

School Advisory Council Report 2021

In what has been another very positive year for our school, it gives me great pleasure in presenting the School Advisory Council Report for 2021.

At the end of what was a very unusual 2020 school year, we were all hoping that 2021 would see a return to a more 'normal school year'. Noting this and recognising that the impact of Covid is still being felt at so many levels, it was hence very pleasing that our community has indeed enjoyed a school year more along the lines of what we were used to before the pandemic.

As always, the efforts of our dedicated teachers cannot be understated. Under the guidance and leadership of Laurie, Lisa and Jacki, they have continued to provide our children with the best learning and personal growth opportunities possible, together with equal measures of care and support that our teachers are renowned for. Our children have also done themselves proud, not just academically, but also in terms of the achievements they have realised in their sporting, artistic and social realms.

From a school improvement perspective, it was once again very pleasing for our School Advisory Council to facilitate and support some considerable changes and upgrades throughout the school as we continue to strive to provide the best environment and facilities that we can for our students and staff. On the back of our previous admin and front office improvements, the school's staffroom received a long overdue upgrade (something that had been on our wish list for well over a decade) which will be able to be enjoyed by our teachers and staff for many years to come. The introduction of our new OSH Club, additions to our nature-based playgrounds, new fences, and upgrades to roofing, verandas, our basketball courts, carparks and classrooms more generally are just some of the other enhancements that were able to be realised throughout 2021. Further improvements and key maintenance initiatives are now in the pipeline for 2022, with upgrades to roofing and additional playground enhancements being just some of the next activities planned.

It is additionally worth highlighting that our school underwent a cyclic review, and Laurie also had his 4-year Principal review, earlier in the year, with the feedback from CEWA after concluding both reviews being very positive and affirming our school's direction and future plans. Our school is in a strong financial position moving forward which is very pleasing to note, particularly after having navigated through some tricky times as we transitioned from a 3-stream school to a 2-stream school over the last few years.

It would be remiss of me not to thank Father John and Father Mark for the spiritual guidance they provide our children and for helping to maintain a strong connection between our school and our church. The wonderful efforts of our new P&F team in organising a number of great events and raising some very welcome funds for our school also deserve our thanks, as of course do the efforts of our caring and giving parents and helpers who have also contributed their time and energy throughout the year to help make our Mary Mac community the envy of many other schools.

Lastly, and on a personal note, there is a tinge of sadness as I conclude this report as it will be my last as School Advisory Council Chairperson (and previously School Board Chairperson), a role I have thoroughly enjoyed over the last 5 years. I wish to express my sincere thanks to all the previous Board Members, the first-class team that make-up the current Advisory Council and the school leadership team, all of whom I have had the pleasure of working with over these years, and for their unwavering commitment and care for our students and our school. I hope I have managed to provide a 'steady hand on the wheel' whilst helping to move our school forward and have absolute confidence that our school will continue to flourish and provide the very best learning opportunities & environment for our children.

On behalf of our School Advisory Council, may I wish all of our children, their families, our teachers and staff a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Albert Ferraloro
School Advisory Council Chairperson

School Advisory Council

Colin Schotte (Treasurer) - Bryce Parry (Vice Chairperson) – Amy Lam (Secretary)
David Phan – Jean Pierre De Longis - Melissa Carlson - Wayne Ehlers (Parish Rep)