



Principal's Report 2019

This year we celebrated the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. Many thanks to Mrs Komnick, Mrs Robinson, Mr Popadynec, Mrs Davis, Miss Bechelli and Mrs Poole and the Parish Liturgy representatives for organising and participating in such prayerful occasions. Also throughout the year, classes have prepared many moving and reverent Prayer Services and Masses in the Church and school classrooms. As always we thank Monsignor O'Loughlin for his help and celebrations of many of these events.

Teaching staff at St Columba's have during 2019 continued to work in a very professional manner. 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 the dedication they have shown to the school during their time employed at the school. I wish Mrs Robinson all the best in her role as Assistant Principal at Hammond Park. I would also like to particularly acknowledge Mrs Komnick, who is leaving to take up the role of Principal at Our Lady of Mercy Girrawheen from 2020. Mrs Komnick has been a staff member and Assistant Principal for many years at St Columba's. In her time as a leader she has also been the acting principal on a number of occasions and has very capably fulfilled the role. I know that Mrs Komnick will be very much missed by our school community, however, we wish her all the best in her new role and I am sure that she will be just as well accepted at Our Lady of Mercy as she was here at St Columba's.

2019 has seen a number of initiatives being implemented by the staff at St Columba's. The School staff were involved in reviewing whole school processes in Teaching Practices, involving students and families in planning for wellbeing of students and staff, the development of staff growth plans and teachers undergoing training on peer mentoring. Classroom teachers have continued to use whole school testing and NAPLAN results to plan and deliver curriculum to students.

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 School 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 strive to make our school a better place for our students.

2019 has been a very busy year for the School Board. Sincere thanks, must go to our School Board members for the amount of time they give in attending the monthly meetings. Their advice and decisions regarding the financial management of the school have been well thought out and very sound especially given the circumstances surrounding school funding from the State and Federal Governments over the last couple of years. This has placed St Columba's School in a sound financial position. The School Board completed its 2020-2023 Strategic Plan this year and it was circulated to the school community during Term 4. The process involved Board, staff, P&F, parents and students and will complement the Catholic Education Office WA Strategic Plan. All Board members are to be thanked for their time and dedication they give to school activities.

A new executive on the P&F has seen a busy year in 2019. There have been a number of fund raisers and events such as the Retro Bingo Night, Dads and Children's Night, Grandparents, Father's Day and Mother's Day celebrations.. Much personal time is given to organise these and without this generosity and help St Columba's would be much poorer in resources and community spirit.

Jim Millen and Greenworx have maintained the school grounds to a high standard. Mrs Jenaway, Mrs Foster and Mrs Underwood have continued to work under many demands in making sure that the administration side of the school continues to run very smoothly. Our Library staff, Uniform shop staff and Canteen workers 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. I particularly wish to thank Mrs Fiel for organising the closing of the uniform shop and transfer of left over stock to our new

supplier Nell Gray. This year we employed Mrs Griffin as our school marketing officer and she is to be thanked for the much improved communication within the school and marketing in the wider community.

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. If it were not for this help many activities simply would not take place. It is this help, that gives St Columba's its reputation of having such a great sense of community.

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

God Bless

**Allen McMahon
Principal**