

Good evening. I would like to welcome everyone: parents, staff, our principal Ronan and our parish priest, Fr Roshan. Thank you for making it to the 2021 St Mary's AGM. These nights always seem to come around quickly, I'm not sure where that year went!

2021 started out as we have come to expect recently: an extra week of school holidays. I'm sure everyone was thinking "here we go again" in relation to covid and home schooling and everything else associated. Thankfully, everything settled down into a more normalized pattern compared to the previous year.

As always, the year has had plenty packed into it and from a board point of view this is the same. There has been plenty on the agenda, but the obvious item has been the move from having a CDP to actually seeing bricks and mortar. The works are on going and there has been slight delays and hiccups, but nothing too dramatic. We are hopeful that by the start of 2022 school year the works will be completed and within budget, which you could imagine has been quite trying in the current climate. I'm sure you will agree that what we can see so far, looks amazing.

On this note, I would just like to thank the staff, teachers and students and parents for their understanding and ability to work around the disruptions. Particularly the teachers who have had to make do with temporary classrooms and less space.

Moving on, I would like to take the opportunity to thank a few people.

Firstly, I would like to give the P&F a huge thank you. Kirsten and her team have had an amazing year and it shows on the bottom line. But this is only part of it. The work they do in getting everyone to participate and involved is what they are all about, and this in turn helps create the atmosphere that our school is renown for. It rubs off on everyone and I'm sure, in suit, the kids are better for it. In particular, the auction night never ceases to amaze me. For a school our size, it is amazing the support we get. I'm sure there are doubts every time we set out to host one, but it always comes through with flying colours. Congrats on a great evening.

Moving on to the board, or as it is now called, the Advisory council. This is to better reflect the role of our members, which as the name suggests is in an advisory capacity.

We have had a fairly stable council over the last three years and one of the reasons we are here this evening is to fill some vacancies on the school advisory council. We have three people who are vacating their positions, and I would really like to thank them for their service. Aleisha Bock, Wayne Girando and Emma Fortune will all be stepping aside from their positions. Aleisha and Wayne have each been fabulous in their differing roles over the years. Your input has been greatly appreciated on various issues. Aleisha has had the added responsibility as treasurer during part of her time. Emma has been our long trusted secretary. The smooth running of meetings etc. is in no small part to Emma's efficiency, so thanks again Emma.

On that note, I would also like to thank Emma and Gemma Aird for their role in school admin which will obviously continue.

I would also like to give a big thank you to Ronan. His ambition is starting to show through the capital works program among other things at our school. When Ronan took on the job of principal for our school, it would have been easy to just sit back and let things happen at their own pace, but Ronan showed a willingness to jump in and get things happening from the start. Just because we live in a small town doesn't mean we can't have the best for our students/children, and Ronan definitely strives for this to be the case.

Before I conclude my report, I would just like to say that a school of our size has specific challenges, but I believe we are well placed to meet these challenges moving forward through the effort that everyone puts in. That is the staff, teachers, students and parents among others. I am proud of the things this school achieves and see no reason why this won't continue.

Thanks everyone, that concludes my report.

Ben Thompson, School Advisory Council Chair.