

St Joseph's Catholic School

Te Kura Katorika o Hato Hohepa



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Dear Teresa,

I was very privileged to be the recipient of the Jan Pratt Principal Scholarship in 2017, particularly as I had met Jan early in my career. She was a great friend of Vince Welsh who was my principal for some years. Last year's Catholic Principals' Conference in Wellington had been already budgeted for and it was suggested that I should use the scholarship for something I would not normally be able to do.

The Jan Pratt Scholarship enabled my deputy principal and myself to attend "An Audience with Sir Ken Robinson" - a leading thinker on creativity and education. I had seen some of his Ted Talks and had admired his inspiring and challenging messages.

Sir Ken has a down-to-earth perspective of education, and is challenging us as educators to be more creative in our approach as we prepare students for their future, not ours. He talked about the current education system being a broken model, not needing reform but a transformation. His ideas excited us about the direction for our school as we move toward more collaborative and innovative learning practices. We are expecting a new MLE classroom block to be built next year and so we are currently developing collaborative teaching practices across our own school, and Sir Ken's messages were inspirational.

In July next year, I am going to England to visit my daughter and, while there, I intend following in the footsteps of Euphrase Barbier, the foundress of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions RNDM who came to Pukekohe in 1885 to start the first Catholic school. St Joseph's School is the third school founded by the Mission Sisters in Pukekohe. Although French, Euphrasie first began her mission in 1851 working with the poor in London. Her final resting place is in Deal, Kent, where the Sisters had an orphanage. I intend to put surplus scholarship funds towards this.

I wish to thank the NZCPPA for awarding me the Jan Pratt Principal Scholarship for 2017.

Yours sincerely

Ursula Hall

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Principal

Mission Statement

"Excellent education befitting our Catholic Character"