

School Advisory Council Chairperson Report 2023

We have enjoyed another busy, but successful year at Saint Patrick's, with many achievements and much to celebrate. It has been very pleasing for us on the School Advisory Council to see the school make such great progress towards many of our strategic goals this year. One of our major goals has been to focus on growing our school by attracting as many Kindy students as possible each year, so we were delighted to see such a large Kindy group come through this year, under the new Kindy team led by the talented Mrs Gerri Kowald. On the SAC, we have also spoken at length about how we can ensure that St Patrick's develops its reputation as an outstanding school in our region- we are very satisfied that we have been able to take many steps in 2023 towards achieving this.

Key issues on the SAC this year have included the recruitment and retention of staff moving forward, as well as the long-term financial viability of our school. We have entered into conversation with CEWA on numerous occasions on both of these issues. While our funding for 2024 is not what we expected it to be, we are very confident that we will be able to work with CEWA on a solution for the future. It has been great to see all members of the SAC in support of the school implementing its own incentives to attract staff, such as the offering of leadership roles within the school, as well as generous housing assistance packages. We believe that these will continue to be vital in the coming years.

In recent years, it has been a pleasure to be part of the School Advisory Council, due to the wonderful mix of individuals making up our membership. At all times, we have been on the same page and worked together seamlessly for the good of our school. We have enjoyed efficient, but light-hearted meetings (and always a refreshment to follow). I particularly acknowledged those SAC members who will be completing their service this year- Penny Shackley, Natalie Nicholson and Linda Hewson- thank you for your great contributions to our council.

I would like to extend my thanks to the wonderful staff at St Patrick's who teach and care for our children so brilliantly every day. We, as parents, are very appreciative of what you do.

To the staff members and families that may be leaving at the end of this year, we wish you all the very best in your future endeavours. You have all had a tremendous impact on St Patricks throughout your time here.

One of the great things about our school is the parent support that is evident throughout the year. A huge thank you must go to all our volunteers- whether it be attending meetings, working with our P&F, volunteering in canteen or with fundraising- every contribution matters and adds up to result in the great environment that all of our families enjoy.

I would like to also make a special acknowledgment to Mrs. Helen Robinson who does amazing work to not only assist the SAC, but in ensuring that our school operates like a well-oiled machine. Thank you for everything you do, Helen.

In closing, I hope you all enjoy the last few weeks of term, have a very safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year's break, and we will see you all back here in 2024 for another super year.

Regards
Andrew Bushell
School Advisory Council Chairperson.

