

## 2020 St Pius X School Advisory Council - Chairman's End of Year Board Report

Welcome everyone to the 2020 St Pius X Primary School AGM. I would like to acknowledge the Whadjuk people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet. I would like to pay my respects to Elders past and present and extend that respect to any First Australians in the room with us today.

On behalf of the St Pius X School Advisory Council, I would like to thank you all for attending the AGM this evening and for your continued support of our school and community.

I would like to acknowledge my fellow council members who are all very proud to be supporting the St Pius X community. Deirdre Gleeson (Secretary), Adam Sofoulis (Treasurer), Quinten Lynch, Kim Passmore, Navin Bhat, Martin Loney, Father Patrick Lim, Stephanie Johnson, Kim Hughes and Daine Burnett and our P & F representative and President of the P & F, Nick Sertis.

2020 was an interesting year to say the least. An unprecedented global pandemic impacted communities around the world and our community was certainly not immune. Its influence saw our school community take resilience and adaptability to a whole new level.

2020 was my second year as Board Chairman for the St Pius X Primary School and it was an honour and privilege to contribute to the school and its community and be involved in the school enacting plans to assist our children to maintain an element of consistency and continuity with their education, and ultimately return to the classrooms with the safety of staff and our children at the forefront.

It was our amazing teachers, staff and Parish who helped our community, and in particular our children, to maintain a strong connection to faith during these troubling times. They did this not as a job, but for the benefit of maintaining a sense of continuity so our children could focus on the things that children should focus on, being children.

A few events had to be cancelled but some just needed to be conducted in a different way. I'd rather look at the positives than the negatives. Our children were able to have their sports carnival, an event they all look forward to each year. The Mother's Day & Father's Day breakfasts were combined, and we celebrated Parents Day which was a great success. The school camp and interschool carnival proceeded, and the Christmas Concert will still go ahead, albeit in an altered format. None of these events would have been possible had it not been for the adaptability and resilience of our community. A huge thanks from the Council to all who assisted.

The School Advisory Council's primary responsibility is to provide financial management and strategic direction to the school via the leadership team who is then ultimately charged with the operational responsibilities and the day to day running of the school. We meet on a monthly basis to discuss relevant topics and issues concerning activities and improvements to the school in order for the school to maintain a vibrant atmosphere for students and teachers.

2020 resulted in our focus shifting from school improvements and infrastructure spend to the successful implementation of the COVID action plans as directed by CEWA. Consequently, there isn't much to report in with regards to capital spend for the 2020 year.

Details of finances will be tabled in the Finance Report, however it was pleasing to again receive feedback from our auditors during the year advising that the procedures surrounding fiscal management at St Pius X are best practice.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to a number of people who make St Pius X the school that it is today.

Thank you to our teachers and administrative staff, the members of our School Advisory Council and P & F boards – the work you do for our school is appreciated in so many ways.

Thanks to Father Patrick Lim who has provided the school community with spiritual guidance and a very strong connection between the school and the St Pius Parish.

Thanks to those members of the P&F or School Advisory Council who are retiring this year – a sincere and huge thank you for your voluntary service.

To our students – we are all so proud of you and what you achieve. The enthusiasm and joy you bring to our school make it an amazing place for all. And thanks to the parents for encouraging and supporting your children to be good members of the St Pius X Community.

Despite all the adversity that the world is going through right now I feel that the St Pius X school is in a prosperous position for the years ahead. We remain strong in our teaching capability and ethos and provide our students with the necessary tools and environment to learn and grow. The school community is connected and supportive of each other. We live by our school motto of Faith and Friendship, and it is this focus on faith and service to the community that strengthens our desire to create students who are given every opportunity to be their best.

Finally, I'd like to take the time to make a special thanks to our Principal Daine Burnett. Daine departs the St Pius X community at the end of 2020 after 8 years at our school. I've had many parents come and tell me about how they have seen so many positive changes to the St Pius X school that Daine has influenced during his time here. We have seen the creation of a beautiful nature play area in our kindergarten and pre-primary play areas, many improvements to the playground facilities for the older children with a big kid's nature playground and new modular monkey bar frame. Our IT has taken a step up with first class IT facilities in our custom-made SEARCH Zone and our under-cover area can now be enclosed to keep our children dry during those rainy lunch breaks. We've seen him coach basketball, join in on the colour run, hen peck the lawn so the kids have lush grass to play on and we've even seen him dance on stage at the Christmas concert – there really is nothing this man can't do - and I am sure that I have only just scratched the surface of what Daine has achieved in his time here at St Pius X.

His passion for the St Pius X school community is second to none and we will miss him terribly. We wish him nothing but success at his new school - our loss is their gain.

Next year we welcome our incoming Principal, Melissa Vranjes, and look forward to an exciting 2021.

Thank you

**Chet Richardson**

**Chairman – St Pius X Catholic Primary School Advisory Council**

17 November 2020