

14 September 2016



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Following the Annual General Meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> August 2016, the board is comprised of these elected members:

Sonja Neame	Chairman
Matthew Watt	Vice-Chairman
Lisa Daley	Secretary
Rachel Walker	Treasurer
Barry Down	General Member
Nigel Denny	General Member
Shea O'Neill	General Member

The board wishes to thank the students and their families from our community who participated in the School's Visioning evening. Your input and feedback has been greatly appreciated and provides the Board important information with which to work with to prepare and implement the School's strategic plan for the next 10 years.

The School's longer term planning continues to focus on growth and continual improvement of its Montessori education programme. During 2017, the Adolescent Programme's teaching team will increase to provide additional educational programmes. Vanessa and our program coordinators will communicate in more detail the expansion of the School's specialist subjects for our high school students.

Growth in our student numbers allows new children the opportunity to access our wonderful philosophy through their education whilst assimilating gradually into our existing classes. RMS is proud to have extremely stable classes with a high percentage of children who are benefiting from the experience of more than two years in the existing cycles thus enabling the successful integration for new children into the classes without disruption to present settings. Welcoming new students into the School provides our existing children the opportunity to expand their friendship groups and be the student leaders that we intend for them to become.

Work on improving our facilities is not focused only on the building programme at Karnup. During the Summer holiday break, the staff room and the southern end of the Dugongs classroom at Rockingham will undergo modification and refurbishment to house a second Upper Primary class that will commence in Term 1 2017. Kym Murphy is the new Upper Primary teacher who will commence the second Upper Primary class and will work collaboratively with Venus Olsen. Utilisation of the existing primary school carpark to be transformed into a multipurpose hard court space to extend the outdoor play spaces for the students is also being investigated.



Whilst we are saddened to lose a staff member we are delighted that Jodie Borgia has been successful in her American visa application. Jodie and her family will now travel to Oregon where she will undertake the Association Montessori Internationale 0 – 3 years training. Whilst we wish Jodie and her family a temporary farewell and will look forward to her return to our School; we are pleased to be able to offer Tom Cullity the opportunity to backfill Jodie’s position as Penguin’s teacher for four days per week. Tom has been a relief teacher at RMS for the past two years and has worked in all areas of the School including the Adolescent Program. Tom is currently completing his 6 – 12 training with the Montessori Institute however his first training is in Early Childhood.

With all of this wonderful work currently underway I would like to thank my fellow School Board members for their tireless volunteering to ensure RMS continues on such a solid path of positive community and social change.

*“Imagination does not become great until human beings, given the courage and the strength, use it to create.” — Maria Montessori*

Yours sincerely,

Sonja Neame  
Chairman

