

## **To the Parents and Community of St Thomas More Catholic School**

These are the findings of the Education Review Office's latest report on **St Thomas More Catholic School**.

St Thomas More Catholic School is located in Mount Maunganui and provides education that is underpinned by Gospel values to students in Years 1-6. The school is situated on the same site as the Church and students benefit from close and reciprocal links and involvement with the Parish.

Positive and affirming relationships are a feature in the school. The school's special Catholic character influences the way staff work together and encourages students to be responsible and seek solutions to conflict within a restorative framework.

At the time of the review in September 2010 the roll was 179, of whom 24 identified as Māori. The recent establishment of a whānau advisory group is positively supporting the school's developing cultural identity.

The school has high expectations for student achievement in academic, cultural and sporting areas. The majority of students, including Māori, achieve at or above national expectations in reading, writing and mathematics. Achievement in other curriculum areas, cultural and sporting activities is also recognised and celebrated.

Teachers are dedicated and committed to using an increasing range of effective teaching strategies to engage students and extend their learning. They actively seek and trial innovative approaches to teaching and learning. Reviewing the effectiveness of such initiatives is likely to further enhance student engagement, progress and achievement.

The school is well supported by its parent community who provide valued funding and generous support to school activities, events, sporting and cultural endeavours. Consideration is needed by the principal and board to provide greater communication opportunities so that all parents feel heard and their ideas valued.

The experienced and knowledgeable principal is an effective educational leader who has a clear vision for ongoing school improvement. She is respected and supported by board members who are well informed and bring complementary skills and experience to their roles as school governors.

### **Future Action**

ERO is likely to carry out the next review within three years.

## About The School

School type	Contributing Primary, Integrated
Decile <sup>1</sup>	7
School roll	179
Gender composition	Girls 51% Boys 49%
Ethnic composition	New Zealand European/Pākehā 73% New Zealand Māori 13% Other European 10% Pacific 2% South East Asian 2%
Review team on site	September 2010
Previous ERO reports	Education Review November 2007 Education Review June 2004

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<sup>1</sup> School deciles range from one to ten. Decile one schools draw their students from low socio-economic communities and at the other end of the range, decile 10 schools draw their students from high socio-economic communities. Deciles are used to provide funding to state and state integrated schools. The lower the school's decile the more funding it receives. A school's decile is in no way linked to the quality of education it provides.