

Good evening Mr Hammersley, Teachers, SAC Members, Parents, brothers and sisters,

As we approach the season of Advent, a time of hopeful waiting and joyful preparation for the coming of Christ, it feels fitting to pause and give thanks for the many ways God is at work in our primary school family. Together, with faith as its foundation, the school continues to nurture an environment where every child is known, loved, and encouraged to grow into the person God created them to be.

One of the clearest signs of our community's care has been the uniform journey. Through prayerful listening and face-to-face conversations, families have shared their hearts with generosity and respect. Thanks go to the uniform committee who worked diligently to achieve an outcome here. There is strong support for simpler, more practical options, and we trust with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Mr Hammersley will be able to transition the uniform to one that honours both stewardship of our resources and the dignity of our students. It has been beautiful to see how, when we seek the common good with open hearts, the path forward becomes clearer.

The ongoing challenge with the basketball courts reminds us that we are not in control of every timeline, but we are always in God's hands. Mr H has informed us of tree roots, funding delays, and rising costs as a test of our patience, yet we remain hopeful. Although we are awaiting direction in budget allocation for these works, we are trusting that the Lord who provides for the birds of the air will also provide what our children need to enjoy their learning journey and play and grow in safety—whether that solution arrives in 2027 or sooner than we expect. In the meantime, Chris Brown's diligent care and our collective prayers keep the space usable for the time being.

Our enrolment growth over the year is nothing short of a blessing. Each new family is a gift, and securing amazing teachers during the year, has been an answer to prayer. We continue to pray for stability in staffing to guide those discerning their future and to send us the teachers our children need.

Financially, we walk by faith as much as by spreadsheets. Prudent management has kept us steady, and while CEWA's budget adjustments mean tighter times ahead for our school from cleaning and maintenance to teacher/student ratios, we trust that the God who multiplied loaves and fish will continue to stretch what we have so that God's mission of Catholic education in our town remains strong.

As always, our P&F, parish, and wider community wrap us in practical, financial and prayerful support—be-it through fundraising efforts, prayer walks, or students proudly reading at Mass. These are tangible signs of the Body of Christ alive and active here.

As the first Advent candle is lit, let us give thanks for the light already shining in our school: in the brightness of our children, the dedication of staff, the generosity of families, and the quiet ways God is shaping us all. Together, let us keep preparing room in our hearts—and in our school—for the One who makes all things new.

God Bless,

Ross Billing

Chairperson – School Advisory Council