



# St Columba's School Bayswater

32 Roberts Street  
BAYSWATER WA 6053  
PO Box 61  
BAYSWATER WA 6933  
Tel: 08 9208 2700  
admin@stcolumbas.wa.edu.au  
www.stcolumbas.wa.edu.au

Grow in Faith      Seek Wisdom      Live in Peace

## **St Columba's School BAYSWATER** **Catholic School Advisory Council Chairperson Report 2021**

The Catholic School Advisory Council, (CSAC as I like to call us), provides parents and community members with structured ways to provide support and expertise to our Principal and school leadership team.

Establishment of the CSAC is to provide a local and contextual advisory function for all Principals, enabling the skills and expertise of Catholic school communities to be included within school decision-making processes.

It has been such a privilege to lead this group for 2021.

Catholic School Advisory Council improvements for 2021 have included the following:

- The School Bursary continues to be a project that holds priority within the Catholic School Advisory Council.
- The commencement of the construction of the canopies outside the Year 3 and 4 classrooms, including the OHSC rooms. Costs covered by the school and the savings of reserves over the past five years.
- Other capital works including carpeting of the Year 3 and 4 rooms at the start of 2021 and the Year 2 rooms at the end of the year.
- Window treatments [blinds] across the classrooms for increased security.
- Upgrades in leasing contracts for staff MacBooks and iPads, photocopiers.
- Decision to go to full days for the three-year old program. Moving from two half days to one full day per week. Two days with up to 20 students will operate in 2022.
- Continued maintenance of the school oval to work towards fully covered surface by 2022.
- On-going financial management of the school as it prepares for the future and the transitioning of a new funding model in 2024.
- Continued maintenance projects across the school, including major works across the ECE playground with new fencing, grounds and shade sail maintenance.
- Staffing – Megan Dwyer has retired from St Columba's School after 13 years, 12 of those years as Assistant Principal. Deb Klatt will resign after two stints as an Assistant Principal but will continue as a classroom teacher in 2022.
- OSHC service continues to flourish under the leadership of Jess Scott.

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, 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 Catholic School Parents WA, especially the executive led by Tanya Armstrong (& assisted by Simone Moretta), we thank you for your enormous efforts throughout 2021.

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 Advisory Council 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 would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Art for his support to the School Board, now the Catholic School Advisory Committee. Working along side you to better our school for the gorgeous kids here has been a pleasure and stress-free. Thank you for always having “The door is always open” policy and I wish you a relaxing first semester in 2022. I know that our school will be in good hands while you are away.

Peta – you manage your role as finance officer with professionalism and calmness and your caring nature and friendship is something that I will treasure always.

To my wonderful CSAC members – Greg Armstrong, Alex Wright, Paul Shannahan, Fr Andrew and the life of the party James Inglis. Thank you all for your support, thoughts, opinions, banter and humour. Our meetings were always productive and working alongside a group of people who all have the same game plan and focus “Our wonderful school” made my role very enjoyable. I wish you all good luck on your new adventures at school whatever they may be.

To all the wonderful teachers and Lisa in the front office who always started our telephone calls with “the boys are alright” – well what a ride! I have been a part of this school community for the last 10 years. You have seen my boys grow one into a towering giant – that would be Jai, who is now a lot taller than me and Taj the one who has kept you on your toes. I have enjoyed and loved being there at the start lines for both the swimming and athletic carnivals to support and cheer on our students from their first carnivals to their last. Seeing the fear, nerves, competitiveness, and joy on their little faces made my day and then quietly giving my McCauley team-mates an extra pat on the back before the race, well you couldn’t wipe the smile off my face. I truly will miss those moments and Jo happy to help if needed.

I would like to thank Shawn, Jai and Taj for their support at home while I have been involved in our school. Knowing that you supported me in all roles from P&F committee member, P&F President, Board member and lastly Chairperson. I really appreciate everything that you all do for me. Thank you.

I would like to 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 2021, we thank you for your support and wish you much happiness in the future.

On behalf of the Catholic School Advisory Committee, I would like to wish everyone a joyful Christmas and bright new year.

Jenn Debono  
Catholic School Advisory Committee Chair