

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2016

Mrs Stephany Keeffe

Welcome to Father Michael and everyone and thank you for joining us tonight.

As usual it has been a big year with lots of exciting initiatives, results and collaboration between school board, P&F and staff and students. It has also had its share of sadness and loss and we take comfort in supporting those families and individuals who may have needed a little extra love through these times, I think this is what makes our school special in that, although a school board has quite a distinct role to play, it always has been made up of people who are compassionate and have the ethos of St. John's foremost in their hearts.

We started the year with new staff:

Nora Johnson in Pre Primary, Vicki working magic with the help of additional special needs funding and Kylie Murphy stepping into Literacy intervention when Meaghan Francis departed. Thanks to Cherrill Zander for making time for Kylie to be released for this role.

This year was a year of maintenance and refurbishment. Following a storm the undercover area was resurfaced and had drainage added to prevent future problems.

A very generous Mr Wade Breen removed rust from play equipment and repainted to a great standard. Speaking of rust, the roof has been renailed and should be better able to withstand the elements in the future.

The standards expected within schools were committed to with upgrading of locks for external doors and in the event of a lockdown situation we are confident that students are not only safe but our equipment is up to standards and more. Upgrades have been applied to lighting and security. I'm happy to report that the deepening hole outside office has been filled with gravel and compacted after collaboration with the shire, On the subject of OH and S, Zoe and Lucinda attended training and consequently following an audit were able to advise and direct action. An example was the tagging of all electrical equipment,

Liasing with the Parents and Friends in regard to the Natural Playground initiative has been a great testimony to the trinity of Staff/Committees and families of our school. Without a solid foundation of communication and action it would have been difficult to achieve what has been this year. Playbased initiatives continue to evolve and the Playpod project will continue in 2017.

As always technology rolls out faster than we can bank our pays and this Board has always played a key role in making sure that software and equipment is of highest standard and upgraded where advised or needed. In a graphic rich society we recognise the need for good photocopiers and these were purchased as well as upgrades to existing computers. The library plays a key role in Literacy and software received a makeover and some lippie,

Our school successfully undertook the 5 yearly audit of registration of National Quality Standards in the Early Years. This simple sentence does not do justice to the dedication needed to meet these standards and it needs to be noted here tonight of our gratitude towards this accreditation.

Summer is slowly arriving and the chosen wide brimmed school hats are happily been worn by all.

St John's continues to strive to offer its students, your children; a varied range of experiences such as Grip leadership, swimming, and camps that promote leadership as well as the exciting Year 6 camp. I am often amazed

at the variety of Incursions that are on offer to our students and bode well for the future of cultural and artistic awareness as they move into the world.

As a Board in collaboration with Maureen and her wonderful Leadership Team we are often called upon to revisit discussions had previously regarding capital outlay or major changes for St. John's. Consequently as this school year comes to an end we have had the discussion about a 3 year old programme and you will remember the survey sent home valuing your feedback. At present Maureen has been busy investigating an exciting opportunity for a grant to fund a 0-4 playgroup and this will be discussed further in her report.

On behalf of the School Board we welcome Mrs Nicole Henderson who will join us as our new Kindy teacher in 2017 and who has happily been at the Kindy Parent Meeting last week and student orientation. **We farewell Mrs Theresa Crothers who alongside her Husband sets off to enjoy life.**

In closing I would like to thank every single person on staff at St.John's who bring their magic to school each day and strive to deliver quality education, compassionate pastoral care and constant passion for our community of kids, families and parish. I know as parents and carers we all have busy lives and can't all be on Boards or committees or put up tents on sports days, but what we can do is remain passionate about our school community and when people ask what's your school really like? Reply with honesty and say "it's one of the smaller schools but has the biggest heart and always welcomes another family with open arms."

Goodnight and God Bless.

Mrs Stephany Keeffe