



Board Chair Report 2018

Good evening everyone and welcome. On behalf of the School Board I am pleased to present the 2018 Board Report.

When we reflect on all that has been achieved this year, there is much to celebrate. This year we celebrated St John's 70th anniversary which encouraged a host of wonderful activities that celebrated the history of the School. As in previous years, 2018 has been an exceptionally busy year and this report provides an insight into the year's activities and achievements. The many projects and initiatives completed this year will help to ensure St John's continues to celebrate many more milestones in the future.

In case you are unfamiliar with the role the Board plays, our role is primarily to oversee the school finances, to provide advice on policies to the school Principal, and act as a sounding mechanism for the Principal on other matters brought to our attention. Through the Finance Subcommittee, our Board Treasurer, Greg Wheeler, together with all members of the Board, provide a level of oversight and governance to the management of the School's financial statements and annual budget. We are provided high quality information by the School's Finance Officer, Jeannette Williams, who we thank for her wonderful support - yet sadly farewell as she leaves the School at the end of the year. We warmly welcome Megan Riordan into the role of Finance Officer and look forward to working with Megan next year. Greg will present the Finance Report and provide us with an update of the School's financial position shortly.

Although as a Board our role is primarily the oversight of the financial operations of the school, we keep an active focus on the school's outcomes guided by the School's Strategic Plan and Annual School Improvement Plan, and we have covered a variety of topics within our meetings this year.

Each month, the members of our Board Subcommittees meet to develop and plan for the areas and functions within their portfolios. These subcommittees include: Finance, IT, Communications and Community, and Assets and Maintenance. The P&F and Parish Representatives also present a monthly report.

The following are the significant developments and accomplishments under each subcommittee:

Assets and Maintenance Sub Committee

The annual maintenance program ensures the ongoing safety, cleanliness, attractiveness and functionality of the school. A high priority is given to creating and maintaining an attractive and functional environment that supports and encourages learning, and which fosters a strong sense of belonging and pride in the School for students, parents and staff.

Sustainability was a key Annual School Improvement Plan focus this year, which led the committee to consider opportunities to make the school environment more sustainable.

This year saw the following projects be completed:

- Lighting upgrades for all external security lights, the Admin Block and two classrooms this year to support the Board's plan to reduce power consumption.
- Lighting to the Scarborough Beach Road signage.



- Solar panel installation to be completed in 10 December, 2018.
- Upgrades to the School's security and fencing.

Two Years ago we engaged the services of EIW Architects to plan for the School's future capital development works. The vision for this capital development includes improvements and upgrades for all classes. Approved in November this year, the first stage of the Capital Development Plan will see a repositioning of the Pre Primary classroom to ensure the children in this cohort have direct access to their outdoor learning environment and will make improvements to the outdoor area between Pre Primary and the Hall. Building works will (hopefully!) commence in April 2019.

The Capital Development Plan is the result of much discussion, planning, consultation and negotiation occurring over the last 2 years. It is exciting and ambitious, yet stays within our financial capability.

I invite **Andrew Durkin** – Chair of the Assets & Maintenance Subcommittee – to present the conceptual plans of the Capital Development Plan and to provide a summary of the key design elements, the proposed staging of building works, and associated plans for relocating classes during the works.

Presentation :

I extend our thanks to Ben Cohen, Richard Barratt and another of our parents, Luke Willcock, for his expertise on this subcommittee.

Community and Communications Sub Committee

The Board identified the need to review and develop its marketing and communications initiatives, and so a Marketing Plan was developed with the assistance of one of our current parents, Kelli Pala, who is consulting with our Communications and Community Subcommittee. Thank you, Kelli for your skills and expertise in this important area.

The overarching objectives of the Marketing Plan focus on two key areas that were informed by the 2017 Quality Catholic Schooling Survey and CEWA data.

These two key areas are:

1. Engagement - Building the St John's School Catholic brand in the community; and
2. (+student?) Recruitment - Developing and maintaining recruitment strategies to increase prospective interest and enrolments.

In response to these focus area, specific initiatives undertaken this year included:

- New School signage on Lalor Street.
- Development of an HTML newsletter for School families.
- Improved website functionality and optimisation.
- An external banner on Scarborough Beach Rd that has encouraged enrolments and improved awareness of the School's location.
- Increased PR including an increase in media releases published in our local newspapers.
- Development of a social media strategy, which, this year, primarily focussed on Facebook.



In particular, the implementation of the School Facebook page this year has helped us to share the rich and deep learning that occurs in our School, showcased many of the great student achievements, and promoted the strong sense of community that characterises St John's. It also seeks to expand and improve the general awareness of St John's within the local community and to highlight the St John's expertise in early childhood education.

Marketing and community relations will continue to be a focus in 2019 as we strive to uphold and build upon our position in the Catholic education environment.

IT Sub Committee

We have continued to build upon the technology leap of the past few years.

- The Seesaw app was successfully implemented across many year groups
- The addition of an IT Teacher Specialist Role (FTE 0.1) supporting IT implementation and teacher professional development.
- iPad upgrades
- Server upgrade
- IT

Acknowledgments

The Board would like to acknowledge a special event that occurred in July which was the farewell of Father Ben. To pay tribute to his 8 years of service, staff, students and parents attended a joyful mass and farewell celebration which displayed the love and respect for Father Ben and the incredible impact he has made in our whole community. We offer our heartfelt thanks to Father for all he has done for our School and Parish community.

The Board congratulates and thanks the P&F for their significant support throughout the year. Again, you have made exceptional contributions to our school by providing a great number of resources for the benefit of our children and whole School community, and have worked tirelessly on many events and projects which Emma will share with us shortly. A huge thank you to the retired President Ainslie Winkler, current President, Emma Taylor, Vice President, Allan Hoffman, and all the P&F Executive and Committee for your energy and enthusiasm to support and build our community.

2019 will see some changes in the parents who comprise our Board and I would like to acknowledge and farewell our four retiring Board members.

After 6 years, Sue Harvey will retire from her position as Parish Representative. From all of us Sue, I extend our sincere thanks for your passion, loyalty and support. You will be missed.

Thank you to Julie Johnson and Ben Cohen who have both been on the Board for the past four years. Julie has served on the Community and Communications Subcommittee and has held the role of Secretary for the last two years and Ben has supported the IT and Assets and Maintenance Subcommittees during that time. Thank you both for your dedication and service.

Thank you also to Richelle Howard, P&F Rep to the Board this year – for providing that very important link between the P&F, Board and School.

And to Ashlee De Campo for her valuable input at Board meetings.



To the returning Board members, I thank you for your dedication and collaboration throughout the year, and to our new Board nominees, we look forward to welcoming the successful applicants onto the Board next year.

I extend my sincere thanks to Mary for all that she does for our School community and for her guidance in my first year as Board Chair – and the Board also wish to acknowledge all St John's staff for their passion for teaching and devotion to our children and we extend a very warm welcome to new staff appointed for 2019.

In closing, the past twelve months have shown great success and accomplishments. Currently we have strong enrolments for 2019, a positive financial position, exciting capital development works in the pipeline, wonderful leadership, and under the spiritual guidance of Father Grant, a beautiful Parish Community for our children to learn and grow.

Thank you all for attending tonight. Our School community is made stronger by parents like you who choose to stay informed and who are invested in the future of our School and our children's education.