

TRINITY LUTHERAN COLLEGE PRESENTATION EVENINGS 2018 COLLEGE COUNCIL REPORT

Invited guests, parents, staff and students – and in particular, the graduating class of 2018.

Welcome to the celebration of another full and exciting year in the history of Trinity Lutheran College. College Council is especially proud of the many successes that both students and staff have achieved across the academic, sporting and arts fields. We know that you have all worked hard and deserve every accolade that you have received.

So... College Council... mmmm ... What *IS* College Council and what does it do? The role of College Council is one that remains a mystery to many, and I wonder whether it should be this way. So, is College Council a 'secret squirrel' organisation?... well, sometimes it is – confidentiality is paramount at times. But are you allowed to ask Council members about their role? Most certainly!! In fact, council members often wonder why we aren't asked more questions by those around us.

For us, there is a distinct line between our role of governance, and *management* which is the role of the Principal and their executive staff. Together with the Principal, executive staff and parent input, we provide the strategic direction and vision for the type of school we want to be ... HOW this is implemented and WHEN are up to the Principal and their staff... it's not that our work is so top secret that you don't hear from us often, but it is because the Principal is our spokesperson. They will talk to you about changes, programs, innovations, expansions, directions, celebrations - all of which College Council have endorsed and supported.

College Council is a group of volunteers specifically selected for their skill set and the experiences and wisdom they can bring to the table. As we are a school founded by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Mildura, the majority of our members have been, and will continue to be from their congregation. Some of us have been or still are parents of the college – however, this is not a prerequisite. We are both inward and outward looking and reflect on the past *and* the present so that we can focus on the future. Ultimately, we are responsible for every aspect of the college – quite a daunting responsibility.

So, Debbie... this is all very informative, but have you been *doing* anything this year that has benefitted our students??

First and foremost, we are a Lutheran School – and College Council continually ensures that the values and ethics surrounding the Christian faith remain at the core of our school. This means that every individual – your students, your child's teacher, parents and visitors are each treated as a precious child of God who has been placed in our care. We aim to be a welcoming, all-inclusive school with each member of our community feeling valued and safe.

Our focus has been on providing excellence in all areas of your child's development – their academic learning, their emotional well-being, their organisational development and an opportunity to extend their talents. Every decision at College Council this year is underpinned with the expectation that it is made in the best interest of the students.

We remain committed to the International Baccalaureate and have been extremely impressed with and thankful for the work of the IB coordinators Mrs Jean Booyesen and Mrs Steph Kriewaldt as they work towards authorisation over the next 18 months. I would like to acknowledge the enormous amount of work achieved to date by you and your staff teams and encourage you with the work still to do. In just a short space of time, the IB has excited the community outside of the College. Our

Prep class for 2019 will be close to our largest intake and will see three classes begin at the start of the year. In the Secondary area, the intake for students coming into Year 7 for 2019 is also one of the highest.

College Council ensures that your children have a safe, yet stimulating environment to learn and play. Recently the play area along LePedeleure Avenue has been extended and some more exciting additions will be added to this area over the holiday period. Next year we will revamp and extend the Nature Play area around the Nest, and together with the secondary staff and students will look at ways to revision and renew the Secondary learning spaces.

This year in particular, we revisited the Strategic directions for the college. I would like to thank the parents, staff, congregation members and Graeme Huf from LEVNT who assisted us with a reclarification of the strategic priorities for the next 3 years for our college. This is a most intense but rewarding time as we look at the exciting opportunities for our college. It will continue to ensure that the College is current, innovative, focussed on excellence and on its community.

Working closely with our College Principal is one of the greatest blessings on College Council and I can honestly say that working with Cheryl over the past 4 1/2 years has been an incredible privilege. It is a true mark of Cheryl's integrity and passion for the College that she announced her intent to retire at the end of 2018 as early as she did so that College Council could begin the task of finding a new Principal before 'all the good ones were snatched up by other schools.' Cheryl's vision and enthusiasm for the College has been outstanding and her stamina, incredible! At every opportunity, she has led by example to embed the Lutheran values and has been focused especially on the further development of the college and its positive promotion. The school has undergone extended positive change under her leadership in all aspects, especially with her strengths in administration, and her expectations in teaching and learning ensuring that our graduates are of the highest quality. Cheryl has positioned the College well for new leadership and we are poised and excited to begin a new and exciting chapter of the College. We cannot thank you enough for your work with us Cheryl, and we pray that God continues to provide you with everything you need in your retirement as you and Ken enjoy your regular morning strolls along the beach next year!

We cannot thank Cheryl without also thanking our Business Manager - Darren Osborne for his dedication, his exceptional reporting and the way he has supported both Cheryl and the College in a desire for excellence in all facets of College life.

The process of recognising exactly where the College is 'at' and identifying the future needs of the college and finding the right words to reflect this in an advertisement is an intense, thoughtful and time-consuming process. I sincerely thank staff for their input – including Cheryl and Darren, the support from District Director, Julian Denholm, and my fellow council members who met fortnightly for a number of extended sessions to complete our 'package'. The pressure on 'getting it right' is incredibly stressful but the ability of the members of Council to analyse, identify needs, reflect thoughts positively, disseminate information and provide a collective wisdom has truly been a blessing for me. I would like to sincerely thank Kevin MacKay, Tim Aldridge, Deidre Jaensch, Marion Lang, Brian Handreck and Bruce Thorne for their exceptional contributions to the college this year and I am thankful that they are all able to continue in their role for 2019.

And did we get it right in our search for a new Principal? Well, we are confident that we have, and we are excited for the continued enthusiasm that Mrs Eloise Beveridge will provide. Eloise is well known in educational circles for her innovation and passion for providing quality opportunities for students and their learning. We are extremely fortunate that Eloise made the time through the year

to meet with staff, contribute to the new Strategic Directions of the college and meet with our IB consultant to discuss future requirements.

College Council acknowledges that the wider community around Trinity makes an invaluable contribution to the lives of the students at the college. In particular, the PTFA which is the envy of other schools. Your achievements and contributions to the College are outstanding as is your ability to unite our community for a common goal. We wish those families and staff who are leaving us this year every blessing as they begin to serve in their new locations. Please know that we will always be thankful for your contributions and the way you have positively touched so many within our community.

To our graduating class of 2018 – we congratulate you on your achievements and thank you for the contributions you have made to the life of the Trinity community. We know that you will be highly respected by both higher level secondary and tertiary institutions as being some of the best prepared students in the district. We encourage you to ‘let your light shine’ and continue the strong focus and dedication you have to achieve your full potential in whatever path you follow.

In closing, on behalf of College Council, I would like to wish you all a blessed Christmas and a healthy and safe 2019. May God bless you richly and hold you all safely in the palm of his hand.

Debbie Bennett
College Council Chair