

**St Columba's School BAYSWATER**  
**School Board Chairperson Report 2020**

The School Board is responsible not only to the local school community, but also to the Catholic Education Commission of WA for the financial administration of the school. It is also entrusted with the duty of planning, on behalf of the school community, with the school staff, through the Principal, and with the CECWA to meet the present and future needs of students. I have had the privilege of chairing the Board in 2020.

School Board improvements have included the following:

- **Capital Development Planning 2021/2022** – The School Board will continue to investigate and plan for construction of covered walkways for the Year 4 classrooms through to the OSHC facility. The school must fully fund the project. No funds will be acquired through grants or loans for this project. The school currently has existing repayments from the re-build of the school, therefore prudent management of funds is imperative.
- **Out of School Hours Care [OSHC]** - Our OSHC service continues to flourish under the leadership of Jess Scott.

**Change to the naming of the School Board to School Advisory Council from 2021 onwards**

There are many groups within the school who volunteer their time to assist both the operations of the school, but also in classrooms and pastorally. To our wonderful Pastoral Care Committee, who meet every Wednesday. Your care for our community is witness to what we stand for as a school. You live the values of the Mercy Sisters in the support you offer. To our Parents and Friends' Association, especially the executive led by Rachel Lange, we thank you for your enormous efforts throughout 2020.

Establishing connections within the broader community has been an important part of the School Board's role over the past few years. Building a positive relationship with Chisholm Catholic College in Bedford has resulted in extremely efficient canteen operations, and most recently the launch of the Aboriginal Bursary. In 2020, we offered a bursary to an aboriginal student here at St Columba's School, that will continue into their secondary years of schooling at Chisholm College. We sincerely thank Paul Shanahan and the sub-committee for their passion in bringing this initiative to life.

To our St Columba's School staff, we thank you for your care of our children. Your commitment to providing the best for them in not only their learning, but your investment in them as young people is appreciated by the School Board and all our families. Your positivity and willingness to provide the best for our children is much valued. A close relationship between school and parish is always treasured. We continue to see this strong relationship as being core to why we exist as a Catholic school community. The strong bond between Fr Andrew and our school leadership, staff and families contributes to who we are as a community.

Finally, I wish all our Year 6 students all the best as they enter the next phase of their lives. To all our families that leave us at the end of 2020, we thank you for your support and wish you much happiness in the future.

On behalf of the Board, I wish everyone a joyful Christmas and bright new year.

Jenn Debono  
School Board Chair