

Good evening Ladies and gentlemen and welcome to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of Mother Teresa Catholic College.

2016 has been another very busy, successful year for our young community and has provided us with many opportunities to recognise and celebrate the many things that are unique and wonderful about our school.

Once again, we began the school year with access to brand new, state of the art facilities, with the opening of the Stage 2 buildings. This included the Years 3-6 classrooms, multipurpose rooms, new administration building, nature play areas, the highly anticipated car park extension and the spectacular grassed area which is now the centre of our Primary School. Throughout the course of the year, further infrastructure projects, including the shed which is located next to the Kindy classrooms and sustainability learning centre (otherwise known as the 'chook shed') have come to fruition to support the activities of the school.

The College are most fortunate to work with Parry and Rosenthal Architects, specifically Leon Slattery and Paul Rosen, who work hard to ensure the momentum and quality of the building stages meet the highest standards. Leon and Paul are passionate about their work at Mother Teresa and have received two prestigious industry awards for the outstanding design work that we enjoy every day. The Board value and appreciate the positive and supportive relationships Paul and Leon have built with Geri and our community and look forward to continuing this partnership for many years to come.

In 2017 the College Board will turn their attention to the construction of Stages 3 and 3A- the beginning of the secondary campus of MTCC. These stages will include facilities to offer a complete range of specialist and 'option' subjects for lower secondary students. Enrolment applications are now being accepted for students entering Year 7 in 2018.

At the completion of three consecutive years of service in a school, Catholic Education Western Australia requires all Principals to participate in a formal review. The purpose of a Principal review is to acknowledge and affirm the work of the Principal and to identify opportunities for professional growth. As was outlined in the newsletter last week, Geri O'Keefe was reviewed under these guidelines in August of this year. The Process involved the College Board, the Executive of the P & F, Father Geoff and members of staff, Catholic Education Personnel and Geri herself. At the completion of this process, Archbishop Timothy Costello endorsed the appointment of Ms Geri O'Keefe as our College Principal for a further five-year term. The College Board extends their gratitude to Geri for her outstanding service to and leadership of the community in its foundation years and congratulates her on her continued appointment.

Once again, we are indebted to the College staff, who work tirelessly in the interests of our children. Our leadership, teaching and support staff are a dedicated team of professionals who give wholeheartedly to knowing, caring for and facilitating the growth of every student and to making our school a very special place.

Sadly, we are farewelling another of our Foundation staff members this year, Mrs Anita Grimminck. Anita is a gifted and passionate educator, who has blessed our school since its opening day with her deep love of Kindergarten. Anita, thank you for giving so many children such an outstanding start to their school journey, you will be sincerely missed.

The inaugural elected College Board has now completed its initial two-year term and as such, all members will vacate their position, with the option to renominate. On behalf of the MTCC community, I wish to thank Tara Massey, Mark Aurisch, David Forbes, Elena Radomiljac, Rosanne Cross, Victor De Vicente Ferrandez, Bryan Evans and Gemma Debala for the generous gift of their time and expertise

in service to the Board. It has been such a pleasure working with all of you.

As this will be my final address as the Board Chair, I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome and my encouragement to anyone in our College or Parish who is considering taking steps towards becoming more involved in the life of the community. There are many ways in which our helping hands can enrich the life of the school. Finding a way to share your time and talents is often a wonderful opportunity to meet new friends, to have a great time and to learn together.

The events of 2016, such as the Canonisation celebrations, the School Opening, the Sports Carnival days, the activities of the P & F and our KidsMatter afternoons have shown us that we are better together and that our strength as a community is our connection to each other, working for our common cause, which is, our precious children.

May God continue to bless our beautiful community.

Alison Romagnolo  
Board Chair