

It is a privilege to be writing the annual report on the activities of the school board for 2016.

As Chairperson of the board I am given the opportunity to be involved in many aspects of the school and its activities and I am continually inspired by the community and its achievements.

Congratulations to all of the school staff and especially the leadership team being Laurie Bechelli, Lisa Liebrechts and Jacquie Fox on the excellent achievements we have seen this year. They continue to raise the bar and challenge each other to deliver the highest standard of education to our school community.

A large amount of board time this year has been invested in reviewing the I.T infrastructure at the school. We are confident the school is going to be well equipped in the coming years with a substantial investment committed to an increased number of new devices and resources. This ensures our students are exposed to the latest technology across a variety of platforms, without enforcing a "Bring your own device policy" which some of our peer primary schools are implementing. The board were unanimous that this is not needed in our community at this time.

I am pleased to confirm the school is in a sound financial position, with the operations of the school being implemented as budgeted. Thank you to our school treasurer, Susan Criniti who provides us with expert assistance, we are very fortunate to have someone with such a wealth of financial knowledge leading the board finances.

Jane Forsey is the school board secretary, her administration support and commitment to the board is of the highest standard. Thank you to Jane for the role she plays in keeping the board functioning at such a professional standard.

I hope that you can all find some time when you see them around the school to thank Sue, Jane and the following board members for their time and commitment to the board this year, Mark Palermo, Glen Hall, Ali Ferrone and Amanda Versace. The input from these wise, professional and committed members is invaluable.

I am sure that we all have different reasons why St Michaels is the school for our family, many years ago when looking at primary schools I had the following wish list in mind:

- Be able to enforce good moral and faith beliefs
- Help my children make friends
- Teach strong education fundamentals
- Inspire my children to learn new things
- Keep the kids fit and active
- Expose students to music and the arts
- Have a nice community we could be involved in
- Help the kids be ready for secondary school
- Have an environment where respect and kindness are important
- Be in walking distance from our house
- Be affordable

I didn't honestly expect my local school to be able to tick all of the boxes but lucky for us this little school has managed to deliver for us in all of these areas and more.

I hope that you and your family are getting the most from your St Michaels experience and trust that you enjoy being a part of this community.

Kara Collins