

## **2018 AGM PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

Good evening and a warm welcome to everyone.

### **Religious Education:**

In harmony with our God, 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.

We have endeavoured to provide regular enriching prayer experiences and liturgical celebrations that focus on our relationship with Jesus in classes and as a school.

We held a successful staff retreat this year, though some weren't all that impressed with the cold showers and promptly moved to another block! The day on personality types proved most interesting and explains many things!

We continue to forge a stronger bond with our Parish community through Cluster Masses, working closely with the Parish Sacramental program and involvement of the band and choir at Masses on a regular basis. We have also been very fortunate to have Fr Vinh visit classrooms.

The excitement builds with the reality of our new church continuing to progress. Recently we had the appointment of the architects and Archbishop Costelloe celebrate the Blessing of the Land in front of an enthusiastic congregation.

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 Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal.

Two of these charities will benefit because of a very successful craft stall organised recently by some EA's.

We also supported charities within the school context 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 for his untiring work as APRE of the school.

## **Education**

This year sees the end of a 3-year school improvement opportunity with the Fogarty Foundation. We aspire to see our school's NAPLAN results move from below CEWA 'like schools' to above CEWA 'like schools'.

After some positive signs of growth where we did finish above like schools, in other areas we're still endeavouring to close the gap. Results are confirming the good work that is happening.

We believe that we have been able to identify what we need to do going forward and have made these changes to our new placemat. The distributed leadership model continues to empower staff and drive change.

We've been able to implement several school wide practices and programs, which, along with some very positive growth shown by students in the middle years have been identified as school strengths.

I will ensure that I continue to work closely with school leaders responsible for driving change, provide necessary resources and opportunities for personal development as well as promote the achievement of targeted initiatives for which they are responsible. I will be supporting their efforts to lead change!

I have been impressed with staff willingness to embrace change, which is always evolving, and support each other through the process. I expect this to continue in order to build on improved results and thereby establish a culture of continuous improvement.

Three areas where our NAPLAN results have shown a degree of success are:

Current Year 3s Spelling results are above CEWA like schools (It is the first Year 3 cohort to have used Letters and Sounds for a reasonable period – 18mths) and the gap between our school and

CEWA like schools has closed for our most recent cohort of Year 5s in comparison to where they were in Year 3.

NAPLAN writing results have met CEWA like schools and the gap between our school and CEWA like schools has closed for our most recent cohort of Year 5s in comparison to where they were in Year 3.

Our focus going forward is to become more fluent and thorough in the use of explicit instruction across the school. Tim and Anne will be coaches and cluster leaders next year.

The use of Kagan structures and will continue to support the explicit instruction.

Next year we will also focus on early intervention with reading in the early years both through the introduction of mini lit and the continuation of Reading Recovery. Decodable texts, where they are needed, will also supplement existing reading programs in the early years.

### **Play Group**

Our Friday morning play group has gone from strength to strength. 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:**

We continue to promote the Arts, with students provided wonderful opportunities to participate in numerous areas. We have seen some outstanding performances by the children, including the exceptional talent displayed by so many in the recent Performing Arts Festival for Catholic Schools and Colleges in Western Australia.

Dance, band, ensembles and choir performances all received excellent comments from the adjudicators, with nearly all receiving Certificates of Merit. Our Year 3s, under Mrs Bakunowicz's direction, received an Outstanding for their Ninja Red Riding Hood choral speech performance. Our amazing Indonesian teacher, Ibu McAdam, lead our Year 1 children through an award-winning drama

presentation and our Year 6's through an entertaining Indonesian song performance.

Children hone their skills through singing, playing and dancing during so many special occasions, both during and after school, throughout the year. The band and choir lead the music at Masses, our liturgical dancers enhanced the recent special Blessing of the Land Mass and our choir also performed for the residents of an aged care home. We are blessed to have so many generous members of our staff willing to give time before and after school to give our students the best opportunity to develop as dancers, singers and musicians. The opportunity of instrumental lessons this year has also given the children playing an instrument an opportunity to take their talents to another level.

As they have done each year, children also contributed delightful pieces to the Wanneroo Art Exhibition. Thanks Mark for organising this.

I congratulate all the children and teachers involved on their efforts and achievements.

### **Sports:**

In the sporting arena, we competed at the Interschool swimming, cross country and athletics carnivals as well as 4 lightning carnivals that all involved a variety of team sports. It was great to see children feeling proud of their achievements this year. Our teams looked and felt great attending the carnivals in our new Interschool Squad shirts. Another big thank you to the P & F for making it possible for us to purchase a set of 100 shirts.

A big thanks must go to Jane Cullen for organising not just the main sporting opportunities but also the extra-curricular activities before and after school. Thanks also to the teachers who helped organise teams, assist with the training and supervise at events.

### **Library**

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

The library held its annual Book Fair on March 26<sup>th</sup>. The Theme this year was 'Paws for Books' and raised \$2621.00, which gave us a commission of \$696.00 to spent on new library books and resources.

In July The Great Book Swap was held, which raised \$258.50 for The Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

On July 25th Rae organised an incursion with 'Tales of Times Past'. Seniors in the community visited classrooms and told tales of their lives as children and also showed old fashioned toys and household items that were used back then. It was a very interesting and enjoyable day for all.

Book Week this year was 'Pirate' themed. A colouring-in competition was held along with the amazing dress up parade!

The library is also open during lunch times providing children an opportunity to engage in an indoor setting.

Thanks 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 efforts in preparing hymn singing sessions and providing children these opportunities.

### **Social Worker**

Lesley, our Social Worker, is available Monday to Wednesday and assists children and families in the St John Paul II Catholic Primary school community with issues that may impact on a child's learning or a child's overall functioning.

Some of the programmes and activities operating this year included You Can Do It! Keeping Safe, Massage in Schools, Transition to High School and Rainbows.

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

Thanks to Lesley and Jenny for delivering 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 second 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.

The students 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.

The success of this initiative is evident in the progress of these students and is a testament to the hard work and commitment of Vickey, Kerry, Trudy and Jenny.

## **IT**

At John Paul II, we will continue to focus on digital literacy and skills. The ICT team is working towards students being provided with technological devices, so as to help students at St John Paul II to become innovative creators of digital solutions, effective users of digital systems and critical consumers of information conveyed by digital systems.

## **Office Staff**

The leadership team work very closely with Di. She is a very willing worker and, being on the front desk, is often the first contact for all sorts of issues. I would hate to have to list the extensive range of tasks that she takes on in her role because, like Tim & Anne, Di too just gets on and does whatever is required. It may often seem like a thankless job, so Di, on behalf of the community, thanks for the great work you do!

Both Kerry and Lea have also been a wonderful support in the office when required. I have been fortunate that all three have demonstrated flexibility and a willingness to perform a wide range of tasks.

Thanks to Mailyn who keeps a close eye on the finances! She even managed to work with me to submit a balanced budget in a tough financial climate.

### **Groundsman**

Steve is our 'go to' man for whatever needs doing or fixing. The school grounds are always well presented. He oversees many projects and is also currently working on developing our nature play and playground areas. It has been wonderful to have such an accommodating person who can turn his hand to most tasks.

### **Tim and Anne**

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

They are also both continually called upon by others when support is required, when something goes wrong or something needs doing. Thanks Tim and Anne for your efforts in both driving change and in keeping the school operating as smoothly as it does.

A special thanks to Tim for taking on and doing such a good job in the principal role in my absence this year.

### **Kerry and Lyn**

Kerry and Lyn have worked diligently in providing literacy support to children, being cluster leaders, coaches, active team members and part of the leadership team. Next year they take on slightly different roles, though both maintain a literacy focus.

Thanks Kerry and Lyn for all that you have done and I'm sure will continue to do in supporting others!

### **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, open night and tonight's AGM.

The teacher assistants complement their work and do a great job turning their hands to whatever is required.

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**

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, support and willingness to get involved 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. I know the children's disco is always a favourite and the bush dance, colour run and end of year family Christmas picnic are very successful and well attended events.

It's often a thankless job, so to all the P&F, especially the office bearers, be assured that your efforts are appreciated.

To Susannah, who has been president since I commenced at the school, I would like to say a big thanks for your tireless work in building community. You always have a positive nature and extend a hand of invitation to others.

To all those who are coming to the end of their term in office and to those who have worked so hard in and around the school, I thank you for your involvement and contribution to the school. Your time and effort is very much appreciated by the whole school community.

### **Volunteers**

Like most schools SJP2 relies heavily on voluntary assistance. We have volunteers in the uniform shop, library, doing the children's banking, on rosters in the classrooms, assisting with excursions and camps, training sessions, carnival days and 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 your children. I know he has been working very hard with the Parish Council and many sub-

committees. We are all eagerly awaiting the day the land is cleared and the building of the Church commences.

### **Sr's**

It has also been great to have both Sr Tuyen and Sr Duyen have an involvement in the school as well as a link to the parish.

As a school community we are very fortunate to have them working in our school and the wider community.

### **Teachers Leaving**

As is often the case, a number of staff will be finishing at the end of this year. I would like to thank Therese Hutchinson and Kristy Carroll and wish them all the best for the future. I look forward to being able to acknowledge you in front of the school community after our Thanksgiving Mass.

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 your presence 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  
21 November 2018