

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

AGM REPORT 2020

The year 2020 has been like no other. Our way of life was turned upside down, but the faith and strength of our amazing community certainly were not. To quote Pope Francis, 'the current pandemic has highlighted our interdependence: we are all connected to each other, for better or for worse. Therefore, to emerge from this crisis better than before, we have to do so together; together, not alone.'

Of course, these words had a much deeper meaning in creating solidarity, a mindset that considers community and ultimately, the needs of others. My family and I experienced this solidarity many times throughout the year. Our most cherished was a truly magical moment. As we drove through the Liwara carpark on Easter Sunday morning, we were surprised to be greeted by a drive through Easter party, with the familiar, happy faces of Liwara staff who had taken time away from their families to wish the children a Happy Easter and spread some Easter egg joy. It seemed to capture the very essence of what Pope Francis would allude to months later - a community connected to each other and emerging through a crisis together. Our car was filled with tears, laughter, joy and an overwhelming feeling of how very lucky and privileged we are to be part of a community with so much love and care. Our school motto, 'Strength in Community', was as always on display. To the staff of Liwara, on behalf of the Board, I would like to express my gratitude for all the very special moments of care you have displayed towards the children throughout the year, and the massive volume of work you have undertaken to ensure every child

received a Christ-centred and child-focused education. You are a pillar of our community and appreciated throughout.

This year has been challenging for all members of our community, including our school children and their families. Our children displayed incredible resilience and flexibility in adopting home learning, and parents worked hard to embrace these changes, along with work and other pressures. I could almost hear a collective sigh of relief when children returned to school, with families having a truer appreciation for the teaching profession.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Liwara P&F who have put in an incredible effort this year in hosting events and fundraising, despite the reduced opportunities. The P&F are the heart and soul of the school community and their efforts are valued throughout. I am equally thankful to the All Saints Parish who have worked closely with the school to prepare children for their Sacraments. A whirlwind couple of months has made possible what this year seemed impossible, with our children continuing their spiritual journey.

Finally, I would like to thank the representatives on the School Board this year - the elected members – Michael Nemere, Simon Stevenson, Secretary Paul O'Brien, Treasurer Clare Combe, Deputy Chairperson Nicola McVay, Amy Style representing the P&F, John Fernandez representing the All Saints Parish, Father Elver Delicano as Parish Priest and Andrea Miller as the School Principal. The School Board acts as an extension of our school community and is a way for parents to contribute towards the running of the school. Thank you to the Board for their fantastic leadership and contribution this year.

The Board has again this year concentrated investment on maintenance of the school's aging infrastructure. Investment in building maintenance has been the main focus for the Board, a trend which will likely continue over the next few years. Given the age of some facilities it is essential that the school continues to invest in this space to ensure both students and teachers have the best possible learning environment.

It has been an absolute privilege this year to serve as the Chairperson of the Liwara School Board. Thank you to everyone who has supported the school. I look forward to continuing our journey together as a community in solidarity.

Basil Manganaro

Board Chairperson