SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR REPORT FOR 2012

For those of you who were seated here last year you may remember I referred to our school as a luxury ocean liner. I mentioned our immaculate grounds and the state of the art facilities that our school provides and maintains for our children.

I congratulated the school on the many additional programs that it offer’s and the dedication and commitment to excellence that all of our staff share.

As a parent we sometimes take all of these things for granted. We simply drop our children off in the morning and pick them up at the end of the day. Some of us are not even aware of what programs are compulsory and just how many are additional and the extra hours and costs that are associated with them.

I have had the pleasure of employment within St Andrews Catholic Primary School this year and have been privileged to view the day to day operations through a different set of eyes. Over the past 11 years I have volunteered on the Parents & Friends Assoc. been involved in the classroom as a parent helper and assisted with camps and excursions. As an employee I have received permission from the CEO to remain on the Board. The one thing that I feel has impressed me the most is that regardless of my role I have always been treated the same. With respect, gratitude and a welcoming smile.

I have witnessed technology fail us a number of times this term. I watched as our beautiful new car park collapse and parts of our ceilings cave in due to storm damage. Not to mention pipes leaking, delays in construction, a number of staffing issues due to emergencies and illnesses. My point is during all of this ongoing chaos, Eileen, Warren, Bridget and their team of capable staff manage each situation professionally and efficiently.

As parents we are often oblivious to all that is going on because during these often “crazy times" we are always treated exactly the same. We simply drop our children off and pick them up in the afternoon. So if you are not actively involved as parent within the school I encourage you to do so; for no other reason but to witness the magic that occurs here every day in our very special little school.

On behalf of the school board we wish our school and parish community a very safe and happy Christmas and look forward to the new year and the memorable moments that await us.

Judith Birchall

Chair Person
St Andrews Catholic Primary School

24th November 2012