

Board Chairman's Report

2018 marks the end of my two year term as Chair of this wonderful school.

I encourage parents to consider volunteering to serve at the school in some capacity including a place on the Board.

You will obtain much joy from serving and making the school an even better place for all our students. In my time on the Board, I have discovered a much better understanding of the many things that the Principal, Assistant Principals, teachers and staff do every day to create a safe and positive learning environment for our children. They are constantly learning and developing new strategies. Often they are leading the way in terms of improving the education of children.

In 2018, we were lucky to have an influx of "new talent" on the Board. Each parent of this school can be confident that the members of your Board have the skills required and the passion to ensure that the school operates effectively.

Damian Boardman leaves the Board this year, and I wish to acknowledge my appreciation for his work on the Board over the last two years.

A special mention is also required for Sam Berlingeri. Sam has served in the difficult position of Treasurer for two years and has kindly agreed to continue that role.

The Board appreciates the ongoing support of our Principal, Mark Marando and Assistant Principals, John Topliss and Dee Johnston.

Sadly, we are losing the valuable services of two of our "John's". Dr John Topliss is leaving us to take up a senior lecturing position at the Catholic Institute, after serving for 11 years.

Our beloved Fr John Daly left earlier this year. He has been called to a new role in the far flung region of Mundaring. His presence, also over 11 years will always be remembered.

During the year the Board approved some more improvements to the play equipment used by our younger students. There are always works and improvements being considered. The Board truly appreciates the ongoing support of the P&F committee – especially with fund raising for these important projects.

I wish the entire school community a safe and wonderful Christmas.

Colin Kaeser
St Anthony's School Chair

P&F Report

Firstly, I would like to thank our P&F Executive Committee – Laura Stumpers (Vice President), Mel Matta (Treasurer), and Emily Evans (Secretary), for their tireless efforts and support throughout the year. I also need to thank our Class Reps, some of whom have held the role for a few years in a row now, and then to some new faces who have added good ideas and points of view to our community, which are always welcome. The Class Reps have been very supportive and enthusiastic about the fundraising event they coordinated during the year. Class Reps have continued to change the notice boards at the front and back of the school, with each year group committing to a five week block throughout the year. Additionally, to all the parents who attended meetings, made donations or helped with fundraising, we thank you all.

This year, we have kept up our communication with our Facebook page that was introduced four years ago. With over 200 families now on our page, community spirit is thriving. We have found this page a great way to keep parents informed of upcoming events and fundraising activities. The P&F For Sale page and Business Directory linked to our Facebook page, have also continued to be a great success for families.

We have had a strong focus on community spirit with our first event of the year being a free family movie night with a bouncy castle, along with a selection of homemade pasta for sale for dinner. This event proved to be a great success and we would like to continue to do this at the beginning of the year to welcome new families and continue to build community spirit. We continued with our fundraising events with the Entertainment Books, Easter Raffle, and Bunnings Sausage Sizzle. We hosted our school's first Colour Run. These fundraisers could not have been successful if not for the parents' support and enthusiasm.

Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day stalls were a hit again this year, where children could purchase a variety of gifts for their parents. Fathers' Night was celebrated again with our dads and families who enjoyed a sausage sizzle and one lucky dad took home a wheelbarrow full of goodies. Our end of year disco for 3+ to Year 3, hosted by Big Mouth Productions, was a hit with our kids. Year 4-6 students enjoyed a pizza and movie night under the stars.

This year, we had the school bricks on offer to families, including updated bricks for past school Principals, Assistant Principals and Priests. The bricks proved to be very popular with families wishing to add their names to the entrance bricks already placed in the school.

Teachers have again been provided with a substantial wish list and funds were given for the purchase of new reading books and maths supplies. The library has been provided with funds to create an outdoor space for the students to read, while having nature surrounding them. We have also funded a subscription to an App to support the students' learning.

We would like to say a big thank you to Mr Mark Marando, whose tireless efforts and enthusiasm in helping the P&F have been greatly appreciated. Thank you to Dr John Topliss and Mrs Dee Johnston for supporting us in organising dates and class schedules for our events. Thank you to Jan, Gill and Donna in the office for your continued support throughout the year.

Personally, I would like to thank everyone who continued to support me this year. I do enjoy fundraising and helping to build a strong, positive spirit within our school. Many events are already being planned for the coming year and I look forward to continuing to contribute to the P&F in 2018.

Thank you
Julie Callus
P&F President

Principal's Report

In 2018, our focus has been to express and develop our vision around what it means to be a St Anthony's School student, St Anthony's School parent/community member and a St Anthony's School staff member. As a whole, we are establishing "The St Anthony's Way" to ensure that all who are involved in our community enjoy their association with our school and experience growth and development through this association. The vision and culture of our school will determine the quality of its relationships and strengthen the way we interact with each other for the benefit of our children. A positive relationship between home and school not only helps to sustain a good school culture where children feel they belong and can grow, but goes a long way in achieving better results for all students. Good relationships and positive school culture also create a calm environment which reduces anxiety and enables children to learn, grow and collaborate in an environment where it's safe to make mistakes, be innovative and think critically.

We are very fortunate at St Anthony's School to have a committed, highly professional staff, a supportive and proactive community of parents and carers and thoughtful students who strive to give their best each day. Each and every member of our school is an excellent ambassador of our school values:

*We will each give our Personal best;
We will each model faith in Action;
We will embrace Diversity and difference;
We will be United; and
We will Appreciate and respect each person equally.*

Our achievements for 2018 will be outlined under the Catholic Education Western Australia System Strategic Direction of LEAD – Learning, Engagement, Accountability and Discipleship.

Learning

This year, we have continued our journey of implementing best practice teaching strategies to create the most effective learning opportunities for our students. We have focused on improving student writing skills and have developed best practice guidelines, data walls and genre scope and sequence documents to complement this.

Our Year 6 classes entered the Australian STEM Video Game Challenge where they were required to create their own video game. They entered in the Years 5 to 8 Open Division and were successful in being the National winners. Of the top six teams in this category across Australia, four were from St Anthony's School. This is an outstanding achievement.

Our Year 3 and 5 students completed NAPLAN assessments in line with national policy. We trialled NAPLAN online with all test components with the exception of Year 3 Writing which was completed on paper. Our Year 3 students were above the national average in all aspects of the testing, except Reading, which was slightly under the national average. Our Year 5 students were slightly above the national average in Mathematics and are closing the gap on average in the other areas. A great majority of students were above national minimum standard - 99% of Year 3 students and 85% of Year 5 students were above the minimum standard in Grammar and Punctuation; 93% of Year 3 and 91% of Year 5 students were above the minimum standard in Mathematics; 89% of Year 3 and 88% of Year 5 students were above the minimum standard in Reading; 95% of Year 3 students and 87% of Year 5 students were above the minimum standard in Spelling; and 95% of Year 3 students and 82% of Year 5 students were above the minimum standard in Writing. Our writing focus this year has resulted in an overall 7 point average growth from Year 3 to Year 5, closing the gap to the national mean for growth. This data, with other data including standardised testing and class records, is utilised to inform our teaching and cater for the learning needs of our students.

We have continued to present learning opportunities for our students beyond the classroom by including various excursions, incursions and before and after school programs that provide additional experiences for our students. Specialist areas of Physical Education, Science, Music, Art and Italian have accompanied classroom programs and students have also been involved in camp, swimming lessons, performing arts and many extracurricular activities.

Throughout the year, parent information and curriculum nights have occurred in Religious Education including Sacramental information, Literacy and Information Technology. It was great to see parents and their children learning together at our Parent and Child Writing Night.

Our Junior Primary have continued to implement the Early Years Learning Framework and have developed and promoted our Early Childhood Charter in line with our Vision for Learning.

Engagement

One of the strengths of our school is the multicultural nature of our population. Earlier in the year a survey went home to help us determine the nationality and family background of our community. Visible signage including family heritage and flags symbolising these was installed in the school to help our students understand and promote the school values of *We will be united, We will each embrace diversity and difference, and We will appreciate and respect each person equally*

The relationship that has been established in past years with Edith Cowan University, the City of Wanneroo and our local Federal Member of Parliament, to help us access early intervention initiatives continues and this year we made greater progress towards cementing long term projects that will benefit our community.

Our relationship with St Vincent de Paul was extended to include a donation bin on site so that all community members can contribute. This adds to the Mini Vinnies program, Winter and Christmas Appeals, class mass offertory donations and the staff Christian Service Program at St Vincent de Paul.

As a school, we successfully implemented the Collaborative Catholic Communities initiative, where a relationship was formed with six local Catholic schools to focus on building staff leadership capacity and achieving greater outcomes for students.

Being part of the City of Wanneroo, students and staff have had the opportunity to attend City of Wanneroo functions and strategic planning days. These have been of benefit to our school and have also helped to form the future vision for the City of Wanneroo.

Accountability

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 policies that guide staff and community processes.

Our staff participate in Instructional Walks regularly to maintain school priorities. This year, our Education Assistant Team worked hard to implement Education Assistant specific instructional walks.

In regards to building and maintenance, the School Board has developed Capital Development and Maintenance Committees which look at short term and long term maintenance and capital development opportunities. Some of the improvements and maintenance items that have been completed this year include:

Pre Primary Gold carpet replacement, public address outdoor speaker upgrade, kitchen and staffroom refurbishment, family cultural heritage signage, courtyard pot plants, lawn and garden refurbishment, cabinetry in the library office, outdoor noticeboards, pinup boards, defibrillator in the office and many minor maintenance items.

Discipleship

We are thankful for the strong relationship that exists between school and parish. Midway through the year we farewelled Fr John who had been with us for eleven years. Fr John has moved to Sacred Heart Parish in Mundaring. We also welcomed Fr Ben who came to us from St John's in Scarborough.

Each class at St Anthony's School follows the approved Religious Education Guidelines and this is a critical part of our school and culture. Student meditation and class prayer tables that reflect the church season complement this. We have continued to collaborate with the parish to provide students the opportunity to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Students have also been involved in class liturgies, class masses and whole school masses.

The 86th St Anthony of Padua Annual Festival and Procession took place in June and was well attended and supported by school students and families. This year, we again asked students and families to support the event and for students to attend the procession in school uniform. There was an excellent representation from the school and the day was a great success.

To complement our school charisms; Mercy, McAuley, Peregrine and Servite, new school house banners were made. These were used at the House Athletics Carnival and can be used for school events.

Laudato Si` is Pope Francis' call to look after our common home – the Earth. This year, we established the Laudato Si` vegetable garden and have implemented strategies to reduce waste in our school environment.

Thank you to St Anthony's School staff, Fr John, Fr Ben and the parish, School Board and P&F Executive members, parents, carers and community members for your contributions to our school in 2018. It has been a pleasure working with you for the benefit of our students.

Best wishes and God bless,

Mark Marando
Principal