

## **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT 2017**

I am pleased to provide this report to the St Columba's School Community detailing the 2017 school year.

I would like to thank Mrs Komnick for looking after the school so well while I was on secondment in the Kimberley. The school was run very capably in my absence. St. Columba's School has continued to work closely with the Parish and we thank Monsignor O'Loughlin for his support and help throughout the year. This year we celebrated the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. Many thanks to Monsignor O'Loughlin, Mrs Komnick, Mrs Robinson, Mrs, and Ms Poole for organising these wonderful celebrations. We have continued to strengthen our ties with the Sisters of St Joseph through Chapel Masses and the Junior Joe's Group and we look forward to the return of Sr Maree and working with her in 2018.

I wish to acknowledge the staff for their support of me in my role and for the work they do for the children and families of St. Columba's. I not only commend them for their work and energy, but for the way they go about their work. If not for their many hours of hard work outside of school time and the learning activities during the day the students at St Columba's would not enjoy the wonderful education they receive. St Columba's is losing a number of staff this year. I wish them well with their future careers and thank them for their support, professionalism and dedication they have shown to the school during their time employed at the school.

The School's priorities for 2018 will follow a whole school approach to curriculum, the work from the Annual School Improvement Plan and full implementation of The Australian Curriculum. Staff will continue to follow the staff-coaching model they implemented in 2017. We will continue to adopt the Kath Walker Approach in our kindy and Pre Primary classes and at the same time continue our partnership with the Multi Lit group across the school.

Our Year 6 students are graduating to high school and we wish them well with their future studies. May they grow in the love of Jesus and exhibit the values St Columba's strives to develop in its students. I am sure that they will be great ambassadors for our school. Thanks must go to our student leaders for their great example of leadership throughout the year. They have continued to work hard to make our school a better place for all of our students.

Our school community has been extremely well supported and encouraged by our School Board. 2017 has been a very busy year for the School Board. The school has continued to grow and the Building Programme is now underway. The Building programme should be completed in Term 2 in 2018. Thanks to those Board members who are completing their time on the School Board and in particular Grant Collins and Mardi Dodson who have been the Board Chair and Board Treasurer over the last few years. Thank you must go to our School Board members for the time they give to attend the monthly meetings. Their advice and decisions regarding the financial management of the school has been sound and prudent especially given the circumstances surrounding school funding from the State and Federal Governments over the last two years. The School Strategic Plan centred around student learning and the Catholic Education initiative LEAD (Learning, Engagement, Accountability and Discipleship), Community will come to a conclusion in 2018. During 2018 a start will be made on a new three year plan from 2019 to 2021.

A new executive on the P&F has seen a busy year in 2016. Once again, our P&F have had a very busy year with their fundraising efforts. There have been many parents who have provided unflagging support and help for St Columba's, with their fundraising efforts and general help around the school. My thanks go out to all who give so generously of their time. Without this generosity and help, St Columba's would be much poorer in resources and community spirit.

Many thanks to Jim Millen, and Greenworx who have maintained the school grounds to such a high standard. Mrs Jenaway and Mrs Underwood have continued to work under many constraints in making sure that the administration side of the school runs very smoothly. Well done to you both! Our Education Assistants, Library staff, Canteen workers Uniform Shop staff and helpers have also worked hard throughout the year and many thanks to them for their untiring efforts in contributing to the day-to-day running of the school.

In conclusion thanks must go to all the parents, carers and supporters who have so willingly given their time to the day to day activities here at school. Without such help many school activities simply could not take place and St Columba's would not have the wonderful sense of community spirit that it has.

Finally, I wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and a fulfilling New Year.

God Bless

**Allen McMahon**  
**Principal**