



St Agnes' Catholic Primary School Highett

Education Advisory Board Report to the School Community - 2019

What a year we have had in 2019. The school community has faced significant change this year. We have welcomed and farewelled 3 acting Principals and 2 Parish Priests, despite all this the school has continued to move forward.

We thank Therese Stewart, Carmel Purdy and Margaret O'Donnell for their efforts in ensuring, that despite the changes, our children were continued to be educated without feeling the impacts of change.

We farewelled Father Stephen and welcomed Father John. We are thankful to Father John for the passion he has for future school developments and his mission in bringing the Parish and School together.

As a final and most pleasing note on this we welcomed Lachlan Foott as our Principal. We are very pleased with Lachlan's appointment and look forward to working with him as your representatives in 2020.

The key items to come out of the year for the Board were the changes to the uniform shop and suppliers and the finalisation of the Master Plan and how this could be implemented.

While I mention the uniform changes, whilst the Board was used as a sounding and approval process, the work was all done by Leanne Cooke and Sophie Franet. Upon taking on the shop last year it was quickly evident to this team that there was a better way of doing things. Getting a new supplier on board is no easy task and there was a significant amount of work undertaken in getting this completed. Our thanks to both Leanne and Sophie for their efforts in delivering a more convenient and flexible outcome to meet our uniform needs.

Finalising the Master Plan is a significant step. Without this document our ability to apply for any funding is limited. As you may have noted for the earlier correspondence on this, this is a concept plan and demonstrates how the school may look and operate in the future. We have continued to work with Father John and Lachlan on the short and longer term implementation of the plan. At this point we still have no update on the current funding application, however despite this it is anticipated that some smaller improvements may be implemented in the short term. We will continue to keep you up to date on this.

Now to thank a few.

I would like to thank the outgoing board members. To Daniel Bunnett, Sophie Franet, Sarah Attree and Michelle Biddick, on behalf of the School community we are very grateful for your efforts and input into your roles on the Board.

A vibrant faith and learning community

Thanks to Martin Forbes and Jacinta Whelan for their involvement on the Principal Appointment Panel. This was a vital piece of work for the School community moving forward and we thank you for your efforts.

To Shannon Shine and Carlyn Villani, our fete coordinators, thank you for the day. Put simply it just showed what a great community we have here at St Agnes to be able to pull this off despite the leadership changes. To all stallholders, we say thanks, regardless of the financial result, it was a great day to showcase our community here at St Agnes, to the broader Highett Community. You can't buy that.

Our thanks to the teachers and staff. Thankyou on behalf of the whole community for your efforts this year. Change is always hard in a workplace, but uncertainty even more so. Throughout the year you have not waived on your dedication to our children. Thankyou.

Finally, I would like to personally single out Matt Cherry for his efforts this year. Matt has been the single constant in the Leadership team this year, and his dedication and support to those coming into the acting roles and to the Board has been unquestionable. Thanks Matt.

We look forward to 2020 with a clarity of sense and direction. We will welcome new board members and continue to represent the community with our best efforts, and we will continue to examine the best possible ways of doing this.

Myles Whelan

Chair – Education Advisory Board.