

## **School Board Chairperson Report 2020**

On behalf of the School Board it gives me great pleasure to provide the 2020 Chairperson's Report. I realise we said these words last year but again this year has been extremely busy for us all. This year we welcomed three new board members. In January we welcomed Lucy Heke and Flo Bennett, then in early February we welcomed Laura Hawes. Thank you, ladies for coming onboard to support our school community and for providing new and fresh ideas and actively contributing at the meetings. This has been well noted and I appreciate your time throughout this year.

Reflecting back on 2020 it has been another busy and successful year for St Cecillas. Our school continues to grow, achieve great things and provide an excellent education for our students. As the Chairperson of the school board, and as a parent, it is encouraging to see how the students continue to excel in academic, religious, sporting and social domains.

As you may be aware there is always a significant amount of work which goes into running a school and the School Board is only a small but important component of this. Our role as the School Board is to act as a sounding for the Principal on matters of a financial nature to ensure we maintain governance standards which help to guide the best outcome for our students. So thank you to all our board members for attending the St Cecilia's meetings each month this year and to our Principal Mr Rob Palladino and Father Edward, in continuing to provide supervision of our teaching staff, support for our students and your general leadership within our School Community.

Our school is here to teach our children and develop their understanding of Catholic Faith. We could not do this without the ongoing support of our teaching staff and Father Edward, so thank you again and always for your dedication, commitment and hard work to our school. At the beginning of the year we began with a school Mass celebrating the beginning of the year and National Apology Day. Thank you to Mandy Sheen for preparing the involvement of our school's staff and students for the event.

Earlier in the school year we congratulated our new school leaders, and we thank Mr Fred Riebeling for attending our Leadership assembly and presenting our student leaders with their badges. A shout out to Miss Mullins for coordinating the day and to Mrs Sheen for offering as always to assist.

Throughout this year the Board has assisted the School with the approval of a number of key financial decisions and one of these was to approve the capital building works which have now been completed. Other school approvals were in our learning spaces with additional Apple TV's within our classrooms providing our students and teachers with tools for new and exciting ways to engage in learning. Our school continues to be blessed with key stakeholders who continue to provide much needed financial supports, such as Roy Hill Community Foundation to assist with our EdConnect program and Aboriginal Student Scholarships. Unfortunately, this year we have not been able to do near as many fundraising events but where our amazing and dedicated P&F committee could do anything, they did.

In March, CEWA issued us with an extract from The World Health Organisation and the Department of Health around COVID. This saw our school, along with every other in our country, change our learning to online classrooms. This COVID – 19 pandemic shone a spotlight on our unsung heroes – our teaching staff, who took their duties online to support our school community and our students. I never knew what "homeschooling" was like but let's say I have a new found appreciation of the

preparation and work which goes into external education programs. It wasn't just our classrooms which changed during this COVID time but also our school board meetings. We moved to Zoom meetings in April so we could all still effectively keep our school on track and continue with the vision and goals which hold us all accountable.

This year we have also witnessed a steady growth in our enrollment numbers and we have managed to ensure that our school fees remain steady allowing the community to be able to afford to provide their children with a private education.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Genni McCormack, who is leaving the school at the end of this year. Thank you Genni for all your time and effort within our school community; we wish you all the very best.

So in conclusion, thank you to Rob, Father Edward, Mandy, and our dedicated teaching staff for your continued leadership and participation in our school. Without you all our school is just a group of buildings. It is your passion that is the main ingredient helping define our school, our students and the community. Thank you also to our parents for placing their trust, love, and passion into our school.

Stephanie Holmes

Chairperson