

School Advisory Council Chair Report

Wednesday 24th November 2021 - AGM

On behalf of the School Advisory Council it is with pleasure that I present the 2021 Our Lady of Lourdes School Advisory Council Chair's report.

The 2021 school year started off a bit bumpy with a COVID lockdown announced the day before school was due to start in February meaning that all schools were closed for a week and the school year started a week later. However everyone was eager and enthusiastic when school did start with teachers having to condense 10 weeks of learning into 9 weeks for term one. However further COVID lock downs this year occurred on weekends and public holidays so disruptions to the kids schooling was minimised. Cleaning around the school continues to be a priority with extra cleaning staff employed and a focus still on hand hygiene and staying home if unwell.

There have been many projects that have happened this year at the school, the main one being the capital development project, which although has been somewhat disruptive with fencing and limited play area's for the children and the hall being very "multi use" the end result will be fantastic for years to come. The staff will be very happy in the new and expanded staff room, Janet, Anne and Margie will be very pleased with the new admin area and the addition of a sick bay will mean that Janet will be able to continue her endless supply of ice packs and care in a more private area. The new and improved IT and library will be beneficial for students and will provide an integrated and educational area for all to enjoy. The contemporary learning space in the undercover area outside the classrooms will be valuable for teachers and children alike.

This year the school has continued to work closely with Father Stan and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish with the Family Masses resuming in 2021, which were well attended. The Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation were attended by children and staff throughout the year as scheduled.

The school board changed to the School Executive Council this year with the new Strategic Plan that was introduced. The strategic plan outlines priorities for Education, Community, Stewardship and Catholic Identity in line with CEWA's strategic direction. The Strategic Plan is on the school's website for those that would like to read it.

At the beginning of 2021 the School Advisory Council welcomed some new members, I would like to thank Sarah Hardy, Katie Menchetti and David Barrass for joining this year. Also thank you to Holly who stepped in as secretary (in her absence) and Chrissy as treasurer. We are sad to say goodbye to Nadine White who has been on the board/school advisory council for 7 years – 2 of those years as

chair, thank you for your guidance and wisdom. Also thank you to William Edison who has been on the school advisory council for 2 years.

School enrolments for 2022 remain consistent with high pre-kindy enrolments for 2022.

A number of new staff were welcomed to the school this year – Shaun O’Neil was Acting Principal in term one, Jo Vivante joined as Deputy Principal, Elena Fraser as the Year 3 teacher until she went on maternity leave and then we welcomed Jessica Geiles. 2021 also saw the retirement of two long term staff members, Mary Happ and Judy Russo and we thank them for their hard work and dedication. Also thank you to Mireen Cumbo who is leaving at the end of the year.

We would also like to say thank you to the P & F for their enthusiasm and commitment to all things fun, tasty and the fundraising efforts to provide for the school. A special thank you to P&F president Karla who has put a lot of hard work in over the last few years and is moving on this year.

On behalf of the School Advisory Council we would like to wish everyone a safe, joyful and relaxing holiday season and look forward to the adventures of 2022.

Thank you

Karen White

School Advisory Chair