



November 27, 2018

Welcome everyone to our School Board AGM for 2018

The Board have once again worked towards maintaining and providing for the school's development and I would like to thank them for their hard work and efforts. Unfortunately, this year has seen a reduction in student numbers for various reasons, most of which are beyond our control which has had an effect on the budget but we have been able to continue as planned. Most notably we are nearing completion of the new staff room and specialist teacher offices. Thanks to the teachers for moving out of the staff room and living in the hall for the last term amongst the resources. I hope the new staff room is worth it and that the specialist staff enjoy having a proper desk.

The new 'Kiss and Drive' and bus drop off areas seem to have made a difference to the amount of traffic on Dandaragan Street and I'm happy to say have alleviated some of the problems we were having. I do not think there is a perfect answer to the car park issues that come up you will never build one big enough to please everyone.

Along with the staff room build we have continued to ensure that technology is updated regularly and that the classrooms are provided with all that they need.

We recently underwent a school audit, these processes although time consuming for those concerned are an important part of our continual improvement. There were a few issues to be addressed but certainly nothing major to concern us. Thanks to all who were involved in the audit for your time and efforts.

Therese returned to the school in January after her year in Perth and we welcomed Jae Dornan in the role of Assistant Principal and year 4 co-teacher along with Nicole Kerr. Looking at the end of the year, it feels like they have been around forever and have certainly fitted into the St Joseph's community.

St Josephs is more than the teaching staff and without them our children would not have the beautiful environment that they learn in. Gary keeps control of the grounds; he did manage to have a break this year, but we were very lucky to have Lyle Carter take over the role in Gary's absence and he did a wonderful job. Our cleaning staff, Felana and Katherine, always make sure that the school looks pristine on the inside. Our school would not be the same without the lovely Rosemary and her helpers in the canteen who put in many hours of work helping out at various events as well as making sure everyone is well fed. Rosemary has put up with some difficult conditions in the building site this last term. I am sure she will be happy to return to normal soon.

Michelle joined us in the front office this year and keeps us extremely well informed on social media and raising community awareness of what we are doing as well as being the 'go to' person for

parents, visitors and staff. At the end of last year Ruth stepped down to one day a week and left the bulk of the work in the capable hands of Natasha who also had to deal with a change of accounting system and a change in programmes. I guess CEWA like to get value for money out of the office staff and push them to their limits. Well done to you, Natasha, in coping with the changes and once again for your assistance in the planning and budgeting. I hope everyone realises the time it takes to provide these reports and formulate the budget. It is not an easy task and is made more difficult with the delay in announcing the grants this year.

We do have some changes in our staff but as always that is for Therese to tell you in her report. Whilst welcoming back some staff we also have some farewells. Whatever the case whether moving on, returning or staying I wish you all the best in whatever next year brings.

Once again, the P & F have had a great year, we have seen the shade areas built in various parts of the school and new initiatives based around fellowship and belonging and not just fundraising which only improves the strong community of our school. Thank you to everyone involved in the P & F for your efforts this year.

Sadly, for me tonight, these last few sentences see an end to not only my involvement with the Board after seven years but also ten years at the school. I have had the opportunity to work with many different people and I have truly cherished my time here. When I first started the biggest decision was Gary's ride on mower, then of course the many sheds and who could forget my personal favourite - the car parks. It is nice to see that the final project I have had involvement with has been the extension to the staff room and further improvement of the school. There are so many people whose time and effort seems endless when it come to the school community. Never underestimate what we have here. We have dedicated staff and parents whom I know will continue to improve and move this school forward and will continue to provide an education that will hold our children in good stead for whatever they choose to be. I know the School Board is in good hands with experience and new ideas and it will continue to guide the school financially. Whoever takes over my role as Board Chair just remember that my personal best of 29 minutes for the length of the meeting is the one to beat.

I hope you all enjoy the last two weeks of school. It's hard to believe another year has gone already. I look forward to the end of year concert and seeing the hard work of both the children and teachers. As we look forward to the Christmas break, I would like to wish you all a safe and happy holiday period, enjoy the time with your loved ones and take a little time to reflect on the year as we look forward to the next. Thanks once again to every individual who makes our school what it is.

God bless,

Jane Duck

Board Chair