## St Andrew's Primary School Clayton South



13th March, 2024

Dear families,

I write to you to inform you of my impending plans in regards to my employment at St Andrew's School, my employment within Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) and forward planning for our school.

I have informed Fr Joe, Deb Egan (MACS Southern Region General Manager), and our staff team that I will be taking a period of Long Service Leave from the commencement of Term 3, Monday 15th, July, 2024 through to Friday 20th, December, 2024. Thereafter I will be ceasing my employment at St Andrew's School and retiring from my role as Principal. My time on site as principal of St Andrew's School will effectively conclude on Friday 28th June, 2024, the last day of Term 2.

The decision to retire from my role as principal at St Andrew's School, and as an employee of MACS, has been a most challenging and long considered one. After 38 joy filled years working in Catholic Education, and 25 extremely rewarding years in the role as Principal across 3 schools, I have made the decision to retire. I look forward to spending time with my wife Karen, along with my parents and family and friends, enjoying relaxing days of travel, golf, long walks with my dog, great times at the MCG and most importantly, special times with my daughter Madeleine and my soon to arrive first grandchild (May 21)! I am so blessed that I have much to look forward to in my life!

I first commenced my employment at St Andrew's School in January 2018 and have thoroughly enjoyed my partnership with the parish and school community, the staff team and of course those who bring great happiness to my every day, the amazing St Andrew's children. My 7 years at St Andrew's school have brought immense personal reward and I am proud of the most significant progress that we as a faith filled learning community have made. As a staff team, with the ever present support of Fr Joe, we have formed a school where our children are greatly valued and celebrated and where the learning for all children is so effectively and purposefully presented. It is as a result of my pride in what St Andrew's School has now become that I feel that I can leave with enormous confidence in the capacity of our current staff, and our leadership team, to continue to foster an outstanding school community.

After negotiations with Fr Joe and Deb Egan, Nicole Black will be appointed as Acting Principal of St Andrew's School commencing Monday 15th July, 2024, the beginning of Term 3, with her role as Acting Principal concluding Monday 27th January, 2025. Nicole currently has the role of Deputy Principal/Religious Education Leader. Nicole will work alongside Emma Strom, Deputy Principal/Learning and Teaching Leader, to lead our school community.

Deb Egan (MACS Southern Region General Manager) will liaise with Fr Joe to negotiate the appointment of a new principal to St Andrew's school. A Principal Selection Panel will be formed with the responsibility to appoint a new Principal to commence at the beginning of the 2025 school year.

I look forward to continuing to support our school community in the months ahead and to work with Nicole and Emma to ensure that a strategic leadership plan is put in place for terms 3 and 4 of the current school year. There will no doubt be further communication to families in the weeks ahead in regards to my period of leave and future retirement.

I thank you in anticipation of your support and understanding for my decision to cease my period of employment at St Andrew's School and my retirement from Catholic Education.

Kindest regards,

Paul Wakeling