Wednesday, 2\textsuperscript{nd} November 2016

Dear Parents

Thank you for all those who came and met with me last Thursday morning and evening for a Meet & Greet session.

For those who were unable to attend I would like to give briefly a summary of what was discussed.

1. **Vision – Who Are We?**
   I made reference to our Vision Statement particularly emphasising that we are a Christian organisation and that we are to nurture each child and set our young people up for a life of purpose.

2. **What Are We?**
   - We are a School and we must provide diverse engaging, quality educational programmes.
   - We are a Business and our parents and families are customers.
   - We must ensure that all we do reflect this customer focus.
   - The removal of the ‘yellow line’ in the Primary School is an example of the importance of this principle.
   - I have discussed the importance of these matters with our staff at my first Whole School Staff Meeting.

3. **Communication**
   The Board has previously recognised along with myself that the communication with parents needs to be improved. Hence the introduction of the MACC APP and other initiatives for the beginning of 2017 to assist communication and parent engagement.
   - Parent Liaison
   - Online Canteen ordering
   - SMS Student Absence Notification
   - Uniform Shop Ordering
   - Excursion/Special events registration and payments

4. **What Makes a Good Teacher? A person who:**
   - loves young people
   - is passionate about their subject
   - can relate well with young people
   - is self-reflective and wants to constantly improve their craft
5. **Educational Philosophy**

I discussed that beyond the students’ own goals, God given gifts and home environment the next most important factor in students learning outcomes is teacher quality and that the most important area of school staff development needs to be ‘quality teaching’. That means staff who are constantly refining and reviewing their craft and working to constantly improve.

I am a great supporter of Professor John Hattie’s work and research on visible learning.

“The largest source of variation in student learning is attributable to differences in what students bring to school – their abilities and attitudes, and family and community background. ... While ‘teacher quality’ is the single most important school variable influencing student achievement, qualifications, experience and tests of academic ability don’t capture many of the important aspects of teacher quality.” OECD Report, Teachers Matter.

I, then referred to the Education Reform Act that states parents are the foremost educators and it is a partnership that exists between home and school.

“The education of a child is primarily the responsibility of the child’s parents” NSW Education Reform Act.

The education of our young people is a partnership with parents, with the parents as the foremost educators. Therefore our goal as educators is to assist parents and help their children find their gifts and fulfil God’s plan for their life. Students should enjoy their educational and school journey and one of the greatest compliments I can be paid is where parents or students tell me they love school. So having experiences and events that are not just educational but also enjoyable is essential.

6. **Whole Child Education**

I expressed the importance of the uniqueness of each child and we must look upon them as individuals. Finally, that we must educate the whole child, developing them to have:

- A knowledge of, faith in and love of God.
- Respect for peers, other cultures, authority, the elderly and most importantly parents.
- Being servant hearted - not just a consumer and taker, but a giver and contributor with a generous spirit and attitude.
- Diligent commitment through faithfulness, loyalty, integrity and resilience.

I hope you found this informative and if you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards

[Signature]

Gabl Korocz
Headmaster