



**CATHOLIC EDUCATION**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Dear Parents and Caregivers

As we come to the end of Semester One, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you and your family for the vital role you play within our Catholic Education community in Western Australia. For those of you who have joined us this year, I extend an especially warm welcome.

Some of you may have heard about the 2016 National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) Conference which was hosted by Catholic Education Western Australia recently in Perth. The conference, attended by more than 1,400 delegates from across Australia and the world, presented opportunities for many of our principals and teachers to contemplate a Catholic education system that provides new educational opportunities and ways of learning.

It was truly wonderful and humbling to hear Honduran Cardinal Rodriguez Maradiaga speak of Catholic Education in Australia as one of the best Catholic school systems in the world. I am confident that this would not be the case without the hard work and dedication of our staff, or without the invaluable contribution from the parents, families and friends that make up our school communities.

This term was filled with countless stories of student achievement, innovative teaching and learning approaches, and inspiring community initiatives across our system of 163 schools. Witnessing the first Catholic School Youth Summit, with Year 10 and 11 students from across our state, reinforced the agility and resourcefulness of Catholic Education to reimagine learning in a complex youth environment. The opportunity to join hundreds of primary school students from across the Archdiocese of Perth to support the 2016 Lifelink Day campaign launch encouraged me to reflect on the role of our schools to grow compassionate school communities, where Christian values flourish in the lives of our children.

As the winter holiday begins, I hope you will have opportunities to spend time with your children, to have fun, and to continue learning with them and from them. I also hope it is a time for you to reflect on the great importance of your role as your child's first educator. May you be encouraged by the words of Cardinal Rodriguez Maradiaga, in his address to the NCEC Conference, "To be an educator is to be joyful."

I wish your family a joy-filled winter break.

Yours sincerely

Dr Tim McDonald

