February 2013

Dear Parents

I am very pleased as the year begins to extend a warm welcome to parents new to Catholic education and to those of you who are continuing. Thank you for choosing a Catholic education for your children. I hope that 2013 will be a very fulfilling one for you and your children and that it has begun in a spirit of confident enthusiasm.

There are 137 schools and colleges in the Archdiocese of Brisbane educating almost 70,000 students. Our Catholic schools commit to nurturing active partnerships with families and providing parents and caregivers with opportunities to participate in the life of the school community. There is extensive research which indicates that when schools and families work together children have higher rates of achievement and stay in school longer. There will be many occasions in the year ahead to become involved at your child’s school and I encourage you to do so.

In the education world, very little stands still. It is indeed, is a very dynamic pursuit in which to be engaged. This year across our schools we will be implementing a new Religious Education curriculum and at the same time, continuing with the roll out of the Australian curriculum. This will all occur in contemporary learning environments in which information and communication technologies are embraced. During this year and the next we will also be working hard to ensure that our primary and secondary schools are ready for the move of year seven to the secondary context in 2015.

Beyond the school gates, there is a very important role for parents to play in lobbying politicians at both state and federal levels about funding for Catholic schools. We rely on government funding for our capital and recurrent needs and are committed to supporting families by keeping tuition fees at a modest level. You would be aware no doubt that in 2010 a significant review into school funding was commissioned by the Australian government with a report presented in early 2012. In this election year, we anticipate that educational funding will be a major agenda item. The full report is available online as is further information about Catholic school funding.

The seminal document, The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium acknowledges parents as the primary educators of their children and as major partners in the education process. Such a close relationship with the school implies a partnership with mutual rights and responsibilities. As this new year begins be assured of our support of you as parents and of our ongoing commitment to strengthening partnerships and involvement of families in the life of the Catholic school.

With every blessing

Pam Betts
Executive Director of Catholic Education
Archdiocese of Brisbane.