

CHAIRPERSON'S 2017 BOARD REPORT presented by MAR HUBE (29/11/2017)

Welcome

I respectfully acknowledge Traditional Owners of this land on which we are meeting, the Wadjuk people, and pay my respects to Elders past and present. It is a privilege to be standing on Noongar country.

We are honoured to be able to use this site with the approval of the traditional owners for the purpose of providing the best education for all children.

Together we acknowledge the contributions of Aboriginal Australians and non-Aboriginal Australians to the education of all children and people in this country, we all live in and share together.

My name is Mar Hube. I have one boy at this school. I am the father of Roman, 4G.

<Photo of Roman>

At every school occasion I stress that we should take the opportunity to introduce ourselves to other parents. May I strongly suggest you say hello and introduce yourself to someone you do not know. This is a great opportunity.

At the end of this Annual General Meeting there will be the chance to meet other parents, and teachers at this school. Please do take this opportunity to say hello to the teachers. I also encourage you to mingle and introduce themselves to someone or teacher they have not yet met.

Acknowledgements

- Dan Bull, parent & Councillor West Ward, Mayor of City of Bayswater
- Chris Cornish, parent & Councillor Central Ward, Deputy Mayor City of Bayswater
- Fr Minh-Thuy, Parish Priest
- Megan Dwyer, current Principal
- Art Lombardi, new Principal, commencing 1 January 2018
- Fellow Board members
- Members of the Parish Council
- Teachers
- Representatives from the Parents & Friends committee
- Parents

Role of the Board - Constitution

1. Planning for the present and future of the school
2. Dissemination of information about the school and catholic education
3. Liaising in all matters relating to the financial management of the school
4. Managing all the finances associated with the school
5. Advising the Principal with respect to School policy

Membership

The Board comprises:

- a) Principal of the School as an Ex-Officio member;
- b) Parish Priest as an Ex-Officio member
- c) between four and six persons elected
- d) Parish Council representative
- e) Parents and Friends' Association representative

Mercy Values

St Columba's School is founded on four Mercy Values. They are: Justice, Excellence, Service and Compassion.

This year we celebrated the **Mercy value of Excellence**.

Next year, 2018 we celebrate the **Mercy value of Service**.

Service is the exercising and ministry of leadership in order to make a positive difference in the lives of individuals and communities.

Each one of you has received a special grace, so put yourselves at the service of others." 1 PETER 4:10

"The mercy value of service is about helping others. You help others because it is what God wants you to do and you don't ask for pocket money or some other reward in return."

"You should be like a shining lamp giving light to all around you" - Catherine McCauley

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Acknowledge fellow Board Members

1. Megan Dwyer, Principal
2. Fr Minh-Thuy, Parish Priest
3. Paul Depiazzi, Parish Representative
4. Kellie Janney, P&F representative on the Board
5. Greg Armstrong, Treasurer
6. Paul Shanahan, Secretary
7. Jennifer Debono
8. Verity Donovan
9. Natalie Campbell

In addition to the constitutional obligations mentioned earlier, as Chair of the School Board I set a very clear direction for this year 2017 and beyond. The priorities were:

1. To act in the now and plan for the future
2. Plan for stage seven (and final) school building plan.
3. Ongoing governance
 - a. Canteen
 - b. Uniform shop
4. Bursary

As Richard Cyert said “Leadership is the ability to get participants in an organisation to focus their attention on the problems that the leader considers significant.”¹

Achievements:

1. To review and implement school improvement plan for 2018.

Working with a consultant Jeff Thorne, the Board with input from the teaching community, finalised a new vision statement for the school and school improvement plan. This plan provides the school with a clear direction for the next year. Work has also begun on the next three school strategic plan.

The results from the SRC insight survey are excellent and reinforce the progress shown in NAPLAN and other data that we have been using within our Annual School Improvement Plan.

The challenge for the school is to maintain the improvement trajectory and not lose focus by trying to be everything to everyone.

The Board and staff are to be congratulated on your ongoing commitment to quality and improvement.

¹ Richard Cyert was an American economist, statistician and organizational theorist, known from his seminal 1959 work "A behavioural theory of the firm" co-authored with and James G. March.

2. Planning for stage seven (and final) school building plan Capital Development Plan.

I pleased to say that stage seven, the new administration building and covered court to be used for school assemblies is almost complete. As the numbers of teachers has increased as a result of going two stream, we will finally be able to provide a

- better facilities for staff, including staff room, toilets, functional offices and a sick bay.
- A new building with clearer controlled and safer entry onto the school premises
- a huge covered play area. This will allow for whole of school assemblies, child to play under cover during the cooler and wet months, and hot summer days.

3. Ongoing governance

a. Canteen

A mandate of the Board is to manage all the finances associated with the school, including the canteen. Late last year the Board made the decision to close the canteen as it had been making a financial loss. In consultation with the Principal, Chisholm Catholic College came to an agreement to provide a canteen service. This has been very successful, although I do note that it is down to four days per week. I must stress that this is a commercial decision made by Chisholm College and if we do want to keep this arrangement ongoing, then we must support it.

b. Uniform Shop

With thanks to Bec Pileggi, we have been able to get a better understanding of what we have and require in the uniform shop. Using her project management skills, Bec has assisted the school to reduce uniform stock levels, monitor sales of respective items and better plan for future requirements. It must be stressed that keeping stock is a cost to the school and therefore, as a trading account, the Board has an obligation to ensure financial prudence.

4. Bursary

The Board firmly believes that offering a Bursary presents an opportunity for the School, the Parish and the wider local community to work together closely to influence and enrich the spiritual, social and economic fabric of the school and wider community.

5. Covered walkway

The School Board has approved the funding and building of a covered walkway along the buildings adjacent to the school oval. This will provide shade and reduce the afternoon sun, protect school bags from rain and intense sunlight and look aesthetically pleasing, blending in with the existing structures.

Funding for the project will be a combination of school funds and low interest loans.

It is expected that the build will commence and be completed during the 2018-19 summer school holidays

6. Changing of the guard

At the end of term three it was announced that Mr Greg Martin had been appointed as Principal at Our Lady's Assumption in Dianella. We are very pleased to welcome Mr Art Lombardi who comes to us with great credentials from Mary MacKillop Catholic Community Primary School Ballajura

Although most of us are saddened that Greg cannot be here with us for term four to join in the year six graduation and end-of-year celebrations, we should be proud that because of

the high regard in which he is held at Catholic Education WA he was asked to relief at Luurnpa Catholic School, Wirrimanu Community in Balgo Hills.
Please take the opportunity to sign the book.
I spoke to Greg today and he

Thank you

- Thank you to Simonne Moretta and Steve Vincuillo Co-Presidents of the Parents and Friends Committee. I would like to acknowledge the P&F and all the parents that attend the meetings and help out doing in so many things around the school, the fund raising, tuck shop, uniform shop, class helpers etc. Your dedication and enthusiasm makes this school. Thank you.
- Kellie Janney has advised me that she is stepping down as the P&F Representative on the School Board. Thank you Kellie for a sterling job as the conduit between the P&F community and the Board. Your insights and
- I would like to acknowledge and thank the School Board for their passionate contribution, child focussed and balanced views. Thank you.
- I am very proud to be a parent and the Board Chair of this school. Every year has been challenging and exciting. In hindsight, we can all say what a great job we all have done.

The following passage is commonly mis-attributed to Nelson Mandela's 1994 Inaugural Address. It actually comes from the book 'A Return To Love' (1992) by Marianne Williamson.

*"...Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.
Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.
It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us.
We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?
Actually, who are you not to be?
You are a child of God.
Your playing small does not serve the world.
There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you.
We are all meant to shine, as children do.
We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.
It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone.
And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.
As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."*

This brings my report to an end. I would like to acknowledge and thank the parents of the year sixes who will not be returning next year. I hope that in part that this St Columba's community, our community, has assisted you in raising and educating your child and

developing solid foundations for their graduation to high school; but more importantly, strengthening them as a young person to meet the challenges, joys and awes of life. I hope high school and the new phase of education is a fulfilling and fruitful as has been here at St Columba's.

On behalf of the School Board I would like to wish you happy and safe holidays, a holy festive Christmas, and a prosperous New Year 2018.