

Good evening parents, Staff and friends of Mother Teresa Catholic College. It is my privilege to deliver the Annual Report on behalf of the School Board.

Looking out across the newly turfed sunken gardens of our school, it is hard to believe that 12 months ago the view was that of a sandy paddock. It goes without say that 2015 has been a year of significant growth for our school community, presenting new challenges and opportunities for the School Board and the wider community.

This year, the Mother Teresa Catholic College Board transitioned from its interim status, bringing together a new group of elected volunteers from the parent body and Parish community. Each member has generously contributed their time, expertise and support throughout the year and will continue their positions into 2016. Elena, Mark, Dave, Tara, Gemma, Roseanne, Bryan and Victor, thank you for your integrity and service to the school. We also thank Geri, Janine and Father Geoff for their time and openness in working with the Board.

A primary and ongoing focus of the Board has been the roll-out of present and future building projects. The construction of the Stage 2 buildings will be ready to start the 2016 school year, marking the completion of the Primary section of Mother Teresa Catholic College. This is a significant milestone in the life of the school; our state of the art classrooms and outdoor environments are beautiful and purposeful, allowing for flexible learning environments and play areas which seek to inspire curiosity and engagement for the children. Importantly, we are now able to expand our student body to include classes to Year 5 next year, with subsequent increases in staff and families. The much needed new buildings will be greatly appreciated and utilised by staff, students, Parish and community groups for generations to come.

In September the Catholic Education Office of Western Australia hosted the 2015 Board Conference. Representatives from more than 100 Catholic schools from across Western Australia attended and the discussion topics included Our Catholic identity, the future of school funding allocation and community engagement. The director of Catholic Education, Dr Tim McDonald challenged us as a Board to revisit the vision and mission of Catholic Education in our decision making and emphasised the importance of partnership, participation and support within the community. Indeed, as a young and rapidly growing community, it is essential that we, each of us, acknowledge and honour our individual rights and responsibilities as members of this community and recognise the importance of mutually supportive relationships at Mother Teresa. Every day we are creating a culture in our community; the way we welcome each other, the way in which we communicate with and advocate for the school, in our support of our students, their teachers and the goals and values of our school, we are affirming who we are and what we stand for. Children thrive in communities where their sense of identity, safety, belonging and success are formed in the context of supportive relationships.

On that note, On behalf of the Board I would like to take the opportunity to sincerely thank Geri, Janine, the teachers and the support staff of Mother Teresa for your outstanding commitment to the education, faith formation and wellbeing of our children. You are the guardians of our most precious assets five days a week, and we thank you for the sincerity, passion, patience and wholeheartedness you give so generously. You are magnificent and truly appreciated.

We wish to, sadly farewell one of our foundation staff members, Ms Anne Tan. Ms Tan has made a significant contribution to the life of our school through her passion, energy, sense of adventure and genuine love for her students- she is an exceptional educator and an authentic model of faith for the children in her care. We wish her great fulfilment in her new community in Busselton.

Similarly, we extend our best wishes to Mrs Hart and her family as they await the arrival of their baby in the new-year. Mrs Hart, we hope the adventure of the 2<sup>nd</sup> child brings you as much joy and growth as you have offered to your students at Mother Teresa.

In closing, the Board looks forward to being able to report on the operational phase of the new Strategic Management Plan this time next year, along with the implementation of the next building project as we expand to include Secondary classes in the near future.

Thank you for your attendance and attention this evening