

From the Board Chair 2016

Congratulations to the wonderful staff at Carine Primary School for such positive findings in our recent Independent School Review.

The purpose of the review was to have independent experts verify our own internal self-assessment. The reviewers' findings reinforced our own data and judgements and these are their commendations:

- The embedded self-review practices of the school
- The detailed analysis of NAPLAN data, subsequent comprehensive planning of operational targets and reflection on teaching strategies for improvement of identified student cohorts who are within the middle range of performance in English and Mathematics
- The high level of student understanding of HASS and also of Science, particularly in the context of Science as a 'Human Endeavour'
- The whole school approach to students at educational risk which has been diligently managed, enabling students to progress

The successful emphasis on ensuring staff are making consistent judgements of student achievement

- The high level of engagement of staff in professional collaborative conversations which are stimulated by collection of quality data and analysis in order to make informed decisions of subsequent improvement planning
- Whole-school consistency in pedagogy based on research practices aimed at supporting staff
- The development and implementation of the *Carine Writing and Speaking Year 4 Club* oral language initiative
- The high standard of teacher portfolios
- The Board for achieving membership which represents the whole school community and for developing strong governance practice that supports the school in setting and maintaining direction.
- Senior leadership's inclusive approach to creating genuine leadership opportunities and fostering those willing to accept the challenge
- The staff professionalism, engagement and collaboration resulting in quality teaching and learning.

The findings also recommended two areas upon which we could improve and these were also identified and discussed by the staff with the reviewers. The first was to ensure that our Board's excellent work was communicated to the community more effectively and we will do this with Board Reports published in newsletters and on the website, as well as with our P&C Board Rep continuing to deliver Board Reports at P&C meetings. The second recommendation is to continue setting both qualitative and quantitative targets in the 2016-2018 Business Plan with our challenge being to work out how best to assess the targets that are harder to measure. I have no doubt we will rise to that challenge!

There is a vacancy on our Board with the retirement of Suzy Rea who is a scientist and is now teaching Science in secondary school. We are particularly keen to find someone from an industry and business background in the Science area. Science remains a strong focus for us as we want our students to continue in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects as they enter secondary schooling and beyond to university. Please forward a thumbnail of your

relevant skills and knowledge if you are interested in filling this vacancy - send to carine.ps@education.wa.edu.au . We will also continue to make approaches to community members who have these skills. Nominations close on Thursday 18 February.