

St Anthony's School Principal's Report: Therese Bandy

I have been very fortunate to be welcomed into a school of committed, highly professional staff, a supportive and proactive community of parents and carers, and students who strive to give their best each day. As the incoming principal of St Anthony's it has been wonderful to continue to build upon the journey of what it means to be a St Anthony's School student, a St Anthony's School parent/community member and a St Anthony's School staff member. Our values:

*Giving our Personal best;
Modelling faith in Action;
Embracing Diversity and difference;
Being United; and
Appreciating and respecting each person equally.*

remain at the forefront of how we do things at St Anthony's School and underpin all our interactions, initiatives and programs. These are reflected on regularly in classrooms, in the playground, at assemblies and in our decision making. There are also opportunities to reflect on these at home through the newsletter, our student awards and other communications.

As a newly installed principal, I am thankful for the strong relationship that exists between the school and the parish and that this continued when the Servites resumed their presence in our parish. In collaboration with the parish students have had the opportunity to receive the Initiation Sacraments of Communion and Confirmation and First Penance for our Year 3 students. Throughout the year children have participated in class liturgies, class masses, whole school masses and the sacrament of Penance. The support of Parish Priests has been wonderful.

Working around COVID lockdowns, families have participated in whole school masses, a Maths Engagement night, an open classrooms evening and our Grandparents' Day all of which were very successful. Senior students participated in Mater Dei's Whadjuk Gift program with several other schools. Beyond our school community, staff participation in Collaborative Catholic Communities, the ECU Speech and OT Project, and University Connect have again been well received. St Anthony's Mini Vinnies have assisted our local St Vincent de Paul Conference, demonstrating responsibility and compassion in replenishing local supplies and understanding how the Conference helps people in our local community.

We have reflected on what we do well as a school and fully implemented the COVID review initiatives that were determined by staff in 2020. The concept of professional development for teachers by teachers has been powerful both for staff presenting and staff participants. Staff peer mentoring through a reimagining of Cluster Meetings and Stand-up meetings has focused our improvement goals. Best practise writing strategies include further refinement of the Seven Steps to Writing Success program and the introduction of "Cold" and "Hot" tasks to better identify individual student's areas for development and assess student improvement. Staff peer tutoring has also focused on spelling, including a trial of the Words Their Way program, and Maths critical thinking skills. NAPLAN results have been positive although the disruptions of 2020 and earlier this year have had some effect on overall standing in some areas.

Learning opportunities for our students beyond the classroom include excursions, incursions, before and after school programs, camp, swimming lessons, performing arts and many extracurricular activities that provide additional experiences. Specialist areas of Physical Education, Science, Music, Art and Italian have complimented classroom programs.

We have continued our many sustainability initiatives including our vegetable gardens, soft plastics recycling, worm farms, composting, Nude Food Tuesday, Waste Free Wednesday and waste audits to better improve our understanding of our impact in attempting to reduce waste.

The School Advisory Council's Capital Development Plan to build the Community Centre has begun to take shape after the COVID related delays of 2020. The offices, extension to the staff room and the extra bathrooms for staff and visitors have an expected finish date in late January, 2022.

Exciting developments for 2022 include a focus on student and staff well-being, an extension of the Kindergarten day to 8.40am-2.45 and the inclusion of Kindy students in the PE and Music programs, the introduction of a sequential phonics, spelling and reading program called InitialLit into PP to Year 2. Reading Recovery will be replaced with the MiniLit support program for Yr 1 & 2 students. Yr 3-6 students who may need support will continue with the LLI program for 2022. Mrs King will be developing the Community Centre through connection and partnerships with outside agencies. Our homework procedure will be revisited to include the re-introduction of homework in 2022. And finally, for now, the Years 4 and 6 will swap rooms to allow for better alignment of year levels throughout the school.

St Anthony's School reports to the State and Federal Government, as well as Catholic Education Western Australia and we pride ourselves on providing timely and accurate data. The school has up to date and accessible CEWA policies and school procedures that guide staff and community processes.

Thank you to St Anthony's School staff, Fr Ben at the start of 2021, to Fr Peter and Fr Leonard and the parish, the committed School Advisory Council members and the hard-working P&F Executive and members for your invaluable support throughout the year. To the parents, carers and wider community, thank you for your contributions to the life of our school in 2021. It has been a delight to be accepted into such a vibrant community and I look forward to working further with you all for the benefit of our students.

Best wishes and God bless

Therese Bandy
Principal