

Good evening everyone and welcome to St Joseph's AGM for 2014.

My name is Mel Griffiths and, as most of you would know, I have the honour of being the Chairman of the St Joseph's School Board.

As is always the case, this year's calendar has been a very full one for our school.

Firstly, we have made a major financial investment of IT equipment with the support of our diligent P & F ... thank you for that ☺

We have purchased:-

- 30 iPads
- 34 Desktop computers and
- 64 Laptops – 1 to 1 in Year 6 classes

We have required considerable infrastructure to support these increases and our servers and security are now provided through St Norbert's College.

Secondly, the Mercy Convent was purchased for the future development of this area as a Catholic Educational Precinct. The Archdiocese has made the purchase on behalf of St Joseph's School. With our need for it still some time off, we have been able to reciprocate St Norbert College's support of us, by allowing them to house the Coolock Music Department there. St Norbert's have taken responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the property whilst they are using it, which frees up those finances we would otherwise have had to pay.

The City of Canning has undertaken street scaping for Railway Parade which, along with enhancing the appearance of the front of our school, will make it safer for our students and a lot more pedestrian friendly.

There have been a few minor maintenance issues:-

- Plumbing            Drain repairs  
                              Burst pipes (Library flooded)  
                              Busted gutters
- Speed Humps were installed in the main car park
- Brick Paving was laid to provide a walkway through car park
- Painting inside of classrooms

Even with these maintenance issues, the school remains in a strong financial position. The changing Socio Economic Status of Queens Park has resulted in a larger number of parents coming from white collar professions. However, having said this, it is important for us, as a Catholic School and Community as a whole, to cater to all walks of life in our ever diversifying school.

Part of being able to accommodate the many and varied cultures that we have here at St Joseph's, is to have a strong foundation to build upon. This is provided by the staff we have and the leadership team that guides them. It is a true testimony to those staff members, that even after losing two strong Assistant Principals in Laurel and Wendy, the school has

continued to not only be successful, but to thrive. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Kaye and Chris for coming aboard and becoming such valuable, contributing members of our school ... "Thank You ☺"

Next year will see St Joseph's Primary School celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The planning for this event has generated great some ideas with a 100th Year Celebration Committee having been established. We are looking at introducing a school song and a school prayer for the occasion. The year will kick off with a Bingo Night in Term 1. Research has shown that it was through a Bingo Night that a lot of the funds for the school were initially raised.

We will have a celebratory mass on the 24th September. Invited guests will attend mass and then be entertained by a concert. This will be followed by a morning tea in the undercover area with a Museum type display set up for their perusal.

To give back to the Sisters of Mercy who founded our school, money raised from events will be donated to a Mercy based Mission. It will be a year full of hope for the future and nostalgia for the place we came from.

On a personal note, I would like to take this chance to thank you, the school community, for the opportunity to be a part of the School Board here at St Joseph's. This year marks my 7<sup>th</sup> year on the board ... firstly as the P & F Representative, then as a Member; the Secretary and finally the Chairman. It has been an amazing 7 years with so many changes happening around us and I have cherished every moment.

This year, particularly, has been filled with the highest of highs and the lowest of lows. The one thing that I have noticed has NOT changed in all my time at this school, in excess of 18 years (both on and off the Board and as a student and a parent) is the sense of Community ... no, that's not the right word. We ARE a community here at St Joseph's but more importantly, we are a family. We celebrate the triumphs we have, both together and individually. Everyone is quick to congratulate achievements made and accomplishments fulfilled. With the same sense of sharing, our family is sympathetic and warm when faced with life's unthinkable moments. We are fortunate at St Joseph's to have an umbrella of love and compassion that envelops us in our neediest of times.

Now, because my term has come to an end, Dianne Abernethy has resigned, Kelly Miller is leaving us, and Marion Vagg is up for re-election along with Danielle Miller, we have 5 positions open on our school board.

Board members Marion Vagg and Danielle Miller are re-nominating and we have new nominations from Mike Saunders, Elisa Rangitoheriri, Lucy Sawkins and Tracey Ryan. Effectively, this leaves us with 6 people nominating for 5 vacant positions.

Due to this, we will be giving each of the nominees an opportunity to introduce themselves and put forward their appeal to be on our School Board. After this, we will be asking you all to fill in a ballot to vote for the nominees.

On that note, I wish you all a good evening and will now hand the proceedings over to our Principal, Mr Peter Yensch.

Thank you and God Bless You x