

## St Joseph's School Board Chairperson Report 2017

Good evening and welcome Father Jayan Johnson, Principal Travis Bienkowski, newly appointed Assistant Principal Jenny Gorman, our dedicated teaching staff, parents and friends of our school community to the 2017 School Board and P&F AGM.

It seems that as we all get older the years pass quicker and quicker with 2017 having come and almost gone in the blink of an eye. I for one can remember when I was at primary school the year seemed to go for ever.

This year has seen the school board contribute to the ongoing success of the school through the support of a number of key achievements that I will outline shortly. The school board would like to start by informing the school community of our future capital works build. At the beginning of this year we had a design and layout that throughout the year has been refined and streamlined to suit the future needs of our school. Through the tremendous work done by Travis, Jenny and the school board behind the scenes, we have an application that will be tabled to the Catholic Education Office at the end of this month that the school board believe is almost certain to be approved. It is hoped that with this building approval as well as CEWA's approval of our application to access grant money early next year, we will be able progress our capital building in the not too distant future to provide the school with some new facilities that meet and exceed our future demands.

To finance a capital build we need funds and the school board would like to thank our finance officer, Heather Brown, for the tremendous amount of work she has put into ensuring our finances are all in order and especially for her great suggestion to put reserve funds into a high earning term deposit to help with our capital build, great work Heather every dollar counts.

Over the last 3 years we have seen a steady growth in student numbers from 148 in 2015 to 151 in 2016 and now 155 this year. A steady growth in student numbers helps to strengthen and justify our application to CEO for the capital building. This steady growth can also be attributed to the wonderful teachers and assistants we have. The work they do to develop and foster safe classes for our children to grow and learn is a credit to them and their dedication, so from the school board we would like to say thank you to the staff.

Through the Fogarty Edvance program we have seen continued development of our school placemat which will help to drive improvements over the next three years while giving all our staff ownership in it. This is a great program for our school and we should all be very proud of it as our school is the only catholic school in WA selected into cohort 4 which is a wonderful achievement in itself.

The MJR award has again this year gone from strength to strength and encouraged us all to build a strong and spiritual school community that Jesus would be proud of.

Other key achievements that our school has been involved in include the following

- The introduction at the beginning of the year of our School Code of Conduct for staff, visitors, student and parents.

- The move from a cash accounting system to an accrual accounting system, well done Heather on getting your head around that one.
- The introduction of a protective behaviours program for all our students from Kindy to yr 6.
- The launch of the RED, Read Every Day, program by Travis which has been a wonderful initiative to encourage our children to read more and has been very well supported.
- The introduction of the Leading Lights initiative has seen the schools IT resources become part of the Office 365 platform to ultimately give greater flexibility to our staff and students.

A huge thank you from the board to Travis and Jenny for the time and effort you have both put into strengthening and growing the school for the betterment of our children.

The board would like to thank all the volunteers throughout the year that have freely given up their time to make the school a better place for our children, whether it be the canteen, uniform shop, class helper, excursions, sports carnivals the list goes on, thank you for your help.

It's sad to say it but farewell to Mrs Lucy Birch. Lucy is such a loyal hard worker, who goes about her business quietly and professionally. The many years Lucy has spent at the school will be remembered by many, including myself and we wish her a wonderful time in retirement.

To our departing assistant principal from 2016 Lisa Gallin, thank you for the amazing work you have put into our school. Lisa has been able to achieve one of her professional goals by being appointed Principal of St Joseph's School in Boulder. The board wish to congratulate Lisa on this appointment and wish her all the best, we now you will do a wonderful job.

The school board would also like to wish Mrs Sophie Webb and her husband Jayden all the best on the impending arrival of their baby. We hope you enjoy your maternity leave and look forward to meeting junior Webb.

Lastly to the school board committee, Pat Dunne our vice chairperson, Jeanette Stampone our secretary, Rochelle Jenkinson our treasurer and committee members, Simone Fiorenza, Candice Look and departing member Naomi Edwards, a sincere and heartfelt thank you for your support and the work you have put in through this year.

On behalf of the school board we wish you and your families a safe and enjoyable school holidays and hope to see you all back in 2018 refreshed and ready for another great year.

Thank you

Peter LeRoy

Chairperson

23/11/2017