

St Joseph's Primary School Board Chairpersons Report 2016

Good evening everyone and thank you for taking the time to attend tonight's AGM.

2016 was once again a very successful year for our school and the school community despite the many challenges we faced right from day one.

The biggest of these challenges occurred before Term 1 had even begun, when we were faced with the fire and destruction of the MacKillop block as a result of vandalism. While this was devastating news to staff, children and families alike, the ability of our amazing staff to pull together to ensure that there were no delays to the start of the school term or barriers to the ongoing learning for our students was incredible and a real testament to the strength and resilience of our school.

I would like to commend our entire staffing team, our fantastic parent volunteers, our families, our students, our board and in particular our Principle Miranda for the invaluable work that has been done to ensure that not only the building project has continued to progress, but to ensure the students education was not effected and their individual needs continued to be met and exceeded throughout the year.

As a result of the destruction to the rooms, next year we will have new, modern and custom built classrooms within the MacKillop block which will be more open and free flowing, and allow greater levels of engagement for both teachers and students. We will also be able to officially open the remodelled girl's toilets which has been completed immediately prior to the fire and as a result have not been accessible as a result to date.

This year we also continued our journey to embrace modern teaching techniques, combined with traditional techniques, which have been backed by research. The positive effect this has had on students was reflected this year in the NAPLAN results in which students demonstrated sound growth, particularly by those students who have remained with the school from year three to year five, and also within the consistently high quality of work being produced by our students and on display during open nights and assemblies.

With regards to Curriculum and Professional Development programs, there was again a continued focus on improving literacy practices and student outcomes across all grades. The School continued into its second year of the Collaborative Learning Project with Dr Lyn Sharratt this year, following the fantastic results achieved last year. We have continued to see improvement in the literacy data of all students across the school and the attainment of high level targets for children in each grade level. This project will continue again next year.

One of the big aims of the school this year was to further enhance our social activities to complement our educational and engagement goals. It is at this point that I would like to take the opportunity to thank the P & F for another amazing year in which they facilities a number of activities and events including Fun Days, Discos, Movie Nights, event stalls, and even a Zumba Dance Party. All of these activities, along with school based initiatives like the Phonics Club, SEEDS, open nights and the Reading

recovery program have all greatly assisted in enhancing school community spirit and engagement this year.

The school's successful 3 year old Pre Kindy program has continued to grow this year; with 2 full classes of 3 year olds gaining a head start on their education in 2016. The success and demand of this program has seen a large number of enrolments for next year already being taken and we expect the program to be filled prior to the commencement of term 1 2017.

Other projects and programs for this year included;

- The replacement of ipads,
- The purchasing of contemporary furniture for years one and two,
- The upgrading and redevelopment of the front of the school with fruit trees and native plants,
- And the rebranding and reworking of the school canteen and menu.

Unfortunately we will see a number of staff move on at the conclusion of this year. On behalf of the Board I would like to offer them all our deepest thanks for their contributions to the school and to our students, and to wish them the very best for the future.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Board this year for their fantastic commitment and support to the school. Despite having so many new members to the board and having to face such a significant challenge even before the school year begun, everyone was very quick to learn and provided input from day one. Having taken over as Chairman this year it has been a pleasure to work with our board and I look forward to continuing to do so next year.

Looking towards 2016, we will not be increasing our school fees for the year. While generally increases are set by the Catholic Education Office, this year the board was given the opportunity to leave fees as they are, which we all voted in favour of doing. Our treasurer, Mark, will touch on this further in his report.

In conclusion I would like to recognise Miranda and her incredible team, our wonderful volunteers and parents, and most importantly our amazing students for such a fantastic year. To those families, students, staff and committee members departing, thank you for your amazing work and for helping us all make St Joseph the school it is. I would encourage everyone to get involved in the school as it is a very rewarding experience and one that will continue to see to the school go from strengths to strengths.

2017 looks set to be a very big year and I look forward to working through it with you all.

Thank you.

Terrence Winner