

ANNUAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY MEETING – 28 November 2019

BOARD CHAIR REPORT 2019

The lead up to the Annual School Community Meeting is a time for the School Board to reflect on what has been achieved throughout the year for the benefit of the staff and students of St Helena's Catholic Primary School and an opportunity to celebrate successes.

2019 saw some significant changes to the membership of the Board for St Helena's. I accepted the role of Board Chair, taking over from Glenn Stroud who had served his six years as a contributing member of the Board. Christine Newhill and Denise O'Connor also remained on the Board as members from the previous year. Kylie Wilford, Atem Diing, Eva Gomes-Sebastiao and Tara Palm joined the Board as voting members. Mitch Lohrentz joined the Board as the P&F representative and Hannah Wager also joined as the Parish rep. I thank you all for your dedication, contribution and efforts this year as we worked with the Principal and the school leadership team to benefit the students, staff and families of the St Helena's community. I look forward to your continued support in 2020.

It is important also to recognise the ongoing contributions of the Assistant Principals Sascha Saulsman, Vicky Rowlands and Peter Merry to the work of the Board. I would also like to acknowledge the wisdom and contribution of the Principal, Lina Bertolini. She has certainly made my transition to the role of Board Chair much easier. Thanks also to Father Bona, our parish priest. Finally, our thanks and appreciation must be extended to Matt Ferrinda who made a great contribution to the school over the last two years.

Highlights from 2019

Students and their learning:

Perhaps the most significant impact on students arises from the decision to go to 1:1 iPad from 2020 starting with year 4 in 2020. This initiative will ensure that students will exit St Helena's with important technological skills to enable them to be successful at high school and in life.

To further support students and their learning, the Board approved funding related to two teacher positions. In 2020, the role of the Learning Support Teacher will increase from two days per week to five days per week. Additionally, to continue to grow and enhance teacher capacity to support students, a Digital Technology Lead Teacher has been appointed for two days per week.

The school has been successful in obtaining funding for Chaplaincy to continue for 2020 to 2022. This will enable the social worker, Jemma Trimboli to continue the terrific work she does with students and families in the school around social and emotional wellbeing.

School facilities and operations:

This year saw major improvements to the students' toilets. This project was fully funded by the school and was accomplished with little or no disruption to the school operations. Reports from past students indicated that the difference was very noticeable. Some 'before and after' shots are below.



Before



After

All Catholic Schools are required to make submission for approval to the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia before any major building work can be done. It has now been confirmed that St Helena's Capital Development Plan (CDP) has passed stages 1 and 2 of the approval processes to obtain a low interest loan for building work. The next stage of the process is a Panel visit which will be scheduled during 2020. Funding approval relates to work to begin in 2021. Included in this CDP:

- Extension and refurbishment of the Administration Block
- Construction of Reflection spaces
- Relocation of the garden shed and construction of additional toilet block, and
- Construction of a School Entry Statement and installation of intercom for security.

Other financial expenditures include the purchase of this large viewing screen we are using tonight in the Library. This 82 inch screen benefits the students during lesson time, the teachers during professional learning sessions and meetings and the school community.

I am confident that all of you in attendance tonight are aware of the school's new website which was launched this year. In line with the fast paced, busy and technological world in which we live, the website is planned to be the most effective and efficient information centre for the school and its operations. Over time it will continue to be shaped and refined to house the key information needed by parents and the community.

The fresh and contemporary look and feel of the website will be complemented by the new branding on the communication suite for St Helena's. This new brand will be gradually adopted on all school communications during 2020. The slides for tonight's session are a sneak preview of what is to come.

Families:

The Board has approved two changes that will affect parents and families for 2020. The first is a change to the school photographer services for 2020. From information received

from five photography businesses the Board passed a decision to use Photo Hendrix next year for school photos and the School Annual publication.

The second change relates to the provision of outside school hours care for children. 2019 was the last year for the Camp Australia contract. The Board sought new tenders for 2020 from three providers. These were evaluated and a decision was made to go with Discovery Kids. This business is owned and run by qualified and experienced Catholic Primary School Teachers and provides a program that is based on quality Catholic care.

Community:

This year the Board approved the expenditure of \$3000 to purchase a de-fibrillator. A decision was made for the machine to be located outside of the school on the main entry gate. In this way, the machine is available for use by the school but also contributes to the safety of the whole community. The machine is housed in a locked cabinet which is accessed by obtaining the access code from '000'. Staff will undergo training in how to use the de-fibrillator this week and the machine will be installed by the end of the term.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE:

Catholic Education:

This year the Bishops announced a decision to incorporate Catholic education in Western Australia. A new company has been registered as Catholic Education Western Australia Limited. (CEWA Ltd). The new company will come into effect on 1 January 2020. As a result of this decision all aspects of governance will be reviewed and updated. While the Board will continue as usual in the new year, the role of School Boards and the School Board Constitution will be reviewed in 2020. CEWA have made a commitment to Schools to keep them informed about developments in this area.

Strategic Plan 2020-2022:

In this last semester of the year, the School Board has been working with the school to reflect on the effectiveness of the initiatives from 2017-2019 Strategic Plan. As part of St Helena's Catholic Primary School strategic planning cycle, the Board has gathered and analysed data and feedback from staff and parents to inform and help shape the plans for the next three years of the journey for the school.

In all, three Parent Feedback Forums were facilitated, and an electronic survey was sent to gather input from parents and caregivers. All members of the school community were invited to attend and contribute to improve learning and the learning environment for the benefits of all students at St Helena's. At the same time, the leadership team has worked with staff to contribute to the Strategic Plan for 2020-2022. The Plan is not yet finalised, but Table 1 indicates the five key strategic directions and key strategies for the next three years. When the Plan has been finalised, it will be available for parents and the community on the school's website.

It is clear, I believe, that there is important work that needs to be continued over the next three years to maintain the current successes and even more importantly, to build on these successes for the students, staff and the parent community of St Helena's Catholic Primary School. I look forward to working collaboratively with Board members, the leadership team and the community to ensure that St Helena's thrives.

Table 1**STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2022**

| Key Drivers | Key Strategies |
|---|---|
| Building Connections to St Helena's | Strengthening parents' connection to the school and school community |
| | Promoting St Helena's as a 'good' school in the community and beyond |
| | Building social connections across the school community to deepen engagement with the school |
| Articulating, enriching and embedding the St Helena's motto and core values | Unpack what is 'Something Beautiful for God' and the Gospel values at the core of the school community |
| | Embed the St Helena's motto and values within all aspects of the school |
| Vision for Learning | Consolidate current models of instruction to develop an integrated school-based philosophy and model |
| | Maximise effective teacher collaboration |
| | Empower teachers to impact on shaping the teaching and learning environment for the benefit of students and their learning. |
| Foster an inclusive learning and working environment for staff, students and families | Establish practices that reflect students as the collective responsibility of all staff. |
| | Identify, acknowledge, understand and celebrate the diverse cultures in our school community |
| | Create a culture where the well-being of students and staff is paramount |
| Develop a rich data culture that fosters student learning, enhances teacher | Use assessment and data effectively to measure student learning |

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| capacity and builds school improvement | |
| | Use assessment and data effectively to guide and inform teacher practice |
| | Interpret whole school data to identify trends and implement change |
| | Provide effective critical feedback to drive students' goal setting and ownership of personal learning journey |

ST HELENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMMARY SCHOOL

STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2022

Building Connections to St Helena's

Strengthening parents' connection to the school and school community

- Improve communication with parents and the parent community
- Build parent community use of school website as the first source of key information about the school
- Student achievement
- Learning Journeys
- Relationships

Promoting St Helena's as a 'good' school in the community and beyond

- Communicate the day-to-day life of the school – successes and events
- Marketing the school to public

Building social connections across the school community to deepen engagement with the school

- Create opportunities for positive conversations between parents, staff and P&F
- Create opportunities to include a range of parents through interaction with children