

Good evening all,

Thank you for attending tonight's P&F and School Board AGMs for 2019.

Simply by attending this evening you have shown that you have a vested interest in Francis Jordan and are surrounded by likeminded people.

It's been a big 12 months since our last AGM!

We've had a new look board with 4 new members in 2019:

- Keris Gordon
- Ryan Rafferty
- Gareth Jacob and
- Erin Peacham

These joined Robert Rees and myself and our ex-officio members being our school principal, Father Francis, John Hollywood from St Simon Peter Parish and Shannon Britten, the P&F nominee to the board.

Thank you to each and every one of our board members for your time, discussions, analysis and advice offered at each of our meetings.

Robert Rees completes his 6<sup>th</sup> year serving the school board and will be resigning from his position this evening. I, on behalf the school community, fellow board members and staff thank I Robert for his 6 years of service as treasurer.

2019 commenced with our Principal, Wendy Manners taking a year's long service leave. Miranda Swann was appointed to a 12-month Principalship at Francis Jordan and has done an outstanding job in leading our staff for what could be seen in many areas as a difficult year. Miranda's commitment to our community came with its own challenges as she had to take personal leave earlier this year which meant time away for both treatment and recovery. A young family of her own and a commute of well over an hour to school never took its toll on Miranda's commitment to improving Francis Jordan every single day. We thank Miranda for the knowledge, experience and passion for learning she brought to our community.

Wendy Manners has since tendered her resignation from the Principalship and again, on behalf of the entire Francis Jordan community we thank Wendy for her 3 years of service as Principal of Francis Jordan.

In 2019 we welcomed back Gloria Ward to her role as Assistant Principal and together with Damian Purcell, they have been integral in supporting Miranda, the board, staff and students in their leadership roles.

The most recent newsletter has announced that the last of our foundation teachers, his newsletter won't go out until after the AGM Gloria Casserly will be retiring at the end of the year. Gloria has been at the school since its inception in 1995 and will be dearly missed. Miss Casserly would dearly love to sneak out quietly on her last day without a fuss, but I am sure the staff and students will be giving you the sendoff you well and truly deserve. We wish you all the best. Jo Collins is the last of our foundation staff and enters her 26<sup>th</sup> year at Francis Jordan in 2020. We also farewelled long term employees of Steve

Gelle and our finance officer Vicki Menagh during the year. We also say goodbye to Lauren Franchina (Year 4) who filled in for maternity leave for Mrs Hawley and Louise Richards in the canteen.

I'd like to take the opportunity to welcome our newly appointed finance officer Clare Henderson whom will commence her role on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December and we as a board looking forward to working with Clare in 2020.

At the core of Francis Jordan Catholic School are our hardworking and dedicated staff and teachers. Each and every day, we as parents place our trust and confidence in you to provide our children with a quality, catholic education that comes with the care, love and support that our school has been built on. We thank you for your ongoing commitment to the improvement of the curriculum, teaching practices and overall outcomes of our students.

The staff at Francis Jordan are blessed to have amazing support from our parents and wider school community. Class reps, those volunteering for reading rosters, school banking and the canteen all offer up their time for the greater good of our parents. None more so that our hardworking and dedicated P&F who have donated a whopping \$45,000 to the school this year, this investment directly benefitting the everyday learning of our students.

From a board and management perspective, it's been a challenging 12 months. Looking at the school from a business sense, the cost to run a classroom of 15 students is not too dissimilar to run a classroom of 30. But the difference in government funding is significant. Consequently, stringent budgeting and financial management continues to be the focal point for the management team and school board moving forward. All decisions are made with the underlying focus to ensure we are able to provide the very best education for our students. There has been plenty of data analysis over recent times, and we are not alone. Schools within the area are no longer bursting at the seams with waitlists and decisions moving forward will continue to take this into account.

In the later part of Term 3, I had the pleasure of representing the school in the new Principal Appointment for 2020 and beyond. The staff and board members of the school were surveyed for the qualities and attributes they felt were required for the 'perfect fit principal.' A selection panel was formed, headed by Dan Wood from the Catholic Education Office, Father Francis, myself and 2 experienced peer principals. Applications were read, short listed and face to face interviews were conducted. The selection panel's recommendations were then made to the Catholic Education Office where they then announced the appointment of Mr. Chris Dunning for 2020 and beyond. Thanks must go to the other members of the selection panel whom donated their time for the benefit of our school. They each took real ownership of the process and were passionate to ensure we have the very best outcome possible.

Chris is currently the principal at a double stream Catholic Primary School in Kalgoorlie. Chris comes highly recommended from his peers, current staff and his referees. Chris has a vast amount of experience and all the attributes that the school felt we needed in a new Principal. I truly believe Chris is the perfect fit moving forward for Francis Jordan. It seems the grape vine seems to think this also.

In a couple of weeks' time Francis Jordan Catholic School will complete its 25<sup>th</sup> year of service.

It's a time to celebrate where we have come from, celebrate our successes and promote ourselves to the wider community as much as we possibly can. We need to tell as many people as we can where we have come from, but also where we are going – what we are doing well and where we are doing great.

Our staff and parents need to remain vocal advocates for our school.

A management and board focus moving forward will be built around increasing our enrollments, continuing the work the staff have invested in the curriculum and ensuring each and every person that visits or attends our school gets that feeling that we all talk about. I'm sure you all know what I mean.

As we celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, let's all come together with the common goal to continue to be the school of choice in the region. A place where we are proud to send our children for a quality catholic education and like our logo – a beacon, a shining light standing out amongst the others.