

## GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## 'Together we Learn and Care'

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14 December 2017

The final Board of Trustees newsletter for 2017 reiterates the message delivered by the Board Chairperson Katherine McGillivray at the Good Shepherd School End of Year Celebration Mass this week.

At the final Board of Trustees meeting for the year we took the opportunity to reflect on the all the happenings of 2017 and I would like to share and acknowledge just a sample of those things mentioned.

Firstly no reviews this year! This enabled us to focus entirely on 'normal business'. So to our Principal Mrs Jane Hahn, our staff, both teaching and support staff – thank you for your wonderful efforts and everything that you do to make our school run so smoothly.

The school fair – raising \$65,000! A truly exceptional result, we thank all those involved but acknowledge in particular Mrs Justine Clifford-Bowles for taking on the job of leading the Fair Committee. Also to the ongoing support of the outstanding PTA led by Carla Butcher this year. Thank you.

It is commitment like this that enables us to provide many of the extras we have at the school. Our 'shade sail', 'canopy' or is it now the 'pavilion'? Actually, it would seem that it is simply 'the turf' – is our biggest example this year. While this has been realised through the efforts of many and significantly driven by Mrs Hahn, I must acknowledge Marieke Zieleman for her hand in achieving our magnificent new addition. Grandparents now need not be concerned about the chance of soggy scones after Grandparents' Mass. The Christmas picnic this week will go ahead no matter what the weather!

Every year we farewell a number of families and this year is no different. They have given hours and hours of their time to the school over the years and in so many ways. We thank all of them for their contributions and wish their children well as they move to new schools.

It is wonderful to see the church full tonight – we are grateful for the attendance at Masses. As a board we are very supportive of the strong collaboration between the school and the parish and see this as a wonderful way in which to promote one of the key goals of Catholic education, 'communicating Christ, of helping to form Christ in the lives of others'. We acknowledge our parish priest Monsignor Bernard Kiely and Seminarian Martin Wu. A big thank you for their active involvement in that ongoing partnership, we greatly appreciate their support.

Lastly, thank you to the Board – Good Shepherd School is very fortunate to have in a governance role a very capable, considered and dedicated team. I couldn't do this job without them.

On behalf of that team, we wish you all a very happy Christmas and safe holiday. We pray God's blessings upon you and we hope that for those who are leaving, you will take away many happy memories of your time at Good Shepherd School.

Ma te Atua tātou e manaaki

Best wishes and God's blessings to all our community.

Katherine McGillivray