

Many Gifts - One Community

31st January 2018

Dear Parents and Students,

The appointment of a new Principal will be met with some degree of inquisitive apprehension, perhaps anxiety, especially regarding the style of leadership, vision and direction of the school for the future. In my initial correspondence to members of this community, I assure you that I have the personal vision, spiritual commitment, energy, enthusiasm and humility in my selection as Principal of an outstanding school.

I am looking forward to immersing myself in the charism which has been integral in the faith, life and values evident at St Pauls, reflected in the programs offered and celebrations of our charism which are at the heart of Christ's teachings.

In continuing to be a part of an evangelising community committed to a love of Christ, stewardship, hospitality, compassion, service to each other and the wider community, I will endeavour at all times to be a role model in these areas and have the vision to promote these values in partnership with parents, staff, students, parishes and the wider community.

Education is the vehicle for change in our world and must be delivered by quality teaching, effective pedagogy and use of ICT to enhance the learning experiences. Outside the formal curriculum where excellence and a real love of learning are created, the role of the extra curricula is vital. Students can learn the values of team work and individual differences whilst developing their own creativity, initiative and skills. In this environment staff, students, parents and the wider community work together reflectively and collaboratively. This provides opportunities for relationships to develop. The holistic education of the child is the ultimate goal which integrates the formal and informal curriculum allowing spiritual growth to be enhanced.

As an educator it has always been my primary concern that the students who exit Catholic schools not only have achieved academic and personal outcomes, but are also able to articulate their own sense of faith, values and conscience created, facilitated and inspired by the Gospel message.

Therefore, it is my vision, purpose and direction that the response to changing the accepted status quo is to facilitate in students, the insight, motivation and skill to be able to respond to injustice and poverty, in fact respond to the meaning and purpose of their lives. In essence their own spiritual growth will continue to be inspired by a closer and deeper understanding and awareness of the living spirit of God.

The promotion of justice, faith and a preference for the marginalised is a primary concern of education. Once again I emphasise that the method to facilitate that change is via education and committed enthusiastic educators.

The education that Catholic educators can and must provide is one that:

- Instructs and deepens faith
- Encourages students to leadership in a society facilitating change
- Contributes to a just, inclusive and inviting future
- Knows lasting peace based on justice for the poor and marginalised
- Reflects the equality and human dignity given by God to each person
- Commits to quality teaching and learning

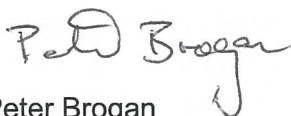
To the students and staff the school motto "Many gifts, one community" provides the focus for challenge to continue the highly professional, competent and cooperative commitment they currently have and to continue to strive for the "higher things" of faith, hope and love. The challenge is to continue to enhance the wonderful community that currently exists. We must seek the face of God in all human beings in everything we do. I would ask all in the community to courageously be a witness to Christ in word and action.

My constant prayer in all areas of life, for the staff and students, can be simply placed in the words of the Old Testament prophet Micah, "This is what Yahweh asks of you: act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with God."

Young people must move forward with confidence, dignity and diligence, in fact a true sense of self worth and equality fuelled and inspired by the Gospel message of Christ and the authentic teachings of love, justice, caring and compassion. The world needs commitment from those who would serve rather than be served. These people are the neighbours of the parable "performing the ordinary extraordinarily well". We strive to be a community of difference through our commitment of difference through our commitment to our faith, hope and love.

I pray that my leadership will continue to have a deep commitment which can nurture love, compassion, commitment, responsibility, honour, truth and justice, in the students and staff with whom I have the privilege to make contact.

Rest assured there will be an emphasis on correct grooming, uniform and values. Education is a privilege that has to be respected through setting standards of quality and high expectations in all aspects of life.



Peter Brogan
Principal