

A message from Mrs Hartmann

To my dear school community,

After a long, happy and fulfilling career, it is with a heavy heart that I have made the very difficult decision to retire from the Department of Education.

My husband Greg and I have taught in a variety of city and country locations from Pt Hedland and Morawa in the North to Mt Many Peaks in the South. In the city there was Duncraig, Koondoola, Eddystone, Sutherland, Allenswood and Deanmore. There are so many stories to tell. For the last 20 years or so, I have held administrative positions in three schools. It is however, Goollelal Primary that holds the biggest piece of my heart.

I have been inspired by so many colleagues across my career and learned so much from collaborating with amazing people who devote themselves to education. Many of these people are life-long friends.

At the beginning of this year, I had surgery on my hip, due to an injury and then more surgery two weeks ago. During this time, I have had dozens of messages, calls, and visits from staff who have kept me going. It was so very appreciated. In addition, I would like to sincerely like to thank the parents who contacted me and sent their kind thoughts and best wishes. The sentiments which came my way are a testament to the beautiful community that Goollelal is.

I would like to send a huge thank you to all the children. I have been at Goollelal Primary School since 2007 and thankfully every group of children who came through were different! I have invested lots of time getting to know the families and as the children graduate in year 6, it feels like a family member is leaving. It has been such a delight to have the children come back to visit year after year and tell me what they are doing with their lives. It has been wonderful to see them grow into fine young adults, using their skills and talent to negotiate their own pathway into the future. I am distinctly proud of all the children who have passed through Goollelal and of course the children who are at school now.

Schools of course have a major focus on teaching and learning and finding the best way for each child to learn, equipping them with skills, knowledge and understanding. In addition, there are elements of schooling which take advantage of opportunities to face challenges with confidence. No-one will be surprised to know that some of these are my favourite activities; assemblies, choir, dressing up and having fun with book week and our lovely ANZAC Day services and sport's day. I also loved reading stories under the big friendly giant who sat on the roof for a while and, finally getting the gorgeous cubby finished.

For all of the children I have a simple message for you.

Always remember to be the best version of yourself. Treat others with kindness as it will take you far.

I would like to say an enormous heartfelt thank you to the parent community, many of whom have embraced me as an extended member of their family. It has been an absolute privilege to work so intensely with parents to ensure that every opportunity is afforded to each child

whether they are thriving at school or have an academic, social, or emotional need. I have proudly watched children flourish after just a small change or intervention. Some of the issues that I have dealt with have been very sensitive and it has been an honour to have been trusted by families to help them.

We have enjoyed so many fabulous fund-raising events over the past 15 years. I want to thank all parents who have contributed or represented the P&C in that time. There has been a huge amount of money raised by parents giving up their valuable time and energy, to help our little community.

It has been my privilege to serve on the School Board since its inception and the School Council before that. We have worked hard to contribute to effective school governance

The staff at Goollelal *past and present* have always been a special group of professionals. Thankfully, like the children, they are all different with everyone bringing something unique to the table. I have made many lifelong friends at Goollelal. I feel so proud of the way each staff member genuinely cares about children and comes to work each day to do their best. One of my passions is to present Professional Learning. I know that the staff will NOT miss my presentations, even though they all sat, listened and interacted politely. Hopefully we learned a few things together!

With reading always a priority, I have a small gift for the school, a piece of myself to leave behind. I have been running book swaps over the last few years, a bit like a street library. As I will no longer be there to run them, I have made and decorated a small bookshelf and filled it with books to start the children off. The children can simply manage it themselves by bringing a book and swapping one.

The future for me is a happy one with lots of time spent with my large family and pursuing all the hobbies I have never had time for.

So that's me, rolled into a couple of pages and grateful that I came, grateful that I stayed and even more grateful for the children, staff, parents and grandparents who I met along the way. You have enriched my life. I proudly take with me a lifetime of wonderful memories, friends, and love from a special school community. We all know it takes a village....

Kindest regards
Kerry