



St Brigid's School

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St Brigid's School Annual Report 2023

“Learning together with strength of character and gentleness of heart”

Learners are at the centre of all that we do

In 2023, we focused on the 3Cs - Connection, Collaboration and Curriculum

Goal - Teachers will improve consistency and collaboration in how we work together

Initiative - Shared understanding on what collaboration is and how it may look at St Brigid's

- Trauma Informed Practice PD with RTLB in November. This provided an opportunity for all staff to focus on neuro-diverse learners and their needs, affirmed our current practice and processes, as well as discussing next steps
- Concluded work with MOE TALL Programme by sharing our school documentation and procedures for critiquing. Fiona Kearns had a zoom with Gaylene Price who was impressed with the thoroughness of this documentation and the initiatives that we have in place to support and monitor our English Language Learners and whānau
- Staff Survey included questions about wellbeing, collaboration and te reo Māori - data to inform next steps and focuses
- Cognition Education Maths whole staff PD, DMIC Maths and Critical Literacy PD completed in teams
- The TALL team successfully presented at the Celebration and Impact Day on 20 July. St Brigid's School will continue with TALE (Team Approach to Learning English) with regular meetings each term to share ideas/resources with others. We will have completed a school self review and work with Gaylene Price (TALL presenter) on ensuring procedural documentation is updated later in the year. Monika, Giselle, Bridget and Fiona received certificates for the work they had done during this course
- Team Rua collaborative teaching implemented in Religion, Maths and Te Reo Māori
- School MATES Agreement confirmed that all staff will use
- Working document within Teams - Collaboration norms (noise, movements, transitions, etc).
- Team Whā Literacy interchange. E-asTTle data has been used prior to beginning to look at shifts after teaching. Feedback from students regarding the literacy interchange was very positive and we have anecdotal evidence that learning was positively impacted. This was done again in Term 3 with student voice in the choice of topics
- Team initiatives identified from PAT data - Extension in Mathematics/ Proofreading focus/ Quick60 groups/ oral language ELL group/ Lego therapy
- Team Leaders/DP involved in final professional 1:1 discussion with Laura Snowden with a focus on leading collaborative teams and building leadership capacity

Goal - To understand and consistently model the St Brigid's School vision

Initiative - Develop links with Iwi, particularly mana whenua, to ensure that our vision is sound

- Janet and Tana attended the pūrakau Wānanga for 2023 with Kura Ahurea
- We had a fantastic Noho Marae and whānau joined us for the evening where we had kai, played games and they shared their voice to inform our Strategic Plan. We also had a Kia Mau Teina Hui Whānau in Week 9 Term 4
- Sheree and Moana from Te Ati Awa taught in all classes to tell the latest pūrakau and show how it can be adapted at different levels
- Staff meetings run by Tania and Janet to share the pūrakau and plan ways to integrate it across the curriculum

- Continuing to collect and make links to resources offered for use at St Brigid's School (e.g. School Kit meetings, some staff continuing professional learning with Kāuru - ART confederation - Te Atiawa, Raukawa, and Ngāti Toa and keeping others informed of learnings through weekly Te Reo Māori/tikanga sessions)
- We refined and strengthened our protocols, processes and opportunities to celebrate and share our local iwi traditions e.g. School Assemblies, Whakatau
- Tania, Janet and Suzanne attended a 3 day symposium as conclusion to their Te Reo Māori journey this year. Guest speakers focused on language and other aspects of Te Ao Māori
- Staff meetings provided teachers with knowledge and application of resources that we have in the school and ways in which these resources can be utilised e.g. Te Reo reading resources/waiata cards
- Staff had the opportunity to attend a weekly morning meeting (before school) Te Reo Māori Coffee Club (Karapu Kawhe) where they can ask questions/pātai and practise pronunciation. It also provided an opportunity to practise te reo and seek ways to integrate this into classroom programmes in meaningful ways
- Teachers used the purākau in their classes and evidence of this was in the classroom/corridor displays

Initiative - Build connections within our Parish Church of St Francis of Assisi Ohariu

- Year 8 retreat with St Benedict's held in November
- Strengthened links with the Parish with contributions to St Francis of Assisi's "Reverence for Life" book by Young Christian Leaders. This is a book which is on display in the Church foyer and celebrates milestones in the lives of all parishioners. The Young Christian Leaders have contributed to the pages which will be presented at the Masses in December
- Students from Year 4-8 celebrated the Sacraments
- The Young Christian Leaders organised and shared Inoi/Prayer with Team Tahi and Rua with the focus on Gospel readings and school values
- Strengthened connections with parishioners - Joe Green comes into the school and does road patrol, he has also had a role and would like to continue to support students in preparing for liturgies and Masses. Pat from the parish has been involved in supporting preparation for the Family Mass
- Family/Parish Mass on a Sunday to encourage connection to the parish, with student involvement
- Weekly liturgies for teams run by Challenge 2000 with a focus on liturgical events and school values
- Continued relationships being built between Challenge and St Brigid's with regards to our weekly team liturgies. These include student involvement in readings and karakia
- St Brigid's School BOT, Staff and Students attended a School Whānau Mass in October. This Mass was a celebration where students were fully involved. It was a wonderful experience of liturgy and enriched by Fr Pete's inspiring words
- St Brigid's School attended Mass at St Francis of Assisi, Ohariu for the The Assumption of Mary (Holy Day of Obligation - 15 August)
- A Catholic Character team (Principal, DP and DRS) was established and met fortnightly to discuss strategic and annual plan goals. We have discussed and planned for future professional learning needed for the introduction of the new Religious Education Curriculum
- Welcomed and included Challenge 2000 intern Kausileta Seko as part of our school community - road patrol and assisting tamariki across the school with opportunities for leadership development for our ākongā with leadership responsibilities
- School assemblies this year have been held at the Church with an emphasis on building and celebrating 'community'
- Continued our link with Jacob Bang (Counsellor at Challenge 2000) and have memorandum of understanding regarding referrals and school support
- Initiated and undertaken social connection with St Benedict's and proactively approached St Benedict's School with regards to Religion/Schools and Parish connections we can make

Goal - Embed the St Brigid's curriculum that provides students with rich learning opportunities

Initiative - Continue to design, embed and review our localised curriculum

- We are creating fit for purpose assessments which will be entered into our school management system. This will mean no double handling of data and a more accurate record of progress showing learner progress over time
- Team Tahi have developed a document for writing assessment to assist with moderation/OTJs and transition handover information for 2024 classes
- Team Tahi classes have implemented a weekly lesson focusing on teaching the specific parts of

sentence construction technique e.g. “Technique Tuesday”. Year 2 classes are transferring this knowledge into reading to support comprehension

- Handwriting has been an area of focus, linked to our scope & sequence, and we are seeing the positive impact of this in student writing
- Team Rua expanded the use of Structured Literacy to include all our ELL students and for those with identified needs following assessment. TA time has proved very successful with several students reaching their cohort level. Developing sentence structure continued across the Team as a result of PD in June with Dr Christine Braid
- Teams Tahī & Rua attended the ‘Building Literacy’ workshop with Christine Braid with a focus on writing. This provided good teacher knowledge and suggestions for assessment
- Team Rua teachers visited Sts Peter and Paul School to observe Structured Literacy in action at the Year 3-4 level.
- We received a \$7,800 grant for Structured Literacy, Literacy and Library resources
- Team Toru and Whā participated in a whole day of professional learning with Lee Smith (Cognition). Information gained strengthened teacher understanding of the learning progression framework and there were practical examples to use within classrooms. Subsequent maths staff meetings have been attended. Observations and team teaching has also been undertaken with planning being shared with provider and support, critiquing and advice being offered
- Team Whā completed financial literacy PD with Banquer - programme implemented across the team
- ASB ran financial literacy sessions for Team Rua and Toru to strengthen understanding of cashless transactions
- Teachers are using Progressive Achievement Test (PAT) data analysed by Year 3-8 to inform next steps and possibilities for collaboration and targeted student support

Initiative - Working within the Kāhui Ako ‘Ngā kura o te manuanga Tarikākā’ to enhance learning for all

- Jennifer, Tania and Fiona attended an MOE Te Tiriti o Waitangi Workshop which gave further insight into Ka Hikitia and helped with the direction of our strategic goals and proposed annual goals for 2024
- Jennifer, Janet and Fiona attended Kāhui Ako workshops led by Kathe Tawhiwhirangi from CORE Education focused on self-review of our challenges and determining next steps
- St Brigid’s hosted a meeting for Presiding Members and Principals of the Kāhui Ako schools which was facilitated by Kathe Tawhiwhirangi from CORE Education. This was a very successful event and opportunity to reset as a KA
- Janet Valentine was successful with becoming an Across School Leader in our Kāhui Ako
- A Kāhui Ako Student Survey for Years 3-8 was administered and the student data was analysed across the Kāhui Ako and compared with the 2021 Baseline Data. This information has been used to reflect on possible direction/focus for the strategic plan and also to help plan for the needs of staff/students/whānau for 2024. Jennifer did deeper analysis as she had the names of the students
- ELL Hub of Interest to link in with the Ministry of Education professional learning group led by Marlaina (RTLit from Northern Suburbs Cluster) to further our learning and contacts across the cluster
- Hubs of Interest were well attended by Staff with the Year 0/1 Hub and Pasifika Hubs being hosted at St Brigid’s
- Māori student achievement data across our Kāhui Ako was analysed by the Across School Leads (ASLs) and Lead Principals
- ASLs and Principals worked with Kathe from Core Education to develop self-review practices and tools.
- Pasifika students from local schools attended a Tongan movie screening to make connections with each other and help foster a sense of belonging
- Jennifer was appointed as a Support Principal in the Kāhui Ako leadership team