

Principal's Report 2018

During 2018, St Columba's has continued to work closely with the Parish. We thank Monsignor O'Loughlin for his untiring support and help throughout the year. This year our Parish celebrated the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. Many thanks to Monsignor O'Loughlin, Mrs Komnick, Mrs Robinson, classroom teachers and the Parish Liturgy representatives for organising and participating in such beautiful celebrations. Also throughout the year, classes have prepared many moving and reverent Prayer Services and Masses in the Church and school. Well done to all involved.

Once again, St Columba's can be proud of the efforts of the staff, from classroom teachers and educational assistants through to the specialist teachers, who have all been involved in educating our students. Many hours outside of school, time is given voluntarily by staff to provide a sound education for the students at school. Staff can never be thanked enough for the time and the quality of work they prepare for students. St Columba's is losing 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 here.

The School's priorities for 2019 will follow a whole school approach to curriculum, the work from the Annual School Improvement Plan and full implementation of The Australian Curriculum. There will also be a strong focus on implementing student focus from the new Strategic Plan currently under development. We will continue to adopt the Kathy Walker Approach in our Kindy and Pre Primary classes and at the same time continue our partnership with the MultiLit group across the school.

It is with a tinge of sadness that we say goodbye to our Year 6 students as they make the move to high school. I know they are ready for the move and we wish them well. May they continue to follow the values learnt while at St Columba's and we hope they return to visit in the ensuing years.

The School Board has once again continued to work extremely hard in completing a number of projects throughout the year. Finances have been closely monitored and a number of projects undertaken such as a new playground in the new Kindy area, painting of some of the external areas of the school and the building programme to cater for the second stream of students moving through the school has also been completed. Our school finances are very sound. The School Board has begun developing during 2018, a new three year Strategic Plan. This will be finalised early in 2019. Parents, staff, students and Board members are involved in the process and it outlines very clearly over the next three years the future direction of St Columba's. All Board members are to be thanked for their time and dedication they give to school activities.

Once again, our P&F have had a very busy year with their fundraising efforts and I thank the Executive for their work this year. A number of celebrations required a significant amount of work and these went off without a hitch. Many parents have provided support for St Columba's P&F in 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.

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.

Lastly, many thanks must go to the volunteer parents, carers, and supporters of St Columba's, who have made possible the various activities and ventures held throughout the year. 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**