



GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

'Together we Learn and Care'

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15 December 2016

The final Board of Trustees newsletter for 2016 reiterates the message delivered by the Board Chairperson Katherine McGillivray at the Good Shepherd School End of Year Celebration Mass last week.

One of my roles as Chairperson is to report on how we as a board – and school have progressed this year.

We have covered a huge amount of ground – and the following are just a few:

- board elections
- ensuring all our health and safety obligations are met in light of the new Act
- ongoing implementation of our strategic plan
- joining a Community of Learning with central Catholic schools
- a very positive review from the Catholic Schools' Office
- and a very positive review from ERO

We were thrilled with the results from these reviews as it affirms very much all that we do in this school from plans, policies, procedures and everything in-between. We congratulate Jane Hahn and her team who work incredibly hard to provide our community with an excellent school for our children.

- **Professional Development**

Our board has taken advantage of a number of very worthwhile learning opportunities this year which has centred on special character and student achievement. This has been a valuable experience particularly for our newer board members. While our principal takes care of staff professional development, Jane herself has also been involved in the Strategic Leadership for Principals Programme through the Springboard Trust. This programme is designed to help educational leaders develop long-term plans that make a difference to their schools and communities. We have benefited directly from this through Jane's sharing of learning and expertise developed in this area.

The board are delighted to share with our community that Jane will be taking a sabbatical next year. This is a wonderful opportunity for her to conduct some research of her choosing but more importantly it is a well-earned chance for rest and rejuvenation. Jane's leave begins half way through Term 2 and into Term 3. The school will continue in the capable hands of Ms Sarah Gleeson in an Acting Principal role.

- **Property**

In exciting property news, we have had the go ahead for our new canopy – a large rigid structure that will cover the area between the Administration building and the classrooms opposite. There has been a huge amount of planning and paperwork required behind the scenes on this - not to mention all the fundraising! We are thrilled that this will be in place for our children to enjoy early next year.

*Trustees: Katherine McGillivray (Chair),
Aaron Delacey, Graeme Twose, Wesley May,
Nikki Flexman, Marieke Zieleman, Leonie Lewthwaite,
Fr Philip Sullivan, Heather McLeod, Jane Hahn (Principal)*

I welcome the opportunity to publicly acknowledge our board of trustees. We have a superb team who have given an immense amount of time and energy on behalf of our school this year. Working with such a supportive and able team makes my job significantly more straightforward and very enjoyable. A sincere thank you to them and to their families for allowing them the time out to undertake this role.

I would also like to acknowledge staff who leave us at the end of the year, in particular Mr Sharma and Ms Taylor who have given many years of service to our school. We thank them so much and all the staff for their dedication to GSS. A school can have all the fancy furniture and smart outdoor spaces you like, but it's nothing compared to having talented teachers and staff supporting our children day after day in a highly functioning school. We farewell a number of families this year who have all made special contributions to our school, we thank them and wish them all well.

As we begin this Holy Season, the focus shifts to the Holy Family and we look forward to the celebration of Jesus' birth. Family becomes our priority and focus, a time to celebrate our own families - and we keep in our prayers those who will not have all their family together at this time.

But tonight all eyes are on this wonderful group of Year 6 students who now come to the completion of their time with GSS. We farewell them with love in our hearts and wish them well as they embark a new stage of their schooling. We ask that God grants them the courage to continue to be witnesses to their faith which has been such a significant part of their experience here at our school.

Good Shepherd School has an amazing, vibrant and supportive community and I feel very privileged to be a part of it and to lead this board of trustees for our school.

I wish you all God's blessing for the season and ask that He brings us all back safely for next year.

Meri Kirihimete
Katherine McGillivray
BOT Chairperson

The Board of Trustees would like to take this opportunity to wish the Good Shepherd School community all the very best for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.