



2017 BOARD CHAIR REPORT

This year saw a continuation of Board members from the previous year. This stability at Board level assisted in ongoing planning, and allowed the Board to give valuable support to the school during the period of Allen McMahon's secondment. I extend my gratitude to the Board members for their commitment of time but also the significant engagement they have had with their role and the value they place on the responsibilities of our School Board.

Throughout the year the School Board has worked collaboratively and made decisions for the benefit of the school community. The Board has completed its duties in accordance with its primary role to manage school finances and provide for present and future needs of the School. The Board has been very mindful, that while our school is growing in terms of student numbers, we must maintain the core values of our school community and our motto – "Charity and Peace".

Due to secondment, Allen McMahon worked as Principal of Luurnpa for the first three terms of the school year. I would like to thank Allen for his work in overseeing our capital works programme and giving regular and ongoing support to the school's administration while away from the school. St Columba's was very fortunate to have Ondine Komnick serve as Acting Principal during this time, and I thank her for her wonderful stewardship during this period. Increased responsibilities were placed on Susannah Robinson, who managed the increase to her workload so ably in her first year as Assistant Principal. Thanks also to Lorraine Jenaway who has once again worked tirelessly in assisting the Board to carry out its role.

Thank you to all members of the school community for their contributions to school life during the year:

- School Administration and Staff
- Allen McMahon •
- Monsignor O'Loughlin •
- Board members •
- P&F
- Parents

The current year has seen significant capital works commencing with the refurbishment of the Fr Brennan building which will serve as kindergarten classrooms. In recent weeks, we have seen the commencement of construction of two additional classrooms, administration addition and refurbishment and further works. This will provide wonderful facilities for staff and students and is an important part of our school comfortably accommodating increased student numbers. The Board has continued to also monitor the ongoing maintenance requirements of the school and thanks to the processes now in place, have completed this role very efficiently.

The St Columba's School Board believed it was important to develop a Mission Statement to assist in forward planning of our school, and to define our school's core focus and purpose. The Mission Statement was

developed through discussion with Board members, as well as engagement with staff, parents and students of our school. We are very proud of this document, and believe it articulates the value our school places on growth of the student in a catholic environment.

This year is my third year as Board Chair and my final year on the School Board. Thank you to the staff at St Columba's in providing excellent support during my time on the Board. Their knowledge, support and commitment has made my roles on the Board much easier. Thank you to the parents and students of St Columba's for their engagement in our school community and willingness to improve our school. I would also like to extend my gratitude to Monsignor who has continued to reinforce the strong bond our school enjoys with the Parish. Finally thank you to my fellow Board members past and present, it has been a pleasure working with you for the betterment of our school.

I wish the Board and all at St Columba's Catholic Primary School a very happy 2018.

Grant Collins
School Board Chair