



## SAINT KENTIGERN TRUST BOARD

21 May 2012

Dear Saint Kentigern Families

### **Farewell to Geoff Burgess**

As we communicated late last term, Geoff Burgess has advised the Trust Board that he will step down from his role as Principal at Saint Kentigern School at the end of Term 3 this year.

Plans are well in hand for a farewell for Geoff at the end of September. I know that many of you within the Saint Kentigern community will want to join us in expressing our heartfelt thanks and good wishes to Geoff. Once the details of the evening have been finalised, we will be in contact to give parents, staff and old boys the opportunity to join together with members of the Trust Board for this special occasion to farewell Geoff as he moves on from the School. The boys will have their own special assembly at the end of Term 3.

### **Planning ahead**

The leadership that Geoff has provided over the past 19 years has ensured that the Boys' School has maintained its excellent reputation as a leader in boys' education; the school is flourishing with excellent staff and a very supportive parent and alumni community.

The primary school years are a vital part of a Saint Kentigern education and the Trust Board recognises that the appointment of an exceptional Principal to oversee the Boys' campus is critical. Nicola Pohlen of Pohlen Kean has been appointed to manage this recruitment process. Nicola has a very good appreciation of the operation and values of Saint Kentigern and its community as her own two sons, Anthony and David, attended both the School and the College. Nicola has also assisted the Board over a number of years in the placement of key senior managers for Saint Kentigern.

Applications for the position of the new Principal have now closed and we are delighted with the degree and calibre of the response. In association with Pohlen Kean, the Trust Board is now drawing up a short list of excellent candidates for the interview process. The initial interviews will be conducted by Board members, Bruce Goodfellow, Alan Burton and Rosemary Harris, along with Sandra Hastie as Head of Primary. The final interview will be conducted by the entire Board. We expect that an announcement regarding the appointment will be made late in July.

### **Head of Primary**

The recent step to appoint a Head of Primary signals the Trust Board's resolve to ensure that we continue to lead in the delivery of education in New Zealand. Further strengthening the bonds between our two primary campuses will ensure that our students continue to receive the very finest education specifically tailored to the different needs of girls and boys on each of our campuses.

The appointment of Sandra Hastie as Head of Primary gives us the assurance that great leadership will continue. The Trust Board will be engaging with Sandra and the new Principal, when appointed, on long term strategic planning for the Saint Kentigern Primary Schools. This will not only ensure

that we maintain our current academic success but will guarantee that our girls and boys continue to learn in a caring environment that nurtures their learning and well being.

Whilst Sandra will ensure that the strategic direction of Saint Kentigern Primary education is achieved and our core values are upheld in the Saint Kentigern Way, it is crucial that each campus maintains its own unique identity. To ensure that this happens, leadership at a campus level is essential. Sandra will retain the role of Principal at the Girls' School and the Boys' School will continue to be led and managed by its own Principal, who will work with Sandra to meet strategic imperatives and nurture the School's special character.

Whereas the majority of our families at primary level are very familiar with Sandra, either as Principal of the Girls' School or in her former role as Deputy Principal of the Boys' School, we also recognise that families who have joined the Boys' School in the last two years may be interested to learn a little more about Sandra. Along with this letter, we are attaching a short insight into the qualifications and personal strength that Sandra will bring to this new role.

Saint Kentigern has a well-earned reputation for excellence in all we do. We deliver a rigorous curriculum with inspiring teaching from the Preschool and Primary years through to graduation from College. Our students are well prepared as they make each transition that ultimately prepares them to take their place to 'serve and lead with distinction.'

As we move into the next chapter of Saint Kentigern, we want to acknowledge the dedication and hard work that has helped shape our schools. We also look to our future direction with great excitement. We will be keeping in touch over coming months and again, we would like to thank you for your ongoing support.

Kind regards



Bruce Goodfellow  
Chairman of the Trust Board