

St Joseph's School, Boulder
School Advisory Council Chairperson's Report to the Community
November 23rd, 2021

Welcome everyone and thank you for attending tonight's AGM. 2021 was my first year as St Joseph's School Advisory Chairperson and I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with such a wonderful team. Please excuse me if I slip up and say Board, as we moved from the title of School Board to School Advisory Council this year and it has been an interesting process. Another change this year began with the search for a new school motto, after many surveys and discussion the motto: Faith Kindness Respect was chosen, I think you'll all agree with me that it does sum up everything we believe our children should be centred on.

I believe that 2021 has been a strong year for St Joseph's Primary School and the extended school community. With the consistency in leadership of Lisa, and her assistant principals Kelly and Jemma and with a relatively small number of new staff, 2021 provided an opportunity for staff to build on the education strategies within the school. However, it is with great sadness we say goodbye to Lisa Gallin at the end of term, after four very special years with us here as principal of St Josephs she has been offered the position of Geraldton Regional officer.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lisa and all the staff for their incredible accomplishments this year. This has resulted in a stabilisation in school enrolments and a continued sense of community and connectedness within the school. Hopefully this will shine through with the new family enrolment referral incentive program initiated in term 4.

Term 2 we saw the introduction of a playgroup for aboriginal families. With the approach: Aboriginal Families as first educators, this program has been hugely successful and has welcomed a number of new families into our school community many of whom I'm sure will explore an ongoing relationship with the school as their children move onto to formal schooling.

The school's successful 3-year-old Pre Kindy program has continued to grow this year; with a large number of 3-year-olds gaining a head start on their educational journey in 2021. It was incredibly exciting for staff, students and parents the move back into the newly renovated early learning area in Term 2. The building is just perfect and the new nature playgroup is superb. Thank you to everyone who attended the grand opening by Archbishop Hickey, Rick Wilson and Paul Leuba last week.

2021 saw a dedicated group of staff, students participate in Wakakirri to tell the story of Australian Colonization. This year was a little different from previous years as the performance was filmed and then submitted to the National Story-Dance Festival.

I would like to thank everyone involved the P&F for their incredible efforts this year. Our P&F co-chairs Cara and Simone, you and your committee have once again strongly supported our school and delivered some fantastic events, fundraisers and get togethers that continue to form an important and much loved part of the school calendar.

At the conclusion of this year we will see a small number of staff move on from the school. I know Lisa will be offering her thanks to these staff members during her speech, but on behalf of the Board I would like to offer all our departing staff our deepest thanks for their contributions to the school and to our students, and to wish them the very best for the future. Thank you and we wish you the very best.

I would also like to thank our Advisory Council of passionate volunteers this year for their fantastic commitment and support to the school. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with you all and you should all be very proud of your contributions. I would encourage all parents to consider nominating for the School Advisory Council as it really is a wonderful way to support your child's school. Late this year we welcomed

Father Stephan onto the Advisory Council as parish representative after the departure of Father Matthew to his new position in Bruce Rock. I would like to offer a farewell to three very special advisory members, Vice Chairperson Gordon Priestly, Moira Mudzimwa and my predecessor, Mel Bairstow who have all announced they will be departing the Council this year. Thank you for your support and guidance this past year and please know you will all be greatly missed.

Finally, I would like to once again recognise our incredible staffing team, our dedicated volunteers and parents, and most importantly our wonderful students for such a brilliant year. To those families, students, staff and committee members departing, thank you for your amazing work and for helping us all make St Joseph's the school it is today.

I look forward to a fantastic 2022.

Mrs Peggy Grimm
School Advisory Council Chair