

Principal's Report

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 23rd November 2021



It has been an eventful year for our school and I would like to acknowledge the teamwork shown by the teachers, parents for students and that has assured the educational and spiritual growth of our school.

Advisory Council

The Catholic School Advisory Council enables a spirit of partnership to be developed within the school community. The members bring a voice of the community into the school and contribute to building a Catholic culture, supporting the principal. The Advisory Council have been instrumental in assisting in many discussions and decisions for our upcoming demolishing and build of our new administration block. Highlights have included the Council's suggestion in connecting with the community through a variety of surveys, for input on making modifications to our uniforms, interest in a school canteen and establishing information from incoming and outgoing families. I would like to thank and extend my appreciation to the Advisory Council, for their diligence, generosity of time and input.

P&F recognition

This year we have had many new families join our P&F with fresh ideas and a passion for contributing to the life of the school. The P&F have made many wonderful contributions to our school including the drama in residence, a drama/dance teacher to assist in an end-of-year performance for our Year 6 class an exciting school disco for the students in Kindy- Year 6, face painting and food vans at our opening evening and potential food trucks at our Christmas concert night. Other areas of support include organisation of our well-attended Mother and Father's Day breakfast. I thank them for their enthusiasm and efforts and look forward to working together again in 2022.

Early Years: New playground – New playgroup

Our school is passionate about ensuring quality early years education and care through our continued focus and reflection on our practice through the National Quality Standards. This year saw the establishment of a school-based playgroup held in our Kindy classroom on Wednesday mornings for children between birth and 5. This has been well attended and the staff have enjoyed supporting this initiative on a weekly roster. Through our review of our outdoor environments a need for an

additional play area was identified by the Pre-Primary and Year One staff. This playground was designed to assist students with developing their gross motor skills and upper body strength through a variety of monkey bar and climbing structures. The team worked on a plan that complemented and matched the aesthetics of the existing nature playground. The new area has been frequented by the Year 1 and 2 students and is a much-loved improvement to our play areas. The extension of the Kindy patio has provided more learning opportunities for our students. I would like to acknowledge the OSHC's role in financing both of these projects.

Parish

Father Leonard continues to provide support as Parish Priest and contribution to the important religious work we do at our school. Father Leonard, Melissa Doyle and Flavia Lenzo have supported the school leadership team to plan the many Eucharistic Celebrations throughout the year, including weekly masses for classes, whole school masses and our Sacramental Program. Our family masses have grown in participation and will continue to be a focus for 2022. We were pleased to have mass for St Anthony's day followed by our mission fete given we missed this opportunity due to the COVID restrictions in 2020. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Father Leonard for his leadership and guidance, and in particular his dedication to working with the teachers and families to help support the faith formation of our students.

Religious Education

On Holy Thursday the staff from St Anthony's joined Sacred Heart Mundaring and Matthew Gibney High Wycombe in a joint professional faith day, Praying the Stations of the cross. Set on the grounds of Matthew Gibney the staff walked the Way of the Cross and enjoyed reflections from CEWA staff Mario Bugna, Dr Chris Cotter and Sr Catherine. The reflections from staff noted the rich theological and practical connection provided by the presenters that add to our understanding of Catholic tradition and practice.

As identified in our Evangelisation planning in 2020, this year the staff focused on 'service to others.' Some of the initiatives included a cupcake for parents baked by staff and given at drop off. The Jubilee celebrations were supported by the staff through donations of food items, assistance in preparation and participation in the evening. In November the staff participated in 'It's in the bag' project to support items to make a difference in the lives of women and girls experiencing homelessness, fleeing domestic violence or doing it tough.

The Making Jesus Real focus at St Anthony's has continued to flourish. Each assembly Anthony Bear has been awarded to worthy recipients demonstrating the values of Jesus through their witness to others. This year the students focused on eight core Christian values embedded in our Religious Education lessons, called 'The

Great Eight': Love, respect, thankfulness, gentleness, kindness, forgiveness, patience and prayer. Our student executive also shared practical ways we can model these values through our interactions at school and home.

October saw us gather for school rosary every Tuesday. The children were encouraged to a rosary to school and parishioners joined us on this day. Next year we have secured a pilgrim statue of Mary. This statue will have a time in each class and be symbol of devotion

Technology

Our key teacher for technology curriculum supported another successful year for staff and students. Key highlights include:

- Robotics in the mornings Term 1-4 facilitated by staff Years 1-6
- Robotics competitions
- Coding clubs for our junior students.

Our key technology teacher, Philippa Wicksey, worked with staff and students to support the teaching of digital skills to our students through their planning and teaching.

Inquiry Based Learning

Inquiry-based learning is an approach to learning that emphasizes the student's role in the learning process. Rather than the teacher telling students what they need to know, students are encouraged to explore the material, ask questions, and share ideas. This year the teachers from Kindy to Year 6 worked collaboratively to plan Guided Inquiry units of work. In these programs, learners are further empowered during this type of inquiry as they are given choice over the resources they will use to research their answers and how they will demonstrate their understanding. CEWA consultants facilitated Professional Learning Community meetings and Professional Development days focusing on imbedding thinking routines into programs.

Talk for Writing

Talk for writing allows students to orally learn the language needed for a particular topic or text, before reading it and recreating it in their own writing. It focuses on high level vocabulary and is also very hands on and interactive. Talk for Writing is a very engaging way of learning to write different text types. Teachers work in teams to create highly motivating units of work, often with some fun hooks! This year all class teachers completed their training on Talk for Writing. Our Key Literacy teacher, Soli Gentile assisted in the creation of a whole school plan for implementing Talk 4 Writing writing a scope and sequence for the school from Kindy to Year Six.

Community Events

We had a very well attended open evening in Term 3. The many highlights include displays in each classroom, in our robotics room, a wildlife focus in our Science room, a book fair in the library and face painting. Families congregated in our paved area to share a meal from the many food trucks while listening to music provided by our talented students. The only complaint from students was that it concluded too early as they would have liked to stay later.

School Climate Survey

School climate surveys are regularly held in Catholic Schools as a scientific measure that evaluate a range of aspects of the educational environment to assess perceptions and identify specific strengths and weaknesses within a school. The survey is designed to find out about the organisational climate at the school and how it can be improved. Our climate survey culminated in Term 3 this year with information sought and gathered from staff, students and parents through an online survey. Areas of strength were identified and celebrated. Areas to work on were also identified



Working with NSI the leadership team identified areas of strength and potential growth as outlined below:

	Areas of Strength	Area of Improvement
Students	<p>Expectations for success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Success criteria in lesson planning linked to visible learning <p>Rule Clarity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Students know the rules and high expectations for behaviourChild safety is part of school culture	<p>Affirming diversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Continuing to build on cultural celebrations e.g. Harmony Day/NAIDOC
Staff	<p>School Mission-Catholic identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-MJR-Vision for learning <p>Safe and respectful environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The policies and practices of the school create a safe environment for all	<p>Participation in decision making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Providing opportunities for staff to be involved in decision making
Parent	<p>Staff Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Staff care about my child/children, staff treat my child with respect <p>Satisfaction with student Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Satisfied with how my child is progressing socially, emotionally, academically and morally.	<p>Assessment & Feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">the criteria used for marking my child's assessment tasks/Communication when an assessment is coming up

NAPLAN

On October 11 the staff spent a day looking at recent NAPLAN data and discussing the trends of the data over time, the celebrations and areas for focus for 2022. We started by reflecting in year levels about our students and the initiatives we have been focusing on for the past few years. We then spent the remainder of the day looking specifically at our NAPLAN results for 2021 and tracking the growth of students over time. It was noted an upward trend in the areas of writing in Years 3 and 5 and in reading and spelling in Years 5. The areas of focus for 2022 are

numeracy and grammar. This data will continue to be looked at in the last week of Term 4 as we plan for 2022 and professional development will be designed for 2022 around these focus areas.

2022 - Students Achieving the National Minimum Standard

	Year 3	Year 5
Grammar	87.27%	78.69%
Reading	90.91%	90.61%
Numeracy	83.64%	83.61%
Writing	94.55%	88.33%
Spelling	81.82%	93.44%

ENRICHMENT

In 2022 we look forward to offering a wide range of enrichment classes throughout the school year. These classes allow students who need an extra challenge to be engaged in subjects in more depth and give them opportunities to explore and use their imagination. These classes will occur during the school week and class teachers with a special interest and expertise in these areas will run the sessions with small groups of students. Selection into these enrichment classes will be based on teacher identification and student achievement. The range of opportunities at this stage will include:

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Year 1 and 2		STEM		STEM
Year 3 and 4	Maths Club Robotics STEM	Maths Club Robotics	Visual Art (Four)	Visual Art (Three)
Year 5 and 6	Robotics Debating	Robotics TOM	Maths Club TOM STEM Robotics	Maths Club Debating Robotics

STAFFING

In 2022, Miss Megan Green has been appointed as a Year six teacher in semester one as Philippa Wicksey enjoys long service.

Miss Juliette Borromei will join our staff to teach physical education and Mrs Chris Schelfhout will be working in junior primary support.

Mrs Joanne Baxter and Mrs Chantelle Hickey will be joining our team of Educational Assistants next year.

Miss Geraldine Lockyer and Ms Lyn Born will be retiring at the end of this year after a faithful dedicated commitment to Catholic Education.

Mrs Cathy Armstrong will take a well-earned year leave for 2022.

We say a sad farewell to Mrs Nicola Ford and wish her every success in her future endeavours.

This year we said a farewell to stalwart staff member Mrs Gina Hall and we welcomed Mr Ali Shah into the financial role.

We also said farewell to Mr Frank Ierace our Groundsman and welcomed Mr Bradley Hoglin as our Groundsman.

At the end of the year we also say farewell to Mrs Flavia Lenzo who has been working in the office this year. We wish her all the best for the future.

I would like to acknowledge all staff for their hard work and dedication.

The OSHC team have continued to provide a wonderful service to our school in 2021.

Mrs Potts has been an outstanding assistant principal this year.

In conclusion, I wish each of you very safe ,enjoyable, happy Christmas and summer holiday and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.