

Welcome to parents, staff of the Santa Clara School Community to tonight's AGM.

Standing here in our penultimate month of 2022, enjoying life without the many restrictions of COVID pandemic, it's easy to forget the impost that the pandemic has had on our lives or that 2022 was another heavily impacted year.

The everchanging rules of a close contact and quarantining kept us all on our toes. As we received our daily emails from Clinton, telling us of families who were being impacted by COVID and others who were close contacts, we wondered when our child's class would be sent home to quarantine.

I would like to acknowledge Clinton and his dynamic, enthusiastic team of staff who give 100 per cent to our children.

On behalf of the Advisory Council and school community, I would like to thank you for all that you do.

Thank you to our staff who continued throughout Terms 1 and 2 to refine teaching and learning programs to transition to online learning via Seesaw in the event of an entire year level needing to quarantine. This is no mean feat. Thank you so much for your innovation, your dedication and your energy.

Yet even with COVID, you provided our children with a calendar of events that rivalled any non-COVID year – just to name a few: School Sports Carnival, Year 6 Camp, Lightning Carnival, Interschool Athletics & Cross-Country Carnivals, National Science Week, SciTEAM Game Changer Awards, Open Night, the four Faction days, Socktober, St Clare's Feast Day and Mini Fete, Book Week, National Simultaneous Storytime, Harmony Day and Lifelink.

A special thank you also goes to the teachers for preparing the children so well to receive Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Being a part of the Advisory Council, we get to see firsthand the behind-the-scenes thought, planning and effort that goes into these initiatives. Clinton, along with the leadership team, Fiona Messer and Denise Grech, continue to do an excellent job of improving our school, whether it be education standards, teaching skills or the grounds and infrastructure.

I would also like to celebrate our 2023 NAPLAN results. Thank you to our teachers and aides who helped our students buck the national, state and CEWA trend by performing well above the national average on all strands. A special call-out to Mrs Adams & Mrs Hawkins who steered our children through these tests this year.

A special thank you to our P&F who continue to organise the most wonderful events for our children: Colour Run, Disco, Mothers and Father's Day stalls, & the Fete at the weekend. These events have co-funded many of the physical changes we can see around the school – including the trees that beautifully accompany the great wall and the best looking lawn in the neighbourhood. But most of all they are fun.

Thank you to the School Advisory Council for your active participation in our school. For those of you who are new to the Santa Clara Community and to Catholic education, being a member of the School Advisory Council is a wonderful way to get involved in our school. The advisory council brings the parents and the church community together to support the principal on school financial matters – such as capital projects and recurrent planning – and other school initiatives, and at Clinton's request – council members can provide membership on selection panels. If you are interested in being involved in the Advisory Council, you are encouraged to nominate or contact any of the advisory council members. It is a truly a wonderful opportunity to be involved in our school's community.

A special thank you to Matt Keane who is departing the School Advisory Council as the family move from Santa Clara. Matt has served as the Chair and council member for several years. I have enjoyed learning from Matt. We wish him and his family well.

Ruth Noonan

22 November 2022