinforce that we are indeed a family of schools that offers education from preschool through to year 13.

Further discussion will take place in relation to the rights of passage from the Hadlow Pre-school to Hadlow. We will keep you informed as to the outcomes of this.

Trinity Schools Structure

There has been consultation (with our parents) and discussions in regard to the Schools structure, specifically the Year 7 and 8 offerings that are different for boys and girls. Although some see this as a simple decision, it is in fact a complex issue as there are wide ranging opinions (both within our Board, the School Boards and parents) and wide reaching implications (e.g. changes to the Integration Agreements, capital investment, where would year 7 / 8 boys be located etc) if changes are to be made. We will keep you informed as to progress.

New Trustees

We welcome onto our Board two new trustees, Marina Adams and Simon Snook. Both Marina and Simon bring a wide range of skills and governance expertise to our Board and we look forward to their contributions.

Seismic Reviews

A number of parents have queried what we are doing with respect to the earthquake standards of our buildings.

We have engaged consulting engineers to review each of the buildings on the three Trinity sites. This work had commenced prior to the Christchurch earthquakes but the impact of these quakes on the availability of engineers with earthquake expertise has meant progress in completing this work has taken longer than planned. They have now completed their assessments and we have a clear picture as to the ratings of each building. Whilst all of our buildings are sound in construction and repair

there are a small number of buildings that we will need to strengthen to meet the standards we have set. These standards exceed those required by the District Council.

We have prioritised the work based on the usage of the buildings and the engineers are currently completing stage 2 of the process – documenting the work that needs to be completed for the buildings to be brought up to the standards we have set. This is due for completion within the next two weeks and we will then present this to each of the school boards. The planning work is well advanced based on the priorities set, and we expect work to commence before the end of this year.

Last month we received a "Seismic Standards for Schools" advice from APIS (Association of Proprietors of Integrated Schools) that advised the requirements, as agreed by the Ministry of Education, for integrated schools. This supports the approach we have taken.

2012 School Charges

We are currently finalising the school charges for 2012. One area of concern is the projected increases in our insurance premiums as a result of the Christchurch earthquake. All of us will be facing large increases in this area and we have been advised by our brokers that the increases for our schools will be in excess of 100%. This is due to the type and age of school buildings and is in line with other integrated schools we have talked to. This will unfortunately have a real impact on our charges for 2012.

Again this has been a long term for everyone so I hope you all have a good school holiday break and the spring weather is kind to you all. It's a short fourth term but a very important term especially for those senior students who sit external exams – do remember that your success is a result of the commitment and hard work you put into your study. The TSTB wishes you all the best for the exams.

To the staff at each of the schools, do take this opportunity to take a well earned break from school life and recharge the batteries – we do appreciate the challenges you face and your commitment to our schools.

*Peter Christie Chief Executive Officer
Trinity Schools Trust Board*