



# WHITFORD

## CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Faith in God, Faith in Self*

### **2018 ANNUAL BOARD CHAIR REPORT**

#### **The School Board**

2018 marked an amazing year for our School Board and its Members as it was a year of challenge, reward and celebration. As a Board we continued our growth and strived for excellence for our Students, Staff and Parents.

I would like to thank our Board Members for the time they volunteer which makes the Whitford Catholic Primary School Board a continued success. Our Board consists of our Treasurer, Dion Panossian. Our Secretary and Parish Council Representative, Karolina Brown. Our Board members, Brian Briscoe, Brad Ford and Doug Yek. The P&F Representative Nadine Cooperwhite. Our Principal, Tamara McGougan. Our Assistant Principals, Cath Hughes and Andrew De Maio and Father Cyprian our Parish Priest. To you all I thank you for your dedication, contribution and tireless efforts this year and I look forward to your continued support. I would also like to wish the Board nominees the best of luck tonight and I look forward to welcoming the successful applicants onto the Board in 2019.

2019 will be my sixth and final year as a member of the Board, however I remain enthusiastic and energised by the year ahead. In 2019 the Board will adopt new marketing strategies, enhancement of the School's brand and image and continue its ICT development. The creation of a School Master Plan will lead us to upgrading the Middle and Upper School play equipment, refurbishment of the older classrooms and facilities and strengthen the security of the School.

#### **Highlights and Accomplishments in 2018**

Without doubt, the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the School was the highlight in 2018. On the 5<sup>th</sup> September the School Community celebrated through mass before the blessing and official opening of the Classrooms which were delivered under the Stage 7 Building project. The celebrations concluded in style on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October at the Gala Dinner held at the Joondalup Resort and Country Club. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to and thank the unheralded efforts of all those involved in orchestrating the events to celebrate forty memorable years of our School.

The Stage 8 Building Project while providing its fair share of challenges, was completed midyear bringing to a close the last of the construction activities providing us with the facilities to comfortably operate as a triple stream School. The Stage 8 Building Project has provided the School Community with an additional 43 carparking bays, safe and efficient designated drop off and pick up drive through lanes while at the same time as relieving traffic congestion from neighbouring streets. While on the Carpark project I would like to pay tribute to and acknowledge the following. The Parents and Parishioners of our School Community for their patience and understanding as the School and the Board worked through the unforeseen project delays. To the Parish for their project donation. To the Staff who maintained harmony and order during

school drop off and pickups. And finally, to the Board members. Your support, direction and initiatives through this period is testament to your dedication to our School.

On behalf of the Board, I want to sincerely thank the P&F Committee for your hard work. Your role is an important one in that it helps to develop a culture of 'parents as partners' in your child's education. Your work also builds a sense of community in our school. Thank you and I wish you every success in 2019. To Nadine, as the outgoing P&F President you are to be commended for your leadership, success and the legacy you have created for the Committee members to follow and I thank you for valued contribution you have made to the Board. As a show of appreciation could you all please join me in congratulating Nadine with a round of applause.

### **Students and Staff**

As predicted, the student numbers in 2018 were strong with a total of 685 students in attendance with the number set to increase to 710 in 2019. Guiding these students is a team of highly motivated and well-respected teachers and teaching assistants focused solely on the education and wellbeing of our children. To you all I thank you sincerely on behalf of the Board and the Parents of Whitford Catholic. Our teachers and assistants perform under the admirable leadership of our Principal Tamara and her assistants Cath and Andrew. Tamara, your leadership and values are unquestionable and Cath and Andrew you are both to be commended on your leadership and your support to Tamara, the School and the Board. To Geoff Clarke, congratulations your achievements and thank you for your leadership during Andrews time as acting Principal throughout the year. I wish Celeste De Rozario well as she takes time on maternity leave and I would like to congratulate Toni Strizke on her retirement. I wish you all the best and sincerely thank you for time with us at Whitford Catholic. We welcome back Mellissa Hilton while welcoming Anita Baric, Tarnica Golisano and Jodie Kelly to Whitford Catholic in 2019. A special thanks to the office administration staff and the grounds staff who fulfil vital roles in the operation and appearance of our School.

### **Closing**

In closing, I note for the Annual Community Meeting that as it currently stands our School is in great shape. We have a strong enrolments for 2019 coupled with a positive financial position. Strengthened by the affiliation with the Parish, Whitford Catholic Primary School remains the pinnacle of Catholic Primary Education. Thank you for your attendance and I wish you a safe and happy Christmas.

*Brendan Long*

November 21, 2018