

SFX BOARD CHAIR REPORT AGM 21st NOVEMBER 2017

During my reflection of the last 12 months while writing this report I got to thinking about what we have achieved. Rather than itemise tangible projects, of which there are many, I looked a little deeper and into what is our core business which to me is learning and growth.

As I looked around at our last assembly I saw the many different people, in age, culture, levels of education, from different walks of life, this included our students, parents, grandparents, carers and our teachers. Each and every one of those people at that assembly and indeed within our school community would have faced challenges over the last 12 months but each and every one will also have learnt something new which has allowed them to grow as an individual.

Have we been successful? Only each of us as individuals can truly answer that but I believe we have been very successful remembering that success can mean many different things to each of us.

Learning and growth can come from many different areas, us teaching the kids, the kids teaching us as well as from the many challenges that are placed in front of us at any given time.

Our system of education, how we go about our daily school activities, our religious beliefs and indeed the Catholic Church itself are all facing challenges.

Some of those challenges require heightened levels of risk management and assessment and I would encourage that as a school community we accept those challenges as a way to further learn and grow. If we continue to work together and remember that 'Everyone has the responsibility to maximise success through minimising risk' then in doing so we provide not only an opportunity to optimise student outcomes but also relieve some of the burden placed on our School leadership group and our teachers.

Thank you to the P&F for your patience and continued efforts to make our school a better place for the kids, considerable time and effort goes in and is much appreciated. Again with a focus on inclusivity you have provided opportunities for our school community to become engaged.

To our Board, thank you for your contribution and support this year, each of you on many occasions this year has worked well outside the scope of expectation, your time and effort is very much appreciated.

To Ben and his team I reserve the biggest thanks, the education of our kids is the single most important objective. Our kids teachers do not receive enough credit for what they do and if we as a parent body can assist in making your job easier then this can only benefit the kids.

Each year I have finished off with the following thought: sometimes it's nice to stop looking at things as an adult and look through the eyes of the kids, you might be amazed at what you see.

Given I am unsure of my role on the board next year I wanted to take this opportunity to share where this has come from, it is something that I have up at home and often reflect upon. I encourage you all to look up a poem called '***Mud Puddles and Dandelions***'

I thank you and look forward to working with you in 2018 in whatever capacity that may be.

PHIL SORGIOVANNI

Mud Puddles & Dandelions

I Wish You Mud Puddles & Dandelions:

When I look at a patch of dandelions, I see a bunch of weeds that are going to take over my yard.
My kids see flowers for Mom and blowing white fluff you can wish on.

When I look at an old drunk and he smiles at me, I see a smelly, dirty person who probably wants money and I look away.
My kids see someone smiling at them and they smile back.

When I hear music I love, I know I can't carry a tune and don't have much rhythm so I sit self-consciously and listen.
My kids feel the beat and move to it. They sing out the words. If they don't know them, they make up their own.

When I feel wind on my face, I brace myself against it. I feel it messing up my hair and pulling me back when I walk.
My kids close their eyes, spread their arms and fly with it, until they fall to the ground laughing.

When I pray, I say thee and thou and grant me this, give me that.
My kids say, "Hi God! Thanks for my toys and my friends. Please keep the bad dreams away tonight. Sorry, I don't want to go to Heaven yet. I would miss my Mommy and Daddy."

When I see a mud puddle I step around it. I see muddy shoes and dirty carpets.
My kids sit in it. They see dams to build, rivers to cross, and worms to play with.

I wonder if we are given kids to teach or to learn from? No wonder God loves the little children!
Enjoy the little things in life, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things

I wish you Mud Puddles and Dandelions! (Author Unknown)