



# PRINCIPAL'S REPORT 2020

This year, schooling has been affected by many highs and lows due to COVID-19, as a school community, a nation and internationally. These events have challenged everyone and meant that we have had to draw on a strength deep within us to make sense of what has and is happening in the world around us today. Throughout these ups and downs the school has continued to offer a stable and secure environment for our students. I am very grateful to the staff who while being effected themselves were able to maintain the school routine and support their students to provide as normal a year as possible.

St Columba's has continued to work closely with the Parish. We thank Monsignor O'Loughlin for his support and help throughout the year. This year our Parish celebrated the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation, albeit late in the year. Many thanks to Monsignor O'Loughlin, Miss Purvis, classroom teachers and the Parish Liturgy representatives for organising and participating in these celebrations. Also throughout the year, classes have prepared many moving and reverent Prayer Services and Masses. Well done to all involved.

St Columba's can be proud of the efforts of the staff, from classroom teachers and educational assistants through to the specialist teachers and all those others who have been involved in educating our students. Many hours outside of school time is given up 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 has a number of staff leaving at the end of this year. I wish them well with their future careers and thank them for the support, professionalism and dedication they have shown to the school during their time employed here.

2020 has seen a number of School initiatives being implemented by the staff at St Columba's. These were, delivering lessons online due to the COVID virus and the introduction of specialist IT lessons for students in Yr 3-6. Classroom teachers have continued to use whole school testing and NAPLAN results to plan and deliver curriculum to students. The implementation of The Australian Curriculum continues and staff will continue to use it as a basis for planning classroom strategies during 2021. We will also employ a specialist HASS teacher from the start of 2021.

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. As the year closes we say good bye to many families who have had a long association with St Columba's as their last child leaves Year 6. I would like to thank these families for their support of the school and staff throughout the years and wish them every blessing for the years to come.

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 classroom to provide for the extra specialist lessons the school will provide from 2021. Our school finances are very sound. The School Board invested a significant amount of time in 2019 in developing a new three year Strategic Plan. Implementation began this year and will continue over the next two years. All Board members are to be thanked for the time and dedication they give to school activities.

The P&F have had a very lean year with their fundraising efforts due to the COVID-19 virus. The movie night, the Children's Ninja Warrior fundraiser, the Welcome Back Picnic and the food drive for St Vinnies and Foodbank were highlights of the year. There have been many parents who have provided unflagging support for St Columba's 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 not have the wonderful community spirit that it has.

Jim, and Greenworx have maintained the school grounds to a high standard. Mrs Jenaway, Mrs Creek, Mrs Foster and Mrs Griffin have continued to work under many demands including 'social distancing' in making sure that the administration side of the school functions in a timely manner. Our Library staff and Canteen workers have also worked hard throughout the year and many thanks go to them for their untiring efforts in contributing to the day to day running of the school.

Finally, many thanks must go to the volunteer parents and carers and supporters of St Columba's who have made possible the various activities and ventures held throughout the year. Finally, I wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and a fulfilling New Year.

God Bless

Allen McMahon  
Principal