Annual General Meeting for 2014

Chairperson’s Report

Welcome to the 2015 St Joseph’s School Payneham Annual General Meeting and the Chairperson’s Report.

This time last year, I was again handed the privilege of serving our School Community as the School Board Chairperson. As a wonderfully diverse and supportive community, it is amazing to reflect on what the School and Parish community has achieved during this last 12 months. The specific details I will leave for Laurie to highlight in his report but I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who enabled our children and the wider school community to operate and succeed.

Firstly, I would like to thank Father Allan and the parish community for their time, assistance, and support. The school community at St Joseph’s has a unique relationship with the parish community where we share the celebration of seeing our children grow in the image of God. Under the leadership of Father Allan and Laurie, the School Board looks forward to continuing to contribute to the strengthening of this unique and favorable relationship.

Teachers are the greatest influence on our children’s lives outside ourselves as Parents/Guardians. For some of us, teachers spend more time with our children during the day than we do. It can be easy to accept the service and commitment of teachers as a requirement of their employment but in reality many teachers give so much more. These teachers are one of, if not the most valuable resource that we have at St Joseph’s. Not only do teachers develop our children’s knowledge but they also encourage our children to explore and understand forgiveness, compassion and right from wrong. I would like to offer the thanks of the School Board to all teachers at St Joseph’s for their efforts during 2014.

I would also like to thank the Education Support Officers who assist the teachers in achieving learning outcomes. Their efforts contribute to the efficient and effective operation of St Joseph’s on a daily basis. As the face and voice of our school, they are vital contributors to maintaining our high reputation within the local community. For this the School Board is grateful and appreciative of all their efforts during 2014.

No school can operate successfully without the commitment and dedication of the volunteers who give their time in support of school endeavors and events. There is not enough space in this report to list all of those the School Board would like to thank for the time and effort they provided in the challenges of 2014. Your generous and enthusiastic efforts contributed to successful events such as the School Picnic, Film Afternoon, Walkathon and Working Bees. For all your efforts the School Board thanks you.
There are also the volunteers on the numerous committees that assist the School Board to operate successfully. Without the efforts of these various committees the school community wouldn’t be able to reap the benefits of improved ICT, compliant financial management or the understanding of the concerns and issues of the wider school community. The work conducted by these committees cannot be underestimated and therefore I would like to thank:

- The Finance Committee for their robust and accurate financial management of St Joseph’s budget. Our school community can be confident in the effort taken by the committee to responsibly manage school funds.
- The P & F Committee whose efforts have not only contributed to successful fund raising events but have more importantly contributed to the development of a strong partnership between school and family. Consequently providing that strong sense of community, which we are so proud of and well known for.
- Those who manage the Canteen and Out of Hours School Care services. The provision of these services contributes to the spirit of our school community and provides a point of difference when compared to other schools. We are especially grateful to the volunteers who assist in the canteen.
- The ICT Committee for continuing to ensure that the school learning technologies are well maintained and appropriate for teaching purposes.
- The Uniform Committee for their efforts in identifying suggested changes to the school uniform, and then coordinating the implementation of approved changes.
- Thanks to the Maintenance Committee, for all the repair and maintenance work undertaken in 2014, including organising two Working Bees during the year.

As School Board Chairperson, I have been very fortunate to have the assistance and dedication of the diverse and knowledgeable group of people who make up our School Board. For their efforts throughout 2014 I would like to thank:

**President:** Father Allan
**School Principal:** Laurie Sammut
**Deputy Principal:** Ingrid Douventzidis
**Deputy Chairperson:** John Flynn
**Treasurer:** Carlo Melillo
**Secretary:** Melissa O’Loughlin
**Staff Representative:** Bernardette Robinson
**P&F Representative:** Sonia Rechichi
**Board Members:** Gina La Bella
                 Danny Lucccon
                 Daniela Bruno
This year sees Danny Luccon retire from the Board after a number of years serving the school community in a variety of roles. His efforts and dedication is greatly appreciated and has contributed to the successful operation of the school. We wish him all the best for the future.

As well as Danny, we say goodbye to Sonia Rechichi who has contributed her time to the Board over the last two years but unfortunately due to other commitments, she is unable to continue her support. We also wish Sonia all the best for the future and thank her for her time and efforts.

After farewelling two previous members, I would like to welcome this year’s new members, Roberto Clemente and Vanessa Mercurio (Staff Rep). I look forward to getting to know them better over the next year and seeing what they can bring to our meetings and the school community.

Lastly, I would like to thank our long serving Principal, Laurie Sammut. He is tireless in trying to improve school facilities and resources in order to provide the best learning environment for the children. His excellent relationship with the teachers, wider community and parish is key to the provision of the enjoyable and rewarding learning environment experienced by the children.

To all those who I haven’t been able to mention here but have contributed their time, effort or resources to the success of St Joseph’s Payneham in 2014, thank you. I have no doubt that 2015 will prove just as successful, and on behalf of the School Board I look forward to seeing you all throughout the year.

Damien Farrell.
Chairperson – School Board