



St Andrews Primary School 2018/19 President's Report

Once again we've had a busy but productive year with our students having many wonderful and unique opportunities to further their learning. As parents, I think we are very lucky to have such a great team of staff teaching our kids and I would like to thank all of our staff for taking the time to get to know all of our students and for your dedication.

It's impossible to keep a list of all of the activities our kids participate in but this is a list of a few of them: Carlton player visit, cross country, Pumpkin Day, interschool sport, a visit from Gemma Giraffe, Africa Day, Hooptime, Bookweek, camp, Band Night at the pub, the Colour Run, Senior's Morning Tea at Wadambuk and my personal favourite, winning back the CFA Cup!

As always, we've had to say goodbye to some people. Cosette, our out of school hours care coordinator graduated from uni last year and has headed off to her first teaching role. Congratulations and good luck to Cosette.

Lynne Kemp's time here as Acting Principal was short and sweet. Thank you to Lynne for her contribution to our school and we wish you all the best.

Jade has taken a leave of absence this year to further her professional development. We hope she has a wonderful year and we look forward to having her back in 2020.

We also said goodbye to our Principal, Dean Simpson. Dean recognized the importance of community in a small town, and gave up his own personal time and spent many many hours building relationships with people and groups outside the school as well as mending some bridges along the way. We now have strong ties to virtually all of the community groups in town and in the wider community and enjoy mutually beneficial relationships with them.

He was a great recruiter bringing in vibrant teachers and creating a great team, all the while building networks that improved resources for the staff and students. Amongst all the duties of being a teacher, an Assistant Principal and a Principal all rolled in to one, he somehow managed to find time to complete a lot of infrastructure projects. The first one was a perhaps the greatest with the school finally having decent heating and cooling. There's also been new retaining walls, fresh paint, retrofitting of the library, new lights through the whole school that all work, new shade sails and, of course, the new playground. He achieved all of this and still made sure there was many a dress up day thrown in for good measure. Dean will be missed but he leaves us with a fantastic staff, a great foundation and a great reputation, which is a product of his persistence

and dedication. We will continue to build on that and will continue our upward trajectory.

We bid farewell to nine Grade sixes all of who have left St Andrews equipped to deal with the challenges ahead. All of the Grade Six families that we said goodbye to have been active participants in the school whether it be driving for interschool sport, attending working bees, coaching and cheering on the kids at athletics, cross country and hooptime, building benches and bridges, hauling luggage to and from camp, helping with fundraising activities, reading in the classroom – the list goes on and on. Some were only with us a short time yet still managed to make a big contribution.

A few of our school councilors stepped down at the end of their term. I would like to thank Vickie, Cath, Amanda, Donna and Jade for their work on school council. I would also like to thank our 2018 PFA and all of our families for their efforts, which saw us raise over \$8000, which is an impressive amount for our little school. The money we raise is vital to supporting our music program, which is a very worthy cause.

Our school has a different look to it this year with our new Principal, Hayley, and with our staff shifting around a bit to teach different grades. We have also begun implementing our new four-year strategic plan. I think change brings with it an opportunity for growth and I think that our school will achieve great things in the coming years. Given our small size, I think our success is largely dependent on active participation from all of our families and I'd like to thank you all for all of the hours you have put into our school in so many different ways. They all get noticed and appreciated. To be part of such a strong community is so beneficial for our kids and it only happens if we, as parents, make it happen. As we move into this next phase, we still have plenty of familiar faces around, we still have our awesome staff and I hope that we can embrace the changes and move forward together.

Melanie Bartlett