

## 2020 AGM PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Good evening and a warm welcome to everyone.

We are fast closing in on the end of another year and what a year it has been! What started off as routine, took a sharp turn towards the end of term 1 with the threat of Covid19 and ultimately its declaration as a global pandemic. Over the space of a few weeks, teaching and learning underwent its biggest upheaval in my time in education. There was no choice about it. Adapt and be flexible became the mantra.... everyone was being affected.

Teachers had to rely on a new way of delivering education and I have often said it provided the greatest staff professional development. It was no longer optional for staff to be IT literate, they were being thrust into a new world of having to deliver, with all its complexities, online learning. Many parents also had to take on the teacher role at home to some extent and soon came to realise that getting children to do schoolwork is not necessarily all that easy. As for the children, well we have come to expect and know that most find it easier to adapt to change than adults. They are more inclined to 'go with the flow', many even thrived in the new online learning environment.

It is a great human quality that when things get tough, we both show our resilience and band together in support of one another. As it turned out, we were very fortunate in WA. Through good management, I am sure a bit of luck, and the good will of the vast majority of the population we navigated the crisis and continue to be very fortunate compared to many other parts of the world.

### **Religious Education:**

St John Paul II Catholic Primary School community is centred on Jesus Christ and shaped by the spiritual gifts of unity, compassion, and forgiveness. Our evangelisation plan provides us an opportunity to reflect on what our core business is as a Catholic school and this year we developed our new evangelisation plan for 2020 – 2022.

We are endeavouring to provide regular enriching prayer experiences that focus on our relationship with Jesus in classes and as a school, bringing Bible stories to life and reaching out to the needs amongst us and around us.

We held a successful off-site staff retreat day this year at the Telethon Institute. It focussed on Catholic Social Teaching and was presented by Karl Brown.

We thank Fr Vinh for his second semester classroom visits. With Covid19 affecting parish Masses this year we held our own Sacramental Masses. We were very fortunate to have Bishop Justin Bianchini available to celebrate our Confirmation Mass.

The excitement continues to build with news of our new church. On our return to school next year we should see some physical changes to the area with the clearing and then start of construction.

Throughout this year our school community has supported a variety of charities including Project Compassion, Lifelink run by the Archdiocese of Perth and Saint Vincent's Orphanage in Vietnam. The school is currently undertaking to help out the St John Paul II Care Christmas Hamper Appeal.

We also supported charities with a 'fun' raiser coinciding with SJP2's Feast Day. Thank you to those who have generously supported these charities.

I'd like to thank Tim and Vickey for their work as APRE at the school this year.

### **Education**

This year saw us at the halfway point of a 3-year school improvement plan developed by the leadership team. Our aspiration to see the school's NAPLAN results move from below CEWA 'like schools' to above CEWA 'like schools' was realised last year, for the first time, in both Spelling and Writing. With the decision to cancel all NAPLAN testing this year we have not had the usual data to track our progress.

The distributed leadership model incorporates a collective efficacy approach and continues to empower staff and drive change.

I thank staff for their willingness to embrace change, which is always evolving, and support each other through the process. I'm confident this will continue in order to build on improved results.

Our focus going forward is to continue to become more fluent and thorough in the use of explicit instruction across the school. Classroom visits will continue as will the use of Kagan structures to support explicit instruction.

This year we continued to maintain a focus on early intervention in the early years through the mini lit program run by Mrs Murphy. For the first time this year we offered a stem program run by Mrs Deurloo for the middle and upper students. We also intend to use Mr Bigwood to oversee a trial support program in 2021.

### **School Audit**

At the start of term 3 this year the school underwent a cyclical audit which is carried out every 5 years. It provided positive feedback on the school's practices and policies along with some recommendations to further enhance what we are currently doing. I thank Tim, Nic and Vickey for their work throughout the process.

### **Play Group**

Our Friday morning play group continues to be popular with parents and some members of the community. A big thanks to Joan Ring who provides wonderful

opportunities for pre-school children to listen to and discuss stories, do a craft activity, and have an indoor/outdoor play session. Parents also appreciate the opportunity to work with their child as well as socialise with each other.

### **Performing Arts:**

Many of the performing arts activities had to take a back seat this year with covid-19 restrictions impacting on both practice and performance opportunities. Mr Maxwell did commence band and choir in term 3. We look forward to the Battle of the Bands assembly and an Indonesian performance in a couple of weeks.

### **Sports:**

In the sporting arena, we competed at the interschool athletics carnival with a team consisting of students from years 3-6 as well as two lightning carnivals that involved a variety of team sports for years 5-6. Students also competed in cross country and athletics carnivals at school.

A big thanks must go to Maddie Rutley for organising not just the main sporting opportunities but also the extra-curricular activities after school. Thanks also to the teachers who helped organise teams, assisted with training and officiated or supervised at events.

### **Library**

The school library has had another great year of events and fundraising.

Covid19 restrictions during 2020 has meant that many events did not take place at their scheduled time, but students still enjoyed a number of opportunities to participate in learning and fun in the Library this year.

The Big Book Swap was held at the end of Term 3. Students donated their unwanted books and \$170 was raised. All proceeds went towards the Indigenous Literacy Foundation for the purchase of books and resources.

The library held its annual Book Week and Book Fair in Term 4 from 26<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> October. The Theme this year was 'Curious Creatures, Wild Minds' and \$2,325.50 was raised which gave us a commission of \$700 to spend on new library books and resources. Throughout this jam-packed week children and teachers enjoyed dressing up as their favourite book characters and participated in competitions and book week related activities.

The library is also open during lunch times providing children an opportunity to engage in computer, reading and game activities.

Thanks Lyn and Rae for the work you do in presenting the library as an interesting place to be!

### **Hymn Singing**

Thanks to Anne and Deliah for their continued efforts in preparing hymn singing sessions and providing children this opportunity.

### **Social Worker**

I thank Tracy who assists children and families in the St John Paul II school community with issues that may impact on a child's learning or a child's overall functioning.

Aside from 1-1 support, some of the programmes and activities operating this year included Keeping Safe, UR Strong- Friendology, Seasons for Growth and small groups offering the opportunity to enhance a sense of belonging and connection.

A sensory Integration Program – Coordinated by the School Chaplaincy Worker, Jenny Baxter, continues to support students who have additional sensory needs.

Thanks to Tracy and Jenny for continuing to deliver a complex service that responds to the difficulties that many children and families are facing.

### **Learning Centre**

The learning Centre is an educational innovation in its fifth year of operation. It provides a facility where students with special needs have access to practical learning opportunities alongside mainstream learning. It provides opportunities to incorporate the sensory requirements, behaviour management strategies and self-care of the individual students where necessary, so as to maximise their learning and participation within their class.

Our learning environment is an active example of our school's commitment to be an inclusive community which supports the student and family while promoting compassion and acceptance within the whole school community.

Students attending range from Year 1 to Year 6 and have varying cognitive abilities. Each student works according to a carefully designed individual education plan which caters to their specific needs and ability. The plans are developed in consultation with the classroom teacher, educational assistant and disability support coordinator.

This year, with additional support and a modified curriculum some students were able to increase their time in, or transition fully back to, their regular class. The success of the transition is due to the cooperation, dedication and support of classroom teachers and educational assistants.

The success of the learning Centre is evident in the progress of all our students and is testament to the hard work and commitment of Vickey, Trudy, Jenny and Joan.

### **IT**

At St John Paul II, we have a continued focus on digital literacy and skills. The ICT team is working towards students being given the opportunity to become

innovative creators of digital solutions, effective users of digital systems and critical consumers of information conveyed by digital systems.

This year staff have received ongoing training through PLC sessions and Tech Time sessions, to upskill themselves in the latest technological programs and devices accessible here at St John Paul II. We had an emphasis on robotics this year, in particular coding Dash & Dot Robots and Spheros. The ICT Team has also redistributed iPads around the school and provided the Learning Centre with dedicated iPads for students with special needs.

### **Office Staff**

The leadership team work very closely with the office staff. Schools are complex organisations and we are thankful to Di, Lea and Jo who continue to demonstrate flexibility and a willingness to perform a wide range of tasks to keep things running smoothly.

Mailyn oversees the finances and has worked hard this year to submit a budget in what is a tough financial climate. Mailyn's assistance on the front desk in supporting office staff when required is also much appreciated.

### **Groundsman**

Steve was our 'go to' man for whatever needs doing or fixing. With his sudden departure at the end of term 3, I was beginning to panic and wondering what I was going to do for a replacement! The good Lord smiled upon me when Rod expressed an interest in the position. It's been a seamless transition. It has been wonderful to have on staff a person who can turn his hand to almost anything.

### **Tim, Anne, Vickey and Nic**

I would particularly like to thank the four Assistant Principals this year. I am very appreciative of their work as part of the Leadership team of the school.

Anne was successful in gaining a head of primary position starting in term 3. Vickey stepped into the role for the second half of the year. All members of the leadership team then took some staggered long service leave enabling Nic to experience the role in term 3. I thank them all for their leadership shown this year. Congratulations to Nic on being appointed to the vacated AP position starting next year.

### **Staff**

Staff members have displayed on many occasions their commitment and dedication. They continue to take on current educational and other initiatives, to further enhance their own teaching skills and to implement "good teaching practices".

They also support, through their attendance, Parish events, the sacramental programmes and many school functions, such as graduation and tonight's AGM.

Our teacher assistants do a great job turning their hands to whatever is required. Whether it's working in the class or with specific children, their ability and readiness to get on with the job is appreciated by all.

I take this opportunity to thank all staff members, both teaching and non-teaching for their dedication and commitment to the children at our school.

### **School Board**

CEWA Ltd commenced operation from 1 January this year.

The School Board is set to become an Advisory Council and will be in a transition year in 2021 with the role of the School Board and the School Board Constitution coming under review.

This year I have continued to receive support and assistance from many individuals and groups within the school. I would like to say thank you to all Board members whose regular attendance at meetings and support is much appreciated.

### **P&F**

To the Parents and Friends Association I also offer my thanks. The P&F provide valuable support to the school, not only financially, but also at a social level drawing the community together. The bush dance, colour run and end of year family Christmas picnic are always successful and well attended events.

I thank Jenna for volunteering to take on the president role this year. A big thanks goes to the executive - Jenna, Sam and Jo, and to all who have supported and helped the P&F, be assured that your efforts are appreciated.

### **Volunteers**

SJP2, like most schools, requires and appreciates the assistance of volunteers. Whether in the uniform shop, library, doing the children's banking, on rosters in the classrooms, assisting with excursions and camps, sport training sessions, carnival days or in many other ways, your assistance enriches the spirit of community and gives valuable support to the school.

### **Fr Vinh**

I would like to express my thanks to Father Vinh, for his work and assistance in the spiritual guidance of the children. I know he has been working very hard overseeing the church development, along with his many other commitments.

Sr Tuyen and Sr Duyen continue to be an invaluable link between the parish and school communities and we are very blessed to have their assistance.

### **Staff Leaving**

As is often the case, there will be a number of staff changes at the end of this year.

I would like to thank Miss Holly Lombardi who joined us at the beginning of this year. With uncertainty around available positions for 2021, she took the opportunity to work at Our Lady of the Cape in Dunsborough next year.

Miss Maddie Rutley has been with us for two years in the PE role. She has also taken responsibility for swimming lessons, school and interschool carnivals and been a very handy relief teacher. She has accepted a PE teacher position at Mercy College in Koondoola starting next year.

We wish both Holly and Maddie well for their future and I look forward to being able to acknowledge both in front of the school community after our Thanksgiving Mass.

Mr Baker will return in 2021.

Mrs Bakunowicz and Mrs Chamberlain have both been offered a secondment for next year and will return in 2022.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the school community for the support given to me throughout the year. Thank you for coming here tonight and I wish you in advance a blessed and joy-filled Christmas, a summer break that brings opportunities for rest and renewal and many blessings, for you and your families.

Thank you.

Yours in Christ,

Chris Lamb

Principal

18 November 2020