

Principal's Report, P&F Meeting, May 2016

Thank you and thank you to everyone able to attend the presentations in the staff room in May. This is a new thing, with teachers genuinely interested in sharing with you how they are learning to use ICT in the classroom. To that end last Friday, Michelle Kirwan, our teacher of music attended a course on using iPads in music lessons. This interest, broadening across learning areas, is a strong indicator of how well used devices are, and that the journey is going to continue. Australian Curriculum refers to General Capabilities in ICT, starting in the early years, and as a school we are becoming well-placed to embrace that journey. The use of ICT gets better and better here at Holy Rosary, as you would expect, for we have invested heavily in terms of time and technology to build capacity in our teachers to utilise technology wisely, and well. It is a never-ending journey! Our online assessment from Years 1-6 undertaken in this way for the first time, forms part of our effective use of ICT. NAPLAN is scheduled to go online in the next year or two and we will be well placed to undertake that initiative.

To other matters, the Kindy 2018 interviews are progressing well, with almost every new family able to make a connection to a family or families here, which is what brings them to our school. I say again, that there is no substitute for word of mouth advertising, and what you have said has such influence on people's decisions. We do not take this support for granted, and we are very grateful to every person who has played a part in supporting our 2016 enrolments.

In the sports arena, the Interschool Swimming Carnival a few weeks ago was really successful. Boys came fourth, girls came fifth, and we came fifth overall – by two points! Fifth may not sound great, but the outcome of the event meant that two of the schools are now in the lower division – and they are both three-stream schools so have a bigger 'pool' of students from which to create their teams. A big effort, with P.E. teacher Rob Flexman supported by many parents and staff, for which we are most grateful. Later in the term we have our cross-country event, always popular.

Teacher Appraisal is in full swing at the moment with our process enacted with Student Engagement as the main point of conversation. The process involves our Admin team, and all of our teaching staff. It is quite complex and demanding, but most rewarding as well.

The P&F, School Board, Admin team and Parish Council dinner last Friday was very successful with good food, drink and conversation. This is an expression of community and one we all value.

This is Brother Stephen's last week as he is taking long service leave for the rest of the term. Stephen we wish you a wonderful, enjoyable, exciting time on your travels.