The expression ‘in the blink of an eye’ certainly applied this year! Much activity and many plans found life in the 2016 year.

The highlight of highlights is always the children; their enthusiasm and engagement with the community is remarkable. At any given time, one might step into a classroom, or in the yard and see our very capable children and young people give the best they can and enjoy all that All Saints has to offer. It is plain to see the ‘100 languages” unfold at every turn in our classrooms.

Some other highlights this year have included the development of a Mathematics strategy, the continued roll out of the Literacy strategy, the increased use of data to inform our teaching and learning and of course the advancement of the Middle school. This year the photography elective was a huge success with the children and an expansion of this programme will be possible in 2017.

The fledgling Arts programme will enjoy its first concert at the end of the year and in true Catholic school style, it will have a Christmas theme.

This year the staff did significant professional learning around Dyslexia strategies and All Saints became a “Trauma Sensitive school”.

The school grew in enrolment by around 50 children and projections are for a further growth of around 30 children at the Mid-year intake.

What has taken up so much energy and careful discernment is the long awaited Building project. This Masterplan project commenced in Helen Ward’s time and the project has undergone a significant metamorphous over the last two years. The culmination is an affirmation of the ‘new look’ building project which will deliver 6 new classrooms and outdoor break out spaces, new toilets, a lift, new wetland playground and front façade, a covered walkway from the main courtyard to the hall, re-aligned transportable village and a totally remodelled ‘kiss and drop’ zone. A significant project! The project cost is of the order of around $4.5 million dollars. While there is further difficulty anticipated as the builders move in, we are hopeful it will all be worth it in the end.

Another development this year was the renewal of the Catholic Identity of our great school. A ‘house structure’ bearing the names of well known and respected Church heroes (Saints) will be a new way of articulating our link with Catholic tradition and continue to build a sense of belonging to the greater Christian family.
Re-imaging childhood took a centre place in all of our discernments this year and certainly we continue to strengthen our involvement in this philosophy and practice.

We have enjoyed the fantastic partnership of our Parish leaders, especially in Fr Charles and Fr Tony. They are ever present in our community and a constant source of support and spiritual guidance.

I thank the work of the school Board in both their support and wisdom over this year. We farewell a number of Board members at the close of this AGM and thank them for their valuable contribution to date.

I wish to acknowledge the parents and caregivers of this school community. Their partnership and engagement are strong and assists the staff to deliver the high outcomes we strive for daily.

I wish to thank the teachers and the support staff of All Saints. Their commitment in striving for excellence is noticed by our children and certainly appreciated by our parents.

They have endured many changes and have I believe, never lost sight of what is important in a school and parish community.

Finally I wish to acknowledge the great contribution of the leadership team. They have worked tirelessly to spring board many initiatives within the school and supported children, staff and families in accessing what is an amazing community resource; All Saints Catholic Primary School.

I wish to personally thank all those who have embraced my leadership and continued to welcome myself and all those who are new to All Saints. Everybody is a learner and to keep this notion in the forefront of a community is both a challenge and a gift.

I feel quietly confident that 2017 will bring even greater rewards for our children and families as we develop a new Strategic plan for the next 3 years.