Dear Community Members,

2016 has been a great year. Our entire school community continues to grow in every facet of school life. Whether it be with academic progress, community spirit or school enrolment numbers, we continue to move forward in leaps and bounds.

**Board**

I would like to thank the Advisory Board for the support that they have offered me during this year. They worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make things happen at school. I would particularly like to thank Mrs Lisa Gibson for the excellent job she has done as chair of the Board. Sadly, Lisa has resigned as board chair for 2017, however, she will continue to be an active member of the board. I really appreciate the constant communication between her and I during some challenging moments in 2016. She consistently offered sound advice and I really appreciate having an excellent support person in Lisa.

Sadly, we farewell two active Board Members from our school: Jackie Fleischmann and Adrian Merkel. Jackie was an inaugural member of the Board and has served four active years on this committee. Jackie has also been a member of our great school community for the past 9 years and her family will be sadly missed. I thank you Jackie for your active commitment to Immaculate Heart.

Adrian Merkel has served on the Advisory Board for the past two years and has been a fantastic support during this time, especially with our communication with the Council. Adrian and his good wife Trudi have been active members of our school for many years. Trudi also served on our P&F Executive for many years. In total the Merkel’s have been members of the Immaculate Heart of Mary School Community for 15 years! I thank them for their presence and commitment.

**Parents & Friends Committee**

This year was a very big year for our Parents and Friends Committee. We held our very first Fair in over 15 years! It was an excellent night with the entire school community gathering together to work to its success. The P&F also held many other fundraisers during the year and I would personally like to thank them for the support of our staff and students. I would particularly like to thank the executive of Samantha Ransley, Shannon Thomas, Helen Glassick, and Claire Priest. I would also like to thank our Canteen managers Samantha Ransley and Leeanne Welsh. They all work extremely hard and have all the children’s best interest at heart. Please keep an eye out for the permanent shade shelter outside the Library that will be constructed in late January and February. This was made possible by all the funds the P&F raised.

**Leadership Team**

I would like to thank the leadership team. This team comprised of Paul Egan, Bridget Cairns and Stephanie Bruce. Thank you for your continued support and advice, especially during the controversial and tough times that I have encountered this year.

**To the Teachers**

We are extremely fortunate to have committed teachers at our school. Their consistent and thorough approach in teaching the students is a real blessing. I’d personally like to thank Shelly Horne, Steph Bruce, Louise Davidson, Carmel Woolley, Meg Kitchen, Therese Kelly, Cathy Joyce, Emma Coad, Kate Jackson, Jane Davies, Eric Monaghan, Bridget Cairns, Paul Egan and Tash Cowles. I look forward to working with you next year.
To the Ancillary Staff, which is made up of Admin Staff, Teacher Assistants and Utility Staff. I thank you for your work to make us a great school. You often go unthanked in your roles, however, you mean the world to me and the teachers! I’d personally like to thank: Casey Mullen, Delphine Luff, Steve Latham, Oscar and Mirna Larin, Fran Haynes, Rosemary O’Rourke, Tash Webster, Jane Kirk, Grazia Parodi, Christine Respondek, Ange Gates, Bec Clark, Sr Joseph, Kristy Forrest and Tony Hallam. Thank you for all you do for all of us!

Farewell
We farewell a couple staff members: Meg Kitchen has accepted the Kinder Teacher role at St Mary’s for 2017 and she will be taking 12 months leave from us. We wish her all the best in her new role. Tash Cowles, our music teacher for term 3 and 4 has decided to spend more time at home before her youngest is of school age. Thank you for making a positive difference over the past 6 months. We wish both Meg and Tash well for the future.

Students
I would like to thank all the students of our fabulous school. It has been a great pleasure to be the Principal. I continue to be impressed by the way you behave and achieve academic progress.

Parents
We are very fortunate that we have very committed parents in our school community. We had many volunteers that assisted in many programs in the school. I would like to thank them for all the support they have given the school community.

Thanksgiving Mass
Last Thursday we held our End of Year Thanksgiving Mass and Leaver’s Ceremony. It was a beautiful event with all children participating at their best. All students should be very proud of their efforts. I would personally like to thank Father Shammi. I would also like to thank Ms Bridget Cairns for the excellent job she did in preparing the Mass. She spent many personal hours in preparation and it was a very prayerful and superb event. A brilliant way to finish the school year.

Grade 6
For the leaving class of Grade 6, I say thank you. You have all been great leaders and you will be sorely missed. They way you led the younger students through many school events has been an inspiration. The teachers, other students, your parents and I are very proud of you. You are all one of a kind! Please stay in touch.

We wish all the Grade 6’s the very best for high school and be well assured that you can always visit us whenever you like. I personally like to thank our School captains for 2016 (Brodie Scoles, Lucas Fleischmann, Cassandra McLoughlin and Johnathon Pullen) Your leadership has been outstanding throughout the year. The Grade 6 Leaving students are: Liam Banasik, Declan Brown, Kodie Brown-Bourne, Amber Devine, Lucas Fleischmann, Nicola Guinan, Isaac Harwood, Emmanuel Kabunda, Toby Kop, Glorence Malonzo, Cassandra McLoughlin, Caelan Merkel, Mekdes Mulu, Lara O’Neill, Johnathon Pullen, Angus Sansom, Brodie Scoles, Yanni Skrepetos, Ava Stephens and Harrison Triffett.
Grade 6 Award Winners:
Congratulations to the following Grade 6 students who received End of Year Awards at last Thursday’s Thanksgiving Mass:
Immaculate Heart of Mary Award: Cassandra McLoughlin
St Mary MacKillop Award: Lucas Fleischmann
Spirit of Jesus Award: Toby Kop
Academic Achievement Award: Johnathon Pullen
Principal’s Award: Glorence Malonzo and Lara O’Neill

Uniform for 2017
The Uniform Store will be open on Wednesday 1st and 8th February from 9am to 4pm for the purchase of new uniforms.

2017 Student Leaders
We congratulate Abbie Johnston (Term 1 & 2 School Captain), Joe Vinen (Term 1 & 2 School Vice Captain & Donohue House Captain) Hollie James (Donohue House Captain), Liam Marshall & Stevie Skrepetos (Young House Captains), Declan Page and Oliver Kelly (Dillon House Captains) for being elected by the students and teachers. We are sure they will do a fantastic job.

Kindergarten Nativity
It was great to see all the Kinder students perform the Nativity story of Jesus’ birth so beautifully. It was a massive turnout with many parents, siblings and grandparents in attendance. I would like to thank Shelly Horne, Fran Haynes, Rosemary O’Rourke and Ange Gates for the wonderful preparation of the children.

I wish everyone a very safe and holy Christmas and the staff and I look forward to seeing everyone in early February to begin the 2017 school year.

God bless,
Mr Nick McGann
Principal

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<th>CALENDAR OF EVENTS</th>
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<td>Thursday 15th December</td>
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<td>Family BBQ starts at 12noon</td>
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<td>Last day Term 4</td>
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<td>First Day Term 1 for all students</td>
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Edgley Attractions presents

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