College Board Report

From the Principal

From the first moment that a student sets foot in our Catholic School, he or she ought to have the impression of entering a new environment – an environment illuminated by the light of faith and having its own unique characteristics. Vatican Council II summed this up by speaking of an environment permeated with the Gospel spirit of love and freedom. (Manual for Catholic Schools 2006)

Lauretta Graham
3/15/2015
College Board Report

From the Principal

On behalf of the College Leadership Team, I thank the Board for their efforts throughout 2014 and commend them on helping to produce a thriving school in just three years of operation, in particular, a special thank you to our chairperson Mr Neil Forsyth who has served the College well throughout the last year.

The Board is here to ensure that your child receives the highest quality education possible, with the Board's major focus being on strategies for the future of the College. In addition, the Board monitors the school's progress against current policies, plans and budgets under the direction of the Catholic Education Office.

Our progress is also measured in the way we offer: the highest quality 21st Century educational programmes; provides safe, secure, inclusive and happy environments for our students; and an authentic Catholic School.

Throughout 2014, the College Board can be congratulated on how they have enjoyed working at a policy level rather than getting involved in the day-to-day management of the school. As Principal on behalf of my leadership team I wish to thank the Board for their confidence and support of our College Leadership Team. The College Board has responded by various policies, documents and strategic plans to further the development of our new school.

Finally, I sincerely thank the outgoing Board Members (Ange Bull, Sheree Russell, Peta Donegan, Alexia Hohopa – Wilson, Trish Dowling, Bronwen Mc Laughlin, Gez Mulvahil) and look forward to working with the newly appointed executive and new members of our College Board throughout 2015.

College Boards undertake a stewardship role. They perform an important advisory role, working to support the principal in the school improvement planning process. Planning and policy directions can only be set in accord with diocesan policies and guidelines.
Membership for 2014

Gez Mulvahil, Trisha Dowling, Angela Bull, Neil Forsyth, Bronwyn McLauchlan, Chris Trevillion, Sheree Russell, Peter Wallis, Jessica Watkinson, Alexia Hopopa-Wilson, Peta Donegan, Michelle Chambers, Neil Forsyth, Lauretta Graham, Fr Tom English

Major Achievements during 2014

- New Members welcomed during 2014: Jessica Watkinson
- Commissioning of the Library as the Fr Gerry Remie Centre
- Completion of a number of policies including Cathlocity Pastoral Care and Harassment
- Further work on MacKillop Strategic Planning 2013-2017 document
- Application for funds for Stage 2 A & 2B
- Support of two BGA grant applications through to success
- Strengthening of the work of committees
- Refining of the College Finances and support for the budget reporting documentation process
- Creation of Version Control on all board documents
- Board In-service with Fr Raas

Work of the Committees during 2014

Teaching and Learning – Chair: Chris Trevillion

- Overseeing the development of Stage 1 and 2 Subjects
- Appointment of Senior Leadership Staff – Deputy Principal Pastoral Care
- Sponsorship of the College Presentation Night Awards
- Extensive strategic planning and implementation work to cater for Stage 2 students

Pastoral Care and Wellbeing – Chair: Mr Peter Wallis

- Completion of the Pastoral Care Policy
- Completion of the Anti-Bullying and Harassment Document
- Completion of the Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy
- Staff Travel & Accommodation Policy
- Sun Safe Policy

Catholic Identity – Chair: Lauretta Graham with the support of the whole Board

- Preliminary work on the iconology
- Design of the Courtyard Cross
- Completion of the Cathlocity Policy
Community and Culture – Chair: Lauretta Graham

- Engaging new partnerships e.g. Palmerston Basketball, Arafura Woodwind, Palmerston Netball, etc
- Further development Duke of Edinburgh Scheme
- Further development of the MacKillop Sharks Football Club

Finance – Chair: Jessica Watkinson

- Improvements in Financial reporting
- Overseeing the Stage 2A & B Building Projects
- 2013 Successful BGA Application
- 2014 successful BGA application
- 2015 BGA application
- 2014 Successful Audit
- 2015 move to invoice fees annually
- 2014 success with the Chaplaincy grant
- 2014 success with the PACE grant
- 2014 significant reduction in Family debtors
- Small 2014 budget surplus

Board Resignations:

Angela Bull, Sheree Russell, Peta Donegan, Alexia Hohopa – Wilson, Trish Dowling, Browen McLaughlin

New Members:

Jessica Watkinson, Roy Anderson, Chris Trevillion