

2016 has been an exciting, busy but very enjoyable year for St Lawrence Primary School. With a dedicated staff the school has continued to develop the spiritual, social, physical and educational needs of each student. Over the last few years the School Board has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars to enhance the school's facilities, so that the learning opportunities for all students at St Lawrence are maximised. In 2016 the major focus has been the redevelopment to our Early Learning Centre. The School Board under the leadership of Mrs Caroline Narbey has been financially prudent to ensure St Lawrence has the capabilities to undertake such a development.

I would like to thank all the staff at the school, who have worked tirelessly to improve the outcomes for each student. Education is a challenging profession, however the staff is committed and always willing to work additional hours for the students at St Lawrence Primary School. It was extremely pleasing to see the staff and students rewarded with outstanding results in our 2016 NAPLAN data. In all ten categories St Lawrence achieved significantly above the national average.

St Lawrence students are taught to live by gospel values. Once again a highlight of the year was the students receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation. I would like to thank Fr Emil for his spiritual leadership and friendship throughout 2014. The school and the Parish have an excellent relationship, which is strengthened by the work of Toni Mattiaccio, Melinda Italiano and the support of the staff at St Lawrence.

In this Year of Mercy it was pleasing to see the school community actively fundraise and support the bushfire appeal and the Kora childcare. In these small but continuous ways students are beginning to realise how fortunate they are and how important it is to support others. Students are becoming more aware of social justice issues and the world around them. It is an ongoing challenge to develop the resiliency of all students. We want students to persevere when they encounter challenging work rather than stopping at the first hurdle. This is an area we will continue to focus on in 2017 and beyond.

A strength of the school is the vibrancy of the St Lawrence community. The St Lawrence community is always strengthened by our wonderful P & F executive. This year our P & F has excelled under the leadership of Mrs Narelle Zaknich. The P & F have not only raised significant funds for resources for the school, but they have been instrumental in developing the strong sense of community we are lucky to be part of. I would like to thank the whole P & F executive Mrs Narelle Zaknich, Mrs Lucia Ewen, Mrs Rebecca Rzemek and Mrs Sue Del Borello. The whole executive, who are stepping down from their positions, have been the drivers in developing our strong community. Their hard work, dedication and the support over a number of years is greatly appreciated.

My sincere thanks to all 2016 School Board members for their contribution, dedication and support during the year. Your commitment and the many hours that you put in for Board activities is very much appreciated.

I would like also like to thank the Assistant Principals, Mrs Marie Heavey and Miss Angela Leddin. I have enjoyed the constructive, meaningful and beneficial conversations

over the last seven years. Their hard work, professionalism and loyalty has been invaluable.

In 2016 we will be farewelling three staff. Laura Krikorian has been at St Lawrence for the last two years as Admin support in Year 4 and her expertise and passion will be missed. Edel Waldron has been at the school for the last 2.5 years in Year 1 and PP. Edel has accepted a Year Three position at Holy Rosary. We will miss Edel's positive attitude and the pastoral care she has for each student. Miss Leddin has been the Assistant Principal for the last seven years. Angela is an outstanding educator and we will miss her talents and drive. Thank you Angela for everything you have done for the St Lawrence school community. We wish all three staff all the best for their future teaching careers.

Thanks to Mrs Marie Boyle, and Mrs Marie Heavey for organising this excellent year book. I appreciate the many extra hours that go into producing a publication of this standard.

It is a blessing to be part of such a wonderful school community. I ask that God continues to lead us and bless us all as we continue our journey together. I wish you all a safe, happy and holy Christmas and a relaxing holidays with your families.

With God's friendship and love we grow.

John Rose