

Normally at this time of year we would be recalling all the events and happenings that would have brought our community together. COVID restrictions and lock down has made community building a significant challenge but everyone has done their best to connect and have some fun online or via class Zooms or check in with what is happening on our Facebook page and our Class Pages on Weebly. The understanding and cooperation we have seen from our community during lockdown and HBL has been a great encouragement for our children and teachers. While there are restrictions in place, we are grateful to be back at school connecting with each other and getting back to learning.

As this is the final P&F meeting for 2021, I wish to offer thanks on behalf of the staff and students to Jo, Saartje, Russell, Reina, Caroline and Amelia for their contribution as an executive team this year. They have always been there for us and have done their absolute best to answer our calls for help and to encourage us along the way. The generosity shown during both International Teachers Days, was very much appreciated.

Particular thanks to Russell, and Saartje. I thank them both as they step down from their roles this year. Russell has provided loyal service over the past 4 years and Saartje has served as President and Secretary while her girls have been attending St John's. She is having a change of scenery moving north with her family to the Gold Coast. I add my thanks to Russell's wife, Linda, for doing such a great job running our Uniform Shop over the past four years. I very much appreciate that parents take on these voluntary roles in addition to the responsibilities they have with their families and with their own careers and am very grateful for their generosity.

Thank you to our Class Parents as well, led by Amelia. They have done their best to keep connections going amongst the parents. We have been provided with helpful feedback via our Class Parents during HBL as a result. Let's pray that we can get to enjoy some get togethers in 2022.

Shirley R. and Anna A. have been absolutely heroic this year. Both have been keeping our children and our staff working as our school hygienists. In addition they have kept our canteen running, which the children have really enjoyed. A massive thank you to them.

Next year, there will be three new curriculums introduced into NSW Primary schools. These will include Maths, English and Religious Education for Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2. The other grades will follow by 2024. NESA is focusing on K-2 in order to build stronger foundations and a more focused approach in terms of teacher preparation and implementation. Our school is a pilot school for the new RE Curriculum which will be quite different. I have asked Miss Dunk to give you an insight into the thinking behind the new curriculum tonight.

Our teachers have done a tremendous job this year managing and implementing HBL in all grades. They are very relieved to have our children back at school and in class. Catholic Schools Broken Bay and NESA have instructed schools to implement essential learning until the end of year. The emphasis is on good routines, clear expectations, wellbeing then learning. The decision to go gently is wise as the children need to get used to being with

others again. For some this includes support in social situations; coping with being part of a larger group and getting used to the school rules and restrictions in place on the school site.

Catholic Schools Broken Bay continues to provide the following support:

- Fee relief to continue into 2022. 5% increase on sibling discounts -details have been sent to families.
- Additional staffing to support our students until the end of the year.
- Online subscriptions to educational applications have been paid for. .
- The school was supported with the cost of payment for additional reading resources.
- A teacher was made available to provide online learning resources and programs for children who were COVID affected and unable to return to school. This addressed the needs of particular children and allowed teachers to focus on face to face learning.
- Schools have contributed to a bank of HBL Plus resources now available to all schools.

As we return to school, we are relying on parents to communicate with us about any close or secondary contact information or COVID related incidents in their families. Keeping our community safe and being able to respond to incidents quickly is important for everyone's safety.

We have protocols in place that include contacting NSW Health, if necessary. Advice from the authorities will be available to us concerning communication, action plans for our staff, children and community should we have a positive case. The communication will be about school closure and the process for this to happen, if required. Close contact protocols; school cleaning and return; HBL back in place. Our Compass system enables quick communication to every family at St John's. I was pleased to send a communication on Monday about an easing of restrictions in schools as we move from Level 3 plus to Level 3 restrictions.

In closing, we will be farewelling some staff at the end of the year. Mrs Tori Jones will be moving to the Central Coast with her family. Mrs Chantelle Lewis will move to casual teaching duties. We farewelled our School Secretary, Alisha West last Friday. She has moved to the Gold Coast and welcomed our new Secretary, Brittany Caterina to St John's.

Finally our beloved Miss Ingram will be stepping back from the Assistant Principal role at the end of the year to take a well deserved break. Natalie has been an outstanding collaborative leader for our community. We will have the opportunity to farewell her as a community towards the end of the year. For tonight I wish to acknowledge her willingness to share the many gifts she has with us in so many ways. We wish her a wonderful, relaxing break and look forward to seeing what her next venture will bring!

We welcome Stefanie Thom, a Highly Accomplished Lead Teacher in our diocese. Stef is currently Assistant Principal at OLPS West Pymble. She brings a different kind of energy and creativity to St John's and will contribute to our school in her special way. We will have the opportunity to welcome Mrs Thom to St John's very soon.

In closing, thank you for attending tonight's meeting and for your support during the challenging year on record. Again my best wishes to our P&F Executive and Teams and II

look forward to working with the new team in 2022. I also look forward to experiencing the many wonderful events these last few weeks of school have to offer with you and your children.

Mark Bateman - Principal