

EXCITEMENT AS SCHOOL OPENS ITS DOORS

Proud parents with siblings in tow gathered around to see their children off for a historic first day. Siena Catholic Primary School, Lucas opened its doors with a ribbon cutting and cheers when the nine o'clock bell rang for the first time.

Among the parents was Amelia Hunter with her son Sam. "He is so excited - we love the way the school talks about education, it just fits with what we want for Sam," she said. "I'm excited for him to be a part of what is being built here. He gets to go on this journey with the school and they get to journey with him."

School principal Jo Brewer said the school had already developed a community spirit, with students catching up over the holiday period after first meeting last year. She said the teaching would be directed to the students' needs. "There will be a lot of small group work, team teaching and flexibility to make sure children have done what they need to before moving onto the next thing – not just hoping they will catch up along the way," she said.

Ripon MP Louise Staley said it was a great achievement to have the school open a year early. "The school is basically full so it shows there is enormous demand for primary school education in Lucas, which is a very fast growing area of Ballarat," she said.





Article courtesy of the Ballarat Courier, text by Siobhan Calafiore and photos by Kate Healy.

Audrey Brown, Director of Catholic Education in her welcome for 2017, wrote the following:

On Monday 30 January, I attended the Central Zone Mass to mark the beginning of the Catholic Education year at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat. It was particularly special to welcome to the Catholic Education Ballarat fold Jo Brewer (Principal) and the staff of Siena Catholic Primary School.

St Catherine once said, "Nothing great is ever achieved without much enduring". Whilst I do not believe that she was referring to registering and building a new school, Jo, Fr Justin Driscoll, Brad Carr and the team have certainly endured much to ensure that the doors of Siena were ready to welcome the first students on Friday, 3 February! We congratulate all who have had a role in the planning and registration of the new school and pray that all who pass through the doors of Siena in coming years will "be who God meant you to be and... set the world on fire" (St Catherine).



Siena staff attend the central zone beginning of school year Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat.

