

Chairman's report 2016

On behalf of the School Board it gives me great pleasure to provide the 2016 Chairman's Report. I realise we repeat these words each year but this school year has again been an extremely busy one for the School Board.

As we all know there is a significant amount of work that goes into running a school of this size and the School Board is only a small but important component of this. I imagine most people are unfamiliar with the workings of a catholic primary school board and are a little unsure of the role we play.

Our role is primarily to act as a sounding board for the Principal and Executive on matters of a financial and commercial nature. This can include such functions as:

- Planning for the present and future operations of the School;
- Assisting in the recruitment of staff;
- Ensuring information about the School and about Catholic education is communicated to persons and organisations in the School Community;
- Liaising in all matters relating to the financial management of the School; and
- advising the Principal with respect to School policy within the confines of the Catholic education policy and procedure.

Generally, the Board acts as an avenue of consultation used by the Principal to gauge opinions on particular initiatives or matters of interest.

An example of this is our monthly Finance sub-committee. Brad Pymont, our Board Treasurer, together with other members of the Board provide a level of oversight and governance to the management

of the school's financial statements and annual budgets. They are provided high quality information by the schools Finance Officer Robin Giles and we again thank him for his assistance throughout the year. Brad will dazzle you with an update of the school's financial position shortly.

Throughout this year the Board has assisted the School Executive with a number of financial and commercial projects these include:

- Finalised revisions to the School's strategic plan;
- Participated in a school capital planning process with the Catholic Education Office;
- Approved upgrades to the School's security & fencing;
- Assisted in the setting of the School Fee's & Collections Policy;
- Participated in QCS surveys;
- Attended Catholic Education Office in service on Board requirements; and
- Approved the school's Annual operating and capital budgets.

This is not an exhaustive list but hopefully gives you an indication of the type of roles the Board does play.

The Board as a whole has covered a variety of topics within their meetings this year. We are very lucky in this aspect, as we are given the opportunity to obtain an insight into more than just the financial operations of a large catholic primary school.

One of these area's is the study of the Bishops' Mandate of the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia. After four years of ongoing review I'm pleased - and my fellow board members are much relieved - to say that the Board and Executive has finalised their review of the Mandate. As in previous years several Board members and Executives took the opportunity to participate in presenting to the

Board on a particular topic from within the mandate. The presentations were diverse but all shared the purpose of engaging more deeply with the Bishop's expectations and reason for the existence of Catholic schools. The Board's goal in studying the mandate is to help us support the leadership group in the area of their work and faith.

An important role the Board also assists with is the appointment of teaching staff. This is the fourth year I have had the privilege of being included on the interview panels and I've found this is one of the most rewarding aspects of my role on the Board. Every recruitment decision made reflects how the school continues to employ highly skilled and passionate teachers who want to continue to hone their craft for the benefit of our children.

The teaching staff we have here is of a very high standard. They are extraordinary people who are willing to commit to new ideas, innovative ways of teaching and most of all provide that day to day support to ensure our children receive a quality Catholic Education. The teachers are assisted by many other support staff within our Community and for this the Board would like to acknowledge the strong contribution you all make to the team.

To our School Executive expertly lead by our Principal Toni Kalat, with the able support of Deputy Principals, Courtney Dunsire, Nicole Cloutt and of course Mark Ryan. The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your dedication and commitment throughout the year. Managing all facets and intricacies of a three-stream school is no easy task but the way you all work together to get the job done, makes it appear more like fun than work. The Board is very proud of the contribution you and the staff have made to the

school this year and we look forward to greater things to come in 2017. No pressure!

I would now like to take a moment and thank two very special members of the staff. Firstly, Amanda Burke, Amanda outside of her normal duties also has the function of providing support to the Board.

Your exceptional organisational skills keep everyone on track. In the nicest possible way, you tell us where to go and what to do. Quite simply, the Board would not function so efficiently without you. We are very appreciative of all the work you do for us and we thank you for you for your support.

Secondly to Sister Em. There aren't enough adjectives in the dictionary to describe Sister Em. Although you like to keep in the background, your kind and gentle manner together with your strong spiritual guidance touch every one of us in the Mater Christi community. Words can't express how fortunate we are to have you in our lives. Thank you, Sister Em.

The Board would also like to acknowledge a very special event that occurred this year which was the farewell of Father Bryan Rosling. As we are all aware, the Mater Christi school community would not be the place it is today without the foresight, vision and hard work of Father Bryan. The staff and students in acknowledging Father Bryan's contribution organised a farewell celebration which I know he was most appreciate of. We thank you all for your contribution in celebrating what was a wonderful occasion.

The Board would also like to take this opportunity to formally welcome Father Dat Vuong to our Parish and School. Father Dat has taken over the largest Parish in Diocese of the Perth, which includes four schools. Father Dat has taken to the challenge of leading this

Parish Community as if he had been here for years. We are very grateful that the Archbishop has placed Father Dat at Mater Christi and we thank him for his contribution to our School Board this year. With your energy and enthusiasm Father Dat, we are confident our Parish will continue to grow from strength to strength.

The Board would also like to acknowledge the P&F for their contribution. We are extremely fortunate to have such a committed group of parent volunteers who strive to provide the best environment possible for our students. We thank Teresa Lawson President, Karen Simmons Vice President and the whole Executive Committee for your work this year and we also look forward to your ongoing support in 2017.

A number of staff will be leaving Mater Christi at the end of 2016 to continue their professional careers at other schools. I hope you leave knowing that you have made a significant impact on our children and the school as a whole to which we are forever grateful. We thank you all for your contribution to Mater Christi and we hope that you continue to achieve success in whatever your chosen path maybe.

It is also my sad duty tonight to farewell one Board Member – Ange Radanovic. Ange has been on the Board for the past four years and held the role of secretary for two of those years. We thank Ange for her service to the school and wish her all the best for the future.

I'd also like to thank the remaining members of the Board for their contribution this year. I know I can safely speak on behalf of Toni when I say that the School Executive certainly values the guidance you all provide. I know that you all will continue your support of the school in 2017.

As this my last year as a Board member of Mater Christi Catholic Primary School, I would like to thank the School Community for this opportunity I have been given to be involved with the School Board. It has been my privilege to work with and get to know so many committed people whose singular goal is to provide care, support and a quality catholic education to our children. May you all continue the good work being done to nurture our wonderful School Community.

In closing, I'd like to note for the Annual General Meeting that Mater Christi Catholic Primary School continues to be in an exceptionally strong spiritual, educational and financial position. We have strong enrolments for 2017, quality staff and with the continuing support of Father Dat and Sr Em, our Catholic Community will, as always, continue to flourish and grow.

Thank you.