

Chairperson Report

2020 AGM St Jude's Catholic School

The School Board is responsible not only to the local school community but also to the Catholic Education of WA (CEWA) for the financial administration of the school. It is also entrusted with the duty of planning on behalf of the school community, with the school staff and with CEWA to meet the present and future needs of students and has an advisory role to the Principal with respect to school policy.

Commencing 2021 the School Board will be known as the School Advisory Council, in accordance with the restructure of CEWA to CEWA Limited and upcoming changes to the Constitution.

This is my fifth year on the School Board and the third year that I have had the privilege of chairing the Board. I thank all the members of the Board for their dedication and support over what has been a challenging year – our Principal Jonnda Simpson, Father Terry Raj, our Assistant Principal Graham Maher, Secretary - Jenny Cook, Treasurer - Mark Duchesne, Rupinder Kaur and Samantha Moonemalle.

This has been a year like no other, on 25th January the first COVID-19 case was confirmed in Australia. The world, Australia and our community could not have foreseen the far-reaching impact this virus would have. On 11th March the World Health Organisation declared the virus a pandemic. Thanks to the foreword planning and innovative thinking of the staff at St Jude's and the understanding, cooperation and patience of parents, the students were able to continue their learning journey in a supported and caring albeit remote fashion.

The end of term 1 saw over 80% of our students engaged in remote learning via computers at home and paper-based packs were provided in addition and where necessary for all students. In May the Western Australian Government directed students to return to school. Increased cleaning measures were introduced and still continue. The modification to the kiss and drop routine ran smoothly with the dedication of staff to ensure the safety of our beautiful students. Extracurricular activities were put on hold and the allocated fees were channeled into providing additional tools such as Mathletics, Reading Eggs and Seesaw to support remote learning and communication.

Semester 1 school reporting was adjusted to accommodate the unusual start to the year. NAPLAN was cancelled across the country. Semester 2 saw a level of normality resume and our students were able to participate in the athletics carnival, interschool sport and Edudence. The Archbishop announced that the Sacramental programs of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation would thankfully proceed.

Our school is in a strong financial position and we look forward to implementing new projects and initiatives in the future. Some highlights from this year included the following:

- Staff attended Play Space training and have some wonderful ideas for the future.
- Family Fun Night with Play 4 Life in February.
- The Building Teachers Capacity project saw a whole school focus on literacy and numeracy.
- Professional development for our teachers continued, developing their skills as instructional leaders.
- Maintenance around the school and repairs from storm damage to ceilings, shade sails and fences.
- A successful financial audit report from Deloitte (Independent Auditors).
- Code of Conduct Statements were reviewed and considered upon.

- Education support continued with Mini-lit, New Heights and guided reading programs. Dedicated time and EALD support for new arrivals. For over 80% of our students, English is not their first language.
- Prime Maths program was successfully trialled.
- Enrolments for the 3-year-old Kindy program increased throughout the year.
- Paving of our new Mercy Garden with the named bricks purchased by past and present St Jude's community, which has created a beautiful reflection and outdoor learning space.

In the 3rd and 8th years of a school Principal's employment, a review is conducted to ensure accountability, professional development and determine the renewal of the contract. This year staff, Parish Priest, the Board and the Friends of St Jude's participated in this process. From the information collected a review panel from CEWA provided a report and professional growth plan to Jonnda Simpson.

I would like to thank the many volunteers that help around the school, from mums, dads, grandparents, guardians and even brothers and sisters. The Friends of St Jude's have assisted in as many events as has been possible this year and we are hopeful that many of the social events are students and community enjoy will resume next year. All these things help make our school strong and to provide a caring and loving culture.

In May it was with a mixture of sadness and pride we farewelled Ms Mel Allen after serving 11 years at St Jude's as Assistant Principal, she was successful in securing a role as Principal in Southern Cross. We are blessed to have a dedicated and committed staff at St Jude's and this is demonstrated not only through the high standard of teaching but through their engagement with all families in the school community. This was more evident than ever this year given the challenges you all faced, and I sincerely thank you. I would also like to make special mention of Yvonne Nicholls, our Accounts Administrator for her tireless effort with the transitioning and migration from MAZE to AOS.

I would also like to thank Mrs Simpson for her support of the staff and the Board to ensure the smooth running of the school and to Fr Terry for his continued support and dedication to the school and the Board. A close relationship between school and Parish is always treasured.

Finally, I wish all our Year Six students the very best of luck as they enter the next phase of their lives in high school. I hope that you take many pleasant memories of St Jude's with you.

On behalf of the Board, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe 2021.

God Bless
Larni Doherty
Board Chairperson