

## **Board of Trustees Update May 2016**

This update is an opportunity for us to highlight the most topical issue for Boards at the present time, recap what the current Board has achieved in the last three years and point to where the Board would like to see the school heading in the future.

The triennial Board of Trustees Election will be held in May/June this year. We are encouraging parents who are passionate about our school and its future to seriously consider standing for election, as it is only with a strong, proactive and enthusiastic Board that we can continue to achieve the best for the students at Our Lady of the Assumption School. With some Board members not seeking re-election this term, the school needs new parents to step up and ensure the school continues to be governed well. Any parent can do this - all that is required is a passion for the school!

### **Hot topic...**

The most topical issue facing Boards presently is the new Health and Safety legislation that came into effect on the 4 April 2016. This legislation requires that Boards be diligent in identifying and mitigating potential risks, liabilities and hazards and as a priority providing a safe environment and practices for the protection of staff, students and community. The Board has as a priority to review our current policies to ensure they are appropriate and to ensure school practices comply with policy and legislative requirements.

### **So let's look at the past 3 years...**

During the last three years, the current Board of Trustees have fully supported the completion of the outdoor areas of the school - the Hub, Ryan Neilson stadium, bootcamp exercise equipment and the Good Life, the introduction of 1:1 devices in years 5-8, and initiatives to ensure the students at the school are better equipped to face the world as 21st century learners. The Board acknowledges and thanks the PTA, who are our wonderful fundraising arm of the school. Their efforts to help us achieve our goals are appreciated and it is with excitement that the expenditure for the coming year has been approved.

The appointment of the school principal is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees. Last year, the Board invested a lot of time and effort in securing an experienced and competent administrator and manager. We acknowledge the support of staff, parents and students in welcoming Janet to OLA and supporting her as she settles into her role leading our school.

### **Looking Ahead...**

As you may recall, last year the Board sought your feedback on a wide range of topics within the school to help form the basis of the strategic planning for the school in the coming years. The strategic plan was temporarily put on hold last year to allow the new principal to have the opportunity to provide essential input. Moving forward with the strategic plan will be a priority once the new Board is established in July and we embrace the opportunity to reopen the survey and seek further feedback from the school community. The Board is committed to ensuring that the school keeps abreast of changing educational needs of our 21st century learners, that our students receive the best learning support possible and that our Faith is the guiding principle for the school.

### **Helping Hands...**

Helping Hands continues to be the key Pastoral Care Programme of the School, extending support to families in our community at a time of need. Many, many thanks for the kindness of so many of you who have registered as volunteers and at such short notice come to the aid of others. The gestures of kindness are well received and reinforces our great community.

### **Learning Support...**

Learning Support review has been on-going, and changes are starting to be rolled out at a Management level, and these will become more visible and prominent as the year progresses.

### **Election information...**

With the Board of Trustee elections fast approaching, it is time to thank all the current Board members for their contribution to the school over the last 3 years, and look forward to new Board members who are willing to engage in the schools future direction.

All parents will receive information about Board Elections in the post this week, as the Election process begins.

If you are interested in becoming a Board of Trustee member please take the opportunity to read the information provided, or see the [Pamphlet](#) containing Trustee information. Nominations close 20th May. If you would like to discuss further please contact the Board of Trustees Chair, Peter Hooker, or Janet our Principal.