

Chair Report 2024

The Schools Advisory Council this year had a great range of experience and knowledge, and this provided for positive and productive discussions to passing on ideas and views to which the schools Executive Team has taken onboard.

The implementation of the new school polo has been a positive step forward and looks smart whilst still giving students the ability to play actively with comfort and durability. This is an area that is still being rolled out and will continue over the next year.

The Wild Poppy Cafe has continued to be a great success and provided students with yummy food and parents with a day's reprieve on having to make lunchboxes. We would like to thank Hayley Billing and her staff for providing this great service to the St Mary's community. This agreement is still to be worked out for 2025, and we are hopeful this it will continue.

St Mary's and the SAC are aware that the pre-Kindy and Kindy programs are an area that draws parents and students to our school. It is a point of difference to the college and the smaller supportive community is a factory that entice parents to choose St Mary's. The area has been looking tired and as promised at last year's ACM funds have been used to update this area for the littlest people of our school. New artificial turf has been laid along with new paths and a fresh coat of paint to play equipment.

The basketball court still sits as an ongoing item on our meeting agenda, however, the cost at this time to replace the court will need some outside help to fund repairs through community grants and possible fund raising. The court has been rolled and the cracks have been flattened which has reduced the undulation of the court. We hope that this will be a short to medium term fix.

We said farewell to Father Andrew, who has been a great supporter of the school over the 4 years that he has been with us. We wish him all the best in his semi-retirement. With that we also welcomed Father Phillip, who's has been working hard to make positive connections with the kids. It's great to see him out and about at the athletics carnival, the cricket competition and the colour run.

A school gardener/handyman is also something that we continue to work on to provide a more long-term solution for the school. It has been hard maintaining interest in this position as there is only a limited number of hours allocated. However, we do have some avenues to explore in this area which we are pursuing. Staying with the gardening theme, the front of the school is getting a tidy up to make it a little more appealing. This is visible from the street and is the first thing that parents, students, visitors, potential enrolment and passer biers see. They say don't judge a book by its cover, but it does make it easier on the eye when a school's front garden is looking neat and tidy.

The school Web site has also been an area that has needed some attention, and it has been updated throughout the year to reflect current positions and policies which provides accurate information for possible enrolments as well as current enrolments. Web sites are an ever-changing beast, and it is important to keep school information current.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the School Advisory Committee for their professionalism and positive debate to improve the learning environment of the school. Decisions and advise are always made to benefit the students. Special thanks to Marie Bartlett our SAC Secretary over the past 4 years, who has finished her time on the committee, your professionalism and ability to find time for everything that you do is a miracle. The SAC looks forward to a productive 2025 working closely with David and his team to further the learning experience for all students at St Mary's Primary School