

St Jude's Catholic School Board AGM
December 2019

Happy 40th Anniversary!

The establishment of our school all those years ago was the dream of Father Henry Byrne. With his strong Catholic faith, determination, hard work and with the assistance of his parish council, loyal parishioners and a dedicated steering committee, St Jude's was finally blessed and officially opened on 29 April 1979 with three classes and 55 children. Sister Maura Kelleher, a Mercy sister, was appointed as the foundation Principal. 40 years on, it is with great pride that we still recognise and honour these Mercy traditions.

Throughout this year, I have been very pleased to join with community members past and present to celebrate the establishment of our school which was built upon the strong foundation of Catholic faith and education. We have been locating some interesting photos from the past 40 years and sharing them through our "Flashback Friday" posts on our official Facebook page this year. It has been wonderful to have past staff and students engaging with us through these posts.

Our formal events began in Term 3 with our Open Day, Edudance Concert, and a sundowner where ex-staff and families joined with our current staff, Board and FOSJ to share memories and to tour the school facilities. In Term 4, we gathered as a community to not only celebrate the feast of Saint Jude, but also in celebration the 40th Anniversary of our parish school. We were privileged to have many special guests attending, including Father Henry Byrne, whose dream it was to establish our beautiful school, Sister Maura Kelleher (RSM), our foundation Principal, Mr William Fahie, our first Board Chair and Mrs Sally Desmond, our first Board Treasurer. We also welcomed Mrs Sue Fox representing CEWA, Dr Robert who led the Welcome to Country, and past Principals Lyn Stone and Helen O'Toole. Several other special guests including past staff, board members, FOSJ committee members, past students, and our current staff, students, families and parishioners also joined us.

We buried a time capsule that will be opened at the Jubilee celebrations when the school turns 50. Students enjoyed an afternoon of fun with bouncy castles and a range of interactive and exciting games. We finished our celebrations with our Mission Markets, a shared whole-school lunch and our annual St Jude's Got Talent Show. Students were given a stylus/pen as a special gift on this day.

Our FOSJ team have assisted us in our anniversary brick paving drive. These pavers are being laid in an area dedicated to our 40th Anniversary. All of the staff and children also created drawings of themselves, and these were placed onto a commemorative tea-towel. I trust that we have created some great memories for this special year that the children will be able to hold onto forever.

Father Terry continues to be our mentor and guide as we maintain our journey as a Christ-centred Catholic school community. We are truly blessed to have such a strong link between school and parish, and we enjoy the opportunity to chat with him when he visits our school each week.

Academically, we began a journey that we have named BTC. We are imbedding high impact teaching strategies across the school and have been very impressed with the improvements in student growth and outcomes that we have seen in its first year of implementation. I wish to thank the staff who continue to give their all to ensure that the very best opportunities are given to each and every child in the school. They are a conscientious team, giving so much of themselves in so many different ways to ensure that every child is at the centre of all the we do here at the school. In particular, I acknowledge the dedication of Miss Mel Allen and Mr Graham Maher who work closely beside me to make this school such a wonderful place to be, and Mrs Dique and Mrs Nicholls, who are the face of our school to visitors and parents each day.

Parents and students, thank you for choosing to be a part of the St Jude's Catholic School community! I am truly thankful for the many ways that you engage with us throughout the year. I wish to especially thank the parents who work with me on the School Board and Friends of St Judes (FOSJ) committees to ensure that we are able to provide our children with the very best resources possible. I also thank their spouses and families for lending them to us throughout the year as we meet and engage in a range of interesting opportunities.

Best wishes to our Graduating students – I trust that St Jude's will hold a special place in their hearts as they take the next steps in their life journey. I wish everyone a most beautiful holiday, spent in the love of friends and family, and I look forward to your safe return in the new year!

Mrs Jonnda Simpson
Principal