

18 February 2011

Dear Parent / Caregivers

Early Finish to School – Tuesday 22 February 12.25pm

As you will be aware the Secondary Teachers Collective Agreement has been under negotiation with the Ministry of Education since July 2010. Negotiations are still not progressing in a manner that either party is happy with and as a result the PPTA have called their members to a meeting on Tuesday 22 February at 1.15pm.

As a significant number of the staff at Sancta Maria College are members of the PPTA and will attend the meeting I am unable to staff the school to ensure the safety of all children.

As a result the students will be released at 12.25pm on this day. Usual In Zone buses will be available at this time. Students who catch the Maraetai / Beachlands Bus **must** remain at school and will be supervised as will students who are unable to make their way home at this time. These students will be released from class at 3.15pm.

I apologise for any inconvenience caused by this action.

The key issues in the negotiations

1. Ensuring that the pay rates for secondary teachers over the next 3 years are sufficient to be able to recruit and retain enough well qualified, subject specialists from the graduate or trades areas to ensure that all of our secondary schools have enough teachers to ensure that all students, those in the schools now and those who are still to arrive, receive the best education that we can deliver to them.
2. Ensuring that no student has to be taught in a class which is bigger than 30 students or which is of a size that raises health and safety concerns in labs and technical rooms.

We must continue to support and to value our teachers. If New Zealand is to prosper as a nation we must have an educated work force and to achieve this much rests on the shoulders of our teachers as they prepare the young people for the future. It is vital that we attract quality graduates and retain them in the profession. This is what the teachers are making a stand on.

Your understanding of the situation is appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Paul Daley
Principal