

2023 has been an amazing year for Saint Damiens!

I start this year's board report saying goodbye to one of our longest serving staff members. Caroline Leighton, our much-loved teacher and leader, is leaving us for a new opportunity at St Joseph's in Waroona. It's been 10 years and the legacy you leave will be felt by us all. Thankyou for all your hard work and laying the foundations on what makes our school, such a great school. We have been lucky enough to welcome back to our school as our new Assistant Principal, Fiona Anderson. Mrs Anderson was a much-loved teacher and we welcome her to our Leadership Team.

Our school enrolment numbers remain strong with numbers once again hovering around 500 for the second straight year. Our school grounds continue to improve, in term 4 the area adjacent to the Year 1/2 classrooms received a much need facelift; it was great to see the volunteers from Alcoa and the community at the school to help lay all the turf and plant new trees. This area will be used a nature-based learning space for our junior years.

Our much-anticipated car park on our Southern boundary is finally complete. Luckily Mr Gooch has no hair as this project has not been the easiest to manage. Thank you for persisting and not accepting anything other than what was promised. The traffic management of the school remains a top priority and this carpark will help deliver that, for years to come.

I would like to thank our P&F for another great year. There have been many challenges, but your commitment to the school and always putting the kids needs first has always been the focus. Our School Advisory Council will also have a few major changes. Cat Meunier, Jodie Rundell and myself will be leaving the Advisory Council at the end of 2023 and would like to thank Dan, Pete and Caroline for all of your support over the last few years. We are in a strong position financially and with the new team members we have appointed, the transition will be a smooth one.

In closing, I would like to thank all our staff, parents and students for another amazing year. St Damien's remains one of the most admired and respected schools in the CEWA stable, we all need to be proud of the community we have created together.

Thanks,

Ben Dell

School Advisory Chairperson.