



## **School Board Chairperson's Report 2017 – Mr Simon Kerin**

What a busy year it has been for our school and for our newly-formed Board. We completed a maintenance program for the school going forward, to make sure that our school is kept in tip top condition. I attended a Board Chair conference in Perth to learn about many of the great initiatives the Catholic Education System is looking to provide for our kids into the future.

At Board level, there were a few changes in the Executive Committee, with Sheldon Kowald stepping into the Treasurer position, myself into the Chair position, and Gail Butterworth continuing as the Secretary.

We also welcomed new members onto the board in Linda Hewson, and Tania Edwards as the P&F representative, whilst saying goodbye to long serving chairperson and committee members Tania Wolfe and Angelina Rose.

I would like to extend my thanks to the wonderful staff at Saint Patrick's that teach and nurture our children every day. We are very lucky to have you as part of our children's lives. To the teaching staff that are leaving at the end of this year, we wish you all the very best in your future endeavours. You have all made a positive mark on your students throughout your time here.

A huge thanks must go to the often undervalued, and unsung people in our school community - the volunteers. Whether volunteering for the canteen, the uniform shop, turning a sausage at a barbecue, or helping at an excursion, be assured that the wider school community is extremely grateful for your help, and the school would not function to its capacity without this help.

Of special note, I'd like to thank the volunteering members of the P&F and the School Board, who generously donate their time for our school, and the many mums, dads and grandparents who help at our major fundraising days and sports carnivals. I encourage all parents to get involved in some way with our school. It's a great way to meet and make new friends. Over the years the P&F have put a lot of money into the extra resources & playgrounds that are available to our children. We are very lucky to have hard working volunteers in our school.

A Special thank you to my fellow board members, Gail Butterworth (Secretary), Sheldon Kowald (Treasurer), Mike Allen, Linda Hewson, Marie Hanna (Parish Rep) and Tania Edwards (P&F Rep). Your support throughout the year has been exceptional, especially in what is my first year as a board chairperson.

In mid-October, our Principal of 4 years, Mr Chris Smith, tendered his resignation to take up an Assistant Principal role at Mary's Mount in Gooseberry Hill in 2018. Chris' tireless dedication and energy within the school will be dearly missed. The children will fondly remember Chris' ability to command attention in an assembly or in a classroom situation with a smiling face, a quick joke, or just a mention of Richmond football club. In his time with us, Chris has overseen the implementation of various educational trends, such as Explicit Instruction and Leading Lights, from which our children are reaping the learning benefits. Chris' kindness and the compassion shown to our school community has been a major attribute of his leadership. We wish Chris and Natalie, and their 4 children Xavier, Noelle, Seb and Evie all the best back in Perth.

We are now in the process of looking for a new Principal and hopefully, an announcement on Chris' successor can be made towards the end of November.

I wish everyone a wonderful and enjoyable Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year.