ST MARY’S PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATION BOARD

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

BOARD MEMBER’S REPORT – MAY 2012-MAY 2013

St Mary’s School Education Board’s core commitment is to support and strengthen the school as part of St Mary’s Parish and the broader educational community in Victoria – in its aim for quality education for our children. St Mary’s School Education Board plays an integral role in the ongoing management of our school, providing a high level of management accountability.

Serving on St Mary’s School Education Board has provided an insight into the workings of the school as well as the range of issues and management decisions that confront David Kelly, Father Tru and staff on a regular basis.

Importantly, serving as a member on the School Education Board, has enabled me and other Board members to make a contribution, harnessing our knowledge and diverse skills, to assist the management group in strategic decision making for the successful running of the school. Being able to offer a different perspective or drawing upon diverse experiences, provides breadth to discussions, and enriches the overall decision making process.

Being a member of the School’s Education Board, has also highlighted the importance of effective partnerships between parents and the school, for the education of children. Working with the St Mary’s School Education Board enables parents to be actively involved; members are encouraged to question, to engage with policy and management - i.e. having a direct voice to the school management group. I believe that current and past members would agree that their input is welcomed and valued, and that parents are supported in ‘getting involved’ and making a contribution. I would encourage any interested parent to consider this important role within the school.

The St Mary’s School Education Board has created a team of people who willingly come together to work for the benefit of the school and the community. This team supports the dedicated staff of St Mary’s who tirelessly manage numerous educational changes and challenges and constantly demonstrate a great commitment to our children’s education and overall wellbeing.

On behalf of the St Mary’s School Education Board members, I would like to table this report to the Annual General Meeting of May 14th 2013. The Board discussed a range of topics throughout the reporting period, including the following:

- Website & Facebook development. Facebook page launched, code of conduct launched and distributed to parents. Training sessions provided for staff. Online newsletters.
- Gonski Report – implications for Catholic schools & St Mary’s regarding funding.
- Prep Transition program success and continuation.
- Reporting Program implemented – new software which enables Online attendance roll &ILP’s to be recorded.

Between May 2012 to May 2013, the St Mary’s School Education Board met four times.

Lynette Longaretti