

My name is Mark Nolan and I have filled the role of President of our Holy Rosary Community for this year and would love to update you on what was a very successful year.

A very well-respected teacher here at Holy Rosary encourages her students to take risks when learning to read. What a great way to teach and a daring way to learn!

Understanding this approach made me reflect what we did as a committee at the start of the year. We all took a collective risk this year having a combined one year of P&F executive experience. An educated-risk of sorts? It was into the proverbial deep-end and so our learning journey began.

As a group of parents, what we lacked in experience, we made up with a common, strong focus to make our kids' primary school experience an awesome one! We are acutely aware our kids only get one chance at this. We created a model to ensure our plans and decisions are child and community centric.

A parent survey conducted at the end of 2017 assisted us in our plans for 2018.....we ended up with the parent equivalent of the classic political mantra – schools, health, jobs.

The Holy Rosary Community version for 2018 was:

- Improvement in outdoor spaces (nature play)
- Materials to enhance learning (like school readers)
- Resourcing our Arts (Art, music, dance, drama)

Not as catchy and slightly longer-winded!

We set about creating an organisational environment with an open architecture. If anyone in the community wanted to make a positive change the we can offer those people support and direction.

So, what does that mean? School yard conversations about “they should....”, “wouldn't it be good if....”, are slowly shifting to, “Let's do....” and “How about we.....”

All of us can influence these conversations.

We wanted to bring people together – kids, parents, families and staff.

We wanted to empower parents to be the best they can be.

We want to bring in businesses closer to us – time poor parents with amazing skills and generosity.

We wanted to fundraise to create an environment fit for primary school in 2018.

It is fair to say our kids finished this year with so much more than they started with – more than just resourcing. There were:

- Greater sense of community. Children contributed to whole family events like the art expo.
- Our children got to share special events with just Mum or just Dad.
- When we get together on weekends to build a playground our children get to hang out, developed friendships as well hopefully developing an appreciation what hard-work and teamwork can achieve

Being mindful of the schools resourcing needs and with the survey results in mind, we have directed funds towards the following:

- Library Maker Space
- Pre-Primary playground
- Music equipment for the School Band
- Class Reading Books replacements
- Siena Furniture Upgrade
- Graduation Expenses

Sitting on the Board we have been trying to pin down what it is about Holy Rosary that makes it special. We are trying to illuminate the intangible spirit here on the hill.....I still don't know how this will look, but what I do know is that it does not exist without YOU.

I want to say a few thankyou's.

Our **committee** this year has sought to be anonymous (which will probably fall over when it comes to nomination time). We have some really heavy lifters in our committee and I want you all to know you have been a pleasure to work with and I look forward to seeing what more we can do for this school.

- Michelle Della Franca
- Megan Boekhoorn
- Kristie Denham
- Jean Williams
- Kellie von Bergheim
- Sue Griffin
- Natalia Della Polina

Thank you to the **Parent Reps** for keeping their classes close.

Thank you to the **non-teaching staff** who make this place tick like clockwork. My mind boggles with what you take on each week, let alone each year. Thank you.

Thank you to the **parents** who came together every other weekend throughout the year to build upon what we have here. I have touched on playgrounds, but it is more than this. Every committee, subcommittee is like a group assignment – which unlike most group assignments build amazing events, experiences and friendships.

To the **teachers** of our children. We entrust their learning and development with you and you repay us in spades. We know you will have nothing left in the tank come December. We loved working with you on projects such as the art show and re-imagining our playgrounds. Your after-hours commitment helps create the community spirit so strongly felt and talked of at Holy Rosary.

If I may comment on the **Leadership team** - I have been lucky enough to sit on the Board and HRC the last two years. I see true leadership as letting go when it might seem difficult, but recognising when to pull in the reins and steer the ship. The leadership team here at Holy Rosary has been invaluable in empowering us to make decisions that positively influence our community.

And finally, thank you to Brother Stephen. His understanding of all things Holy Rosary Community-oriented has been an invaluable to us all. He shows up, he helps and never asks for anything in return.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to many more years together.