

20 August 2018

Catholic Schools' Netball Merger



Dear Parents/Caregivers

A proposal has been forwarded to both Sacred Heart Primary School and St Joseph's School, Timaru, about merging of all netball teams under the umbrella of Celtic and St Patrick's. This would include Saturday morning teams, as well as the junior teams that play during the week. Both schools have agreed in principle to this.

Netball South Canterbury, the principals of both schools, and the clubs view this as a positive move for the development of players, coaches, and managers going forward. The idea is that by combining players from Catholic schools, our players will experience better quality netball, and more game time.

For example, in 2018, St Joseph's had 19 Year 7 and 8 players register for netball – this meant a team of 10 and a team of nine. Sacred Heart had 24 Year 7 and 8 players register which meant two teams of 12, with players having to be put on a schedule to have games off completely. However, if both schools had been able to combine the numbers, there would have been 43 players and five teams with either eight or nine in them. This would have enabled teams to have been comprised of players with a similar ability and development, therefore increasing their netball and game development, along with more game time.

Marist Cup will still go ahead just like the rugby does. That is, teams from each school will be organised and play against each other.

To get this process of amalgamation started prior to the 2019 netball season, a foundation committee will be set up. This will comprise of representatives from Celtic/St Patricks, a teacher from each school, the principal from each school for the initial meetings, and two parents from each school. There will also be an executive member from Netball South Canterbury involved in the process as they have successfully merged other schools into clubs over the past two years. If you are interested in becoming a member of this committee, please email your principal with your expression of interest and the expertise you would bring to the committee.

David Armstrong: principal@sacredhearttim.school.nz

Carmel Brosnahan-Pye: carmel.brosnahan@stjosephstimaru.school.nz

These expressions of interest would need to be in to the principals by Friday 7 September.

Issues like club name, uniform, funding etc, will be discussed and sorted by the committee.

If you have any questions about this please contact either principal, or either of the teachers at the bottom of this letter.

Kind regards,

Amanda O'Brien
St Joseph's School, Timaru

Gina Simpson
Sacred Heart Primary School