

## 2016 ST MARY'S ACM BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Hi everybody, I would just like to welcome parents, staff, our principal Cathy and our parish priest Fr Wally. Thank you all for coming along to St Mary's Annual Community Meeting or ACM. Tonight is basically a reflection on the school's achievements and progress throughout the year and an opportunity to publicly thank a few people.

The main role of your School Board, along with the principal, staff and school community, is to plan for the present and future operations of the school. The Board is also involved with managing and accounting for all the finances associated with our school.

I would just like to start by summarizing what your school board has been up to this year and go over the projects and decisions that have been made throughout 2016.

- Back in January works to update and modernize the 5/6 classroom were completed. This involved replacing the ceiling and walls, installing new lighting and the relocation of power points to more practical locations which all helped to make this room a better learning environment for all students.
- Also in January the 2/3 and year 4 classrooms were repainted to refresh and brighten up these work areas and once again improve the learning environments within our school.
- 65% of students here at St Mary's catch a bus to and from school. To make this easier and safer the bus shelter was completed earlier in the year. Once again a big thank you to; Peter Harvey for building the frame, Chris Rodhes for digging the holes which was a tough job due to all the rock in the ground, Cam Atherton and Ben Murphy for concreting it in place and Leigh Beadle for putting on the tin.
- Along with the P&F, Board members have been heavily involved with installing and making changes to the nature play area, to enhance childrens play and the overall appeal and looks to our play ground. Thank you to everyone who has been involved with these projects so far and also into the future.
- The KP1 classroom required some maintenance in the ceiling to stop moisture and condensation doing damage to this area. Thank you to Leigh Beadle for fixing this problem.
- Kearnan College in Manjimup is very keen to keep the communication channels open between its feeder schools which are St Mary's, St Brigid's in Bridgetown and St Joseph's in Pemberton. To improve this, once again they invited all Board members and Principals from all 3 schools to attend a social function at the Emporium Restaurant in Bridgetown with all expenses paid. This was an offer too good to refuse, so Cathy, Dan, Ben, Wayne, Aleisha, Emma and myself were able to attend. This was a great networking opportunity to meet other principals and Board members and to see what they are up to and how they address issues within their schools. To show our appreciation, Wayne, Ben and I ate and drank as much as we could.
- A real sticky issue we had to deal with this year was on the subject of infill or deep sewerage. The Water Corp carried out a survey to all residents, schools and businesses in the town of Boyup Brook to see if they would be interested in connecting to such a scheme. The

reason for it according to the Water Corp is that, because of all the aging leech drains in the town the ground water has the potential to become contaminated and make its way to the Blackwood River, polluting this natural resource. So as a school we thought we need to get to the bottom of this issue and a motion was passed that we would vote yes to this proposal. From the point of view that, as a school we are supportive of environmental sustainability. And apparently most residents of the town shared this view and the scheme is going ahead in the next year or two.

- In the area of IT which is growing all the time, we have purchased 5 new desk top computers to upgrade and replace old models. We have also leased 20 chrome books for 3 years. Leasing eliminates large purchasing costs and in 3 years we can continue the lease and update to the latest versions and help keep our equipment modern, current and functional.
- Storage/Science cupboards have been recently installed here in the library. This is to improve the looks and usage of this area.
- Car Park lighting has been installed. This is to make it safer for everyone walking back to their vehicle after dark. Hopefully after tonight's meeting you can all see the difference.

Currently we are working on a couple of issues that will run into next year. The first one is;

- The front fence either side of the main gates. Occupational health and safety and duty of care rules stipulate that boundary school fencing needs to be a minimum of 1.8m in height. This wall area is well below this recommendation and needs to be rectified. So we are working through our options to cover the requirements and at the same time maintaining the front appeal of our school.
- The second one is, Solar Panels for electricity. Our schools annual electricity bill is heading towards \$10,000, so we are looking at ways to reduce this cost. Solar panels are a good option as there are currently good government rebates at this point in time.

As always the decisions we make as a Board and the projects that can be done are all subject to the amount of funding our school receives. The school fees that we all pay make up 6% of the overall budget. This does add up to a substantial amount, but it also means 94% of the budget comes from state and federal government funding. As governments get tight on funds so too does our school budget. Its just a fact of life and something we continually deal with as your school Board.

I would just like to thank all the members of the P&F (Peter and Friends) for their support of the School and all the work they have carried out during the year to help promote the social aspect of the school and raising funds to support our staff and students. Well done and thank you.

Catholic Education in WA is the second largest education provider in the state. It caters for more than 80000 students and employs 11000 people over 167 schools. Here at St Mary's we go a little way to contribute to those figures, so I would like to say a big thank you to all our teaching staff and non teaching staff for your contribution and influence in our school and children, you all play a big part in making our school the fantastic learning environment we see today.

We have two members leaving the Board at the end of the year. Dan Wildy and Sally Marsden. I would just like to say a massive thank you to both Dan and Sal who both have been on the school board for 6 years, and over this time have been extremely valuable members of our Board. You both have been very enthusiastic, committed, reliable and dedicated to all aspects of our school community, so thank you for all your time and effort, well done.

We welcome two new Board members for next year, Jena Welch and Ben Thompson. Thank you to both of you for your nominations it is much appreciated and I look forward having you on the Board for next year.

To the Board members that are continuing on next year, which is Ben Murphy, Wayne Girando and Aleisha Bock thank you for your enthusiasm, commitment, dedication and time. It is much appreciated and we look forward to the discussions and topics that next year will bring.

Thank you Emma for your School Admin role and all the work you do on the school Board. From writing up all the meetings minutes, help making sure the budget is on track and sending out many emails to keep all board members informed. Thank you from all of us it has been much appreciated.

Finally a big thank you goes to Cathy our principal. Thank you for your passion, commitment and leadership towards the school and community. Thank you also for your very efficient work ethic, if something needs doing you get it sorted straight away which our school benefits greatly from and makes our role as board members much easier. It has been great working with you and I hope you have enjoyed your second year as principal here at St Mary's.

Kind Regards  
Mick Hester