What an amazing and busy year it has been for the St Cecilia’s Catholic Primary School Board in 2012. This year’s Board consisted of Ms Paula MacKenzie as Principal, Mrs Trish Bourke commenced the year as our Chairperson and following her resignation from the Board I, Mrs Liz Burton moved from the role of Secretary to that of Chairperson, Father John Martin as parish priest. Mr Matthew Ravenscroft as Treasurer, Mrs Michelle Bowins as Secretary, Mrs Salome Mbenjele as the St John the Baptist Parish representative, Mrs Emma Merlo as the P&F representative, Mr Dean Rehn and Mr Patrick Mellberg as general members. Mrs Claire Smith joined the Board as a general member following Trish Bourke’s resignation.

We have been working on a large number of projects throughout the year. Perhaps the largest single project has been the building of new teacher housing. With the support of the Catholic Education Office we have commenced the construction of five new T&R transportable homes that will be situated at the end of the oval facing onto Anderson St and are due for completion early next year.

2012 saw the introduction of the new National Curriculum and for St Cecilia’s Catholic Primary School the commencement of the John Fleming system of explicit teaching. From all indications so far, this has been very successful indeed.

We have continued with the annual painting and rust-proofing works on the outside of the buildings to protect them from the ravages of our coastal location.

We have updated our collections in the library with all fiction books being updated together with a large number of the non-fiction collection. All the science boxes in the school have been updated, to include new books and science resources. The schools mathematics equipment has also been updated.

Eight iPads were purchased for the school with much thanks to the P&F for their fundraising for this project. The iPads proved to be so successful in the school that a further sixteen iPads were purchased for Kindergarten and Pre-Primary. Due to the great success of technology based programs we are in the process of installing wireless Internet points into each class room from Kindergarten to Year Seven. Funds from the P&F also saw the introduction of the “Hear and Learn Systems” in each class room. This is a system that ensures each and every child can clearly hear the teacher wherever they are in their class room.

The Lexile Reading Programme commenced in the school and students in Year Four to Seven are now taking part in this wonderful educational program.

Another current project that we are working on with the support of funds raised by the P&F is the establishment of a circuit gym with child friendly exercise apparatus around the oval. Watch this space as this exciting project unfolds over the coming months.

We have again been blessed with an incredibly dedicated and enthusiastic team of teachers. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank all of our teaching and administrative support staff for the tireless work they put into teaching and developing our children.
We have recently become aware that our amazing Principal Ms Paula MacKenzie has been appointed Principal to Leschenault Catholic Primary school in Australind for 2013. We are truly grateful for the five years of dedicated service that she has given to our school community. We wish her all the best with her future endeavours and congratulate Leschenault Catholic Primary on their appointment of such an esteemed Principal. We have commenced the process of finding a replacement principal for our school next year and look forward to meeting with that amazing individual in the near future.

As you can see it has been a very successful year with many developments to enhance our children’s learning experience and continually improve our school. As a Board we look forward to planning many exciting opportunities for our community in 2013.

Mrs Liz Burton
School Board Chairperson