



# Marist Catholic School, Herne Bay

## 2023 Annual Report



The following report highlights the progress we have made as a school and school community over the 2023 year.

Annual plan reports remind us of all that we have achieved, not only in the classroom but also as a school community.

As we know, a school cannot function successfully without an invested community surrounding it, and in our case, here at Marist, an invested Catholic community.

Our theme this Year was 'We Are Called' and this theme was all about children understanding that no matter who or where they are, Atua is calling them just as Mary was called. God calls all people to use our gifts and talents to engage in the world around us. We wanted them to understand that their actions, and the way that they manage themselves in their studies, shows Christ's calling everyday.

We reviewed and developed our school values this year moving from 7 values to 3 which encompass all the 7 that previously existed. Both previous and revised values supported our theme through the fact that belonging and embracing our 'call' is what God wants for us all.

The theme was very successful and throughout the year, the teaching and learning all centred around this theme.

Before I summarise each of our goals that we have worked through this year, I think it is important to just celebrate first and foremost, the wonderful, dedicated and highly professional staff, teaching and non-teaching, that we have working at 82 Kelmarna Avenue. Their dedication to our tamariki and our wider community are a credit to our school culture that we have developed over the years.



### Annual Goal 1: Special Character

The main reason for our school here in Herne Bay, as it was in 1928, is that we are a Catholic school. The Special Character sits at the heart of our school and is at the forefront of any decisions that are made.

For our children, it means that they are taken through six years of religious education, and alongside this their faith grows and starts to make sense in their world.

Parents will always be the children's first faith teachers, and as a Catholic school we walk alongside them ensuring that their faith grows and develops into something that they will hold dear, for the rest of their lives.

This year, 91% of our students went onto Catholic secondary education, which means that they will continue on this journey as they enter into adulthood.

We are very blessed here at Marist to be part of a small and tight community within a large city. This community allows our children to feel safe and secure. Some of our families have been pupils here themselves, and this only builds on the sense of belonging.



A big part of our community feel comes from the fact that we are a Catholic school first and foremost, and this year we have been working with the Parish to try and build on an already positive foundation. We support the Parish with the childrens' first Holy Communion celebration and have also led Parish/School masses throughout the year. Marist, Herne Bay, is unashamedly Catholic in the way that we approach all aspects of a child's learning and development here at school. We start our day with Christ, and we end with Christ.

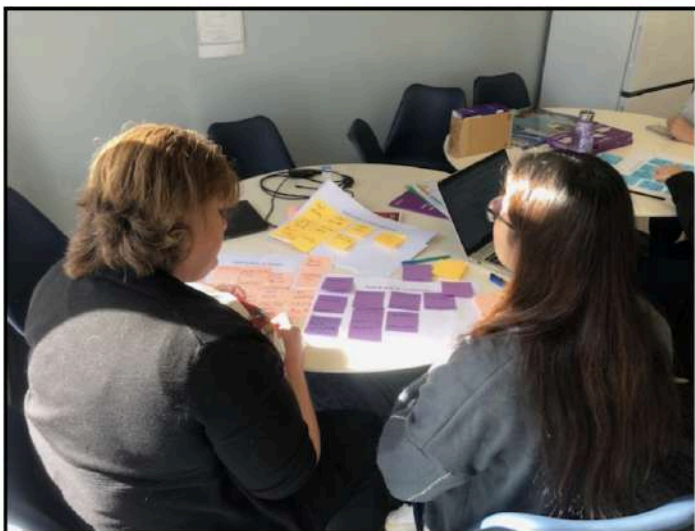
This year we had our external Special Character review, with the Auckland Catholic Schools Office. This was extremely affirming of the special character of our school. 'The Marist Curriculum Landscape has deeply considered the school's Catholic identity and purpose by ensuring the overarching theme and termly focus lend themselves to the Schools Special Character as well as achieving Religious Education Integration through other curriculum areas as appropriate across and through the curriculum'.

Our internal review focused on pastoral care at Marist, which we have a wonderful PTA supporting many of the current initiatives. Recommendations from this review were based mainly around communication and ensuring that our community know what is available and also investigating more ways for our students to feel safe to communicate their need for pastoral care.

We are blessed to have Father Rory as our faith leader who is always extremely supportive of the school's needs and our Parish Council. As we know, the future of our Catholic church sits in primary and secondary classrooms, and having a Parish that supports our school is a blessing.

## Annual Goal 2: Teaching and Learning

Research tells us again and again that with quality teachers and quality learning environments, a child's growth will be expedited, not only academically, but socially and emotionally as well.



Through the past few years we have been able to embed a strong team culture, which enables us to build on the professional learning we have had, and share this learning across all our classrooms. Even though we



have had staff changes we have always ensured we have a learning focused environment that is very beneficial for our children, as it means that collectively as a staff we are able to offer our parent community a high level of teaching practice and an internal monitor of high expectations.



The staff have taken on many opportunities of professional development this year. Our Junior team worked through PD in the new Religious Education curriculum which we look forward to introducing in this team in 2024.

Our Senior team continued their learning around developing culturally responsive practices in their classrooms. This is so important if we are to make sure that all our children here at Marist feel welcomed and valued everyday and that they all have something to share.

Marist Catholic School continues to review, and change where necessary, practices and our physical environment when it comes to health and safety. Ensuring that your children are safe and loved here at school is paramount, and to help us continue this we have a very dedicated Health and Safety Team, made up of staff from each of the teams.

This year has seen the school complete our process with ERO. As you know, the last ERO visit was in 2017 at which time we received a great report. The ERO process is not just a one-off visit, instead they walk alongside school in developing a simple and clear pathway to further develop and improve across 3 years. Their recommendations are for us were to continue with what we are doing, and to dive deeper into the connections we have begun to make with our iwi (Ngati Whatua Orakei). We are hoping to visit the marae again in 2024.

A school functions by having all parties working together, and this year we had a home/school partnership afternoon focused on Numeracy. This was a chance for our whanau to come and participate in short/sharp workshops with teachers on a range of support topics for maths.

<i>Times Tables</i>	<i>Discussing the progression of learning times tables and how you can get started at home.</i>
<i>Fractions &amp; Decimals</i>	<i>Discussing some of the key concepts involved in teaching and learning about Fractions and Decimals and some simple ways you can help at home.</i>
<i>Everyday Maths</i>	<i>Discussing more about numbers and playing maths games together with our tamariki and creating a kete of ideas.</i>

#### Student Achievement outcomes 2023

	<b>Goal set for 2023</b>	<b>How did we go?</b>	<b>Goals set for 2024</b>
<b>Reading</b>	90% of our children are working 'At' or 'Above' the required Curriculum level.	87% 'At' or 'Above required Curriculum level.	90% of our children are working 'At' or 'Above the required Curriculum level.
<b>Writing</b>	80% of our children are working 'At' or 'Above' the required Curriculum level.	78% 'At' or 'Above required Curriculum level.	85% of our children are working 'At' or 'Above the required Curriculum level.
<b>Maths</b>	85% of our children are working 'At' or 'Above' the required Curriculum level.	79% 'At' or 'Above required Curriculum level.	88% of our children are working 'At' or 'Above the required Curriculum level.

### Annual Goal 3: Cultural Responsiveness

As a teaching staff at Marist Catholic School, we have been developing and extending our pedagogy of Culturally Responsive Teaching within our school community to enhance our students' learning opportunities. It is about making school learning relevant and effective for learners by drawing on students' cultural knowledge, life experiences, frames of reference, languages, and performance and communication styles. This benefits all students, but particularly so when there are significant differences between the world of the teacher and the world of the child. This was done through our unit topics, celebrating cultural weeks as well as our multicultural day.

We were pleased to have many of our whānau come in and support our language weeks through sharing traditions, dance, songs, food and language across the school. We were also supported by St Paul's College who had students come over and work with our tamariki during these weeks.

This year we have been part of the Korero Paki project, which is a ministry initiative focused on building a local curriculum story. This work has been done through research and consultation. This story is being created into a digital resource as well as images which reflect us. We are looking forward to launching our story early 2024.



#### Māori and Pasifika Achievement outcomes.

	Māori	Pasifika
<b>Reading</b>	100% 'At' or 'Above' required Curriculum level.	76% 'At' or 'Above' required Curriculum level.
<b>Writing</b>	100% 'At' or 'Above' required Curriculum level.	72% 'At' or 'Above' required Curriculum level.
<b>Maths</b>	83% 'At' or 'Above' required Curriculum level.	62% 'At' or 'Above' required Curriculum level.



### Annual Goal 4: Environment

Our garden club has progressed extremely well thanks to our wonderful parent volunteers who work with our students every Wednesday. They have created a bug hotel, bird feeding area and vegetable gardens that have produced an abundance of veggies and herbs which have been harvested and sold throughout the year making our orchard and club self sustainable. On average we have around 15 students weekly joining this lunchtime club from across the school.

Our recycling programme within the school has continued with our students recycling their ezilunch packaging. This is overseen by our student environmental leaders. We look forward to growing these initiatives further in 2024.

#### 2023 Community Events:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Finally returning to school after the floods Community BBQ</li> <li>● Masses:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Parish/School Masses, Ash Wednesday,</li> <li>○ Holy Thursday/Easter</li> <li>○ Grandparents Day</li> <li>○ Marist Day</li> <li>○ EOY Mass</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Celebrating Unity Week</li> <li>● Multicultural Day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sports               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cross Country</li> <li>○ Athletics</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Student led fundraising               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pink Shirt Day</li> <li>○ Catholic Caring flood appeal</li> <li>○ Non-uniform day</li> <li>○ Book Fair</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Student Disco</li> <li>● Fresh As School Trip</li> <li>● Parent Bingo Night</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Celebrating language weeks               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Māori,</li> <li>○ Tongan, Samoan, Cook Is, Fijian, Niuean</li> <li>○ NZSL</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Parent Maths Workshops</li> <li>● Parent Interviews</li> <li>● Art Exhibition</li> <li>● Oral Language Festival</li> <li>● Year 5 Retreat</li> <li>● Year 6 Camp</li> </ul>
--	--	---

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Celebrating Holy Week</li> <li>● Student Disco</li> <li>● Celebrating Book Week and Maths Week</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Colour Run</li> <li>● Marist Market Day</li> <li>● Celebrated our school's 95th Birthday</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● EOY Concert</li> <li>● Prizegiving</li> </ul>
--	--	--



We have been exceptionally fortunate to be able to say that we have strengthened our PTA further, and have carried out many school and community events - from discos to parent nights; from Bingo Nights to a Colour Run we have provided opportunities for us to gather as a community. These things cannot happen unless people have a vested interest in our school. Within our PTA we also have our Pastoral Care Team work behind the scenes in making sure that we can provide a safe and caring community to our families.

Our Board of Trustees continue to be supportive of our staff and have shown great vision by getting some projects over the line this year, such as an abundance of maintenance

throughout the school. They have also worked on gaining a great design for our renewed senior playground which we hope to be able to start by the end of 2024. We were particularly proud of the community project of our prayer garden. This has become a place of quiet contemplation and a space for classes to come together and feel closer to God any time of the day. The Board are also looking at improving the inside of our school hall, as this is an original building which is in much need of some love and care.

The Board is informed about Health and Safety issues in the school each month. This includes not only physical issues but also children and staff's wellbeing. Our biannual wellbeing survey shows that an overwhelming 100% of the students are proud of being part of MCSHB, as well as feeling safe and happy.

As you are aware, this year saw the Board of Trustees looking into our strategic planning. We sent out a survey in paper form to gather as much parent voice as possible, so that we can make the right decisions moving forward into the next two years.

A Strategic Plan in a school is not a well-read document, however, it is necessary so that the school can keep track of, and stay on the right course, all based around students' wellbeing, student achievement and our special Catholic character.

Any decision that the Marist Catholic School Board of Trustees and staff make has to be aligned with these three factors. With this in mind, a new Strategic Plan has been written and will be followed and measured through 2024 - 2025 years.



**What's happening in 2024**

In our classrooms we will be looking at our literacy programme and taking a deep dive into how we teach and support our children as they develop their reading and writing skills. This will be the main learning across all our classrooms from Austin to Chavoin, and we have our Junior team introducing the Best Start Literacy Approach (BSLA). This is a structured phonics programme and has proven to be a game-changer when it comes to teaching children how to unpack unfamiliar words and then transferring this into their writing. This was a Canterbury University accredited paper and Austin & Bernard staff are looking forward to this professional development.

We are pleased to be able to open Austin again as our new entrant class due to an increase in our Junior numbers.

We are looking forward to launching the Mitey project with our community focusing on wellbeing for all our students, staff and whanau.

In 2024 we want to start to investigate how we can further develop the idea of Marist, Herne Bay becoming a 'Community of Care'. This concept would sit above all groups within the school and would become the backbone to all that we do here at school.

As a new family enrolls at Marist we want them to understand what a Community of Care feels like in the way that they are welcomed, supported and walked beside, as their child grows up and becomes a positive young adult.

### **Our theme 2024 - The Journey Matters**

In 2023, our overarching theme was "We are Called.." We built an understanding of how we are called by God to respond. We recognise the importance of being called to our faith journey.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 19:105

Together as a community we embark on this journey with God in faith, love and hope. We enter this journey to grow and learn as God's children, we are supported and guided to use our gifts and achieve greatness.

Throughout scripture there are many who embarked on their journey of faith, including our role model the Blessed Mother Mary. Mary and other Saints provide us with wonderful examples of how we can walk this journey alongside God.

We are all on a journey, Te Wa - The Journey of Life. The journey isn't about hiding from difficulties but facing it together. When we trust and let go of worries, we show courage and resilience to navigate our journey.

In 2024, at Marist Catholic School 'The Journey Matters' to support and walk alongside our tamariki in their faith journey. As teachers in Catholic Schools, this is our most important task and the reason for our vocation. Parents are a child's first teacher of faith and this is the foundation of our home school partnership. We are a team that will work together every day because the journey matters.

Marist Catholic School embraces our Journey:

- Term 1: - The Journey Matters, in our own backyard (Identity)
- Term 2: The Journey matters, among the stars (States of Matter)
- Term 3: The Journey matters, within us (Systems)
- Term 4: The Journey matters, we're all in this together (Community)