

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDING MEMBER

My name is Helen Martens and I represent the Board of CHS.

Congratulations to all the award winners tonight and the rest of our graduating year. Through some extremely tough circumstances you have proved your strength and resilience over the last few years to be here tonight.

I have been asked to look ahead in this speech so I will just let you all know now that Christmas is only 54 days away!

So instead, after that depressing news, I will focus on the upcoming year.

We have built a great foundation this year with REACH, our behavioural expectations in school which underpin our culture here. It has been all about how we all treat each other in our community from our students, to our parents, to our teachers, to our ever-wonderful support staff.

We want to build on this further over the coming years. I want to acknowledge now the superlative work that John Macdonnell has done in laying the foundation on this. He has shown us a clear path forward and our new Deputy principal Amanda and Marcel Kuijpers will be strong champions of our culture here at CHS. As a whole community, we want to make these REACH behaviours live and breathe for all of us. For it just to be the way that things are done around here.

It has been a tough few years for us all. It has had different impacts on us as a community and we have gone through some tough times. The future will be about building a community that with help us deliver a high performing, inclusive and kinder school.

There are challenges ahead though, including our new NCEA exams, with a rollout on literacy and numeracy achievement. The board are grateful for the bunch of talented, dedicated and caring individuals who lead the learning here under the strategic guidance of Carol and Jo, the school's academic and learning and all the challenges that it involves, are in safe hands. I am aware it is a helluva hill to climb but I couldn't feel more grateful than to have you, the teaching staff, here at school. As a board, we are here to support you, and as parents, we are here to work with you.

The school is growing, Cambridge is growing and I am pleased that over the next xx years we will be doubling the square footage of this school. We have the new S block coming on line within the next two years along with further development of our central courtyard, both of which will recognize our place in Cambridge and encompass all who make this town their home.

I would just like to close by thanking the previous board, some of who are here tonight, you steered us through a tricky few years, your watchful eye on our safety and well being is something to be proud of. So thank you for all the time, late evenings and thought and energy to put into this school.

Also thank you to all those parents who volunteered to stand for the board. We have a committed community who cares for this school. Also like to thank the coaches and everyone who puts time into our students, from ferrying them backwards and forwards, cheering them on and even the laundry!

To the new board, Justin, Corren, Jordan, Jim, Kath, Nikki and Rachel I really look forward to working with you on this journey. Special shout out has to go to the selfless work of Deborah Godwin who is steadfast, kind and patient in all her work for the board.

A final close to just say thank you to all our hard working staff here, from Neil through to Greg. You all make this school the special place it is at the heart of our community.

Thank you

Helen Martens

Presiding Member

Cambridge High School – School Board