

# Principal's Report

It has been a pleasure being part of the St Anthony's School community in 2014. I was fortunate to be provided with the opportunity to join this community from Term 3 this year and have met many wonderful students, parents, staff and a supportive Parish and wider community. I would like to thank Mr Nic Gaglia for his leadership of the school for the last eighteen months and for his dedication and care in this role. He is a great asset to our school and I am appreciative of his support and assistance in assisting my transition into St Anthony's.

In a very short time, it is evident that we are all here for the benefit, development and growth of our fantastic students - a cohort who demonstrates care for each other, respect for our school and a willingness to be their best. As a community, with the child at the centre, the home and school share a great responsibility to work together to build a strong foundation for learning for our students.

In 2014, we catered for approximately 450 students from over 300 families in Kindy to Year 6. We also provided a successful three year old program and have operated a parent driven playgroup. Plans were made this year, utilising a parent committee, to engage a before and after school care program that will commence operation onsite in Term 1, 2015.

We are fortunate at St Anthony's School to have a parent community who is involved in school life in various capacities. Weekly, we experience the generosity of parents in the canteen, uniform shop, assistance in class programs, membership in committees and assistance at various carnivals and extra curricular activities. I would like to thank all parents and carers for their contributions. We also have parents involved in school governance and I would like to especially thank the School Board and P&F Executive for their constant guidance and support and for going above and beyond to provide for our students and to build community. It is a pleasure to work collaboratively with such component and focused groups of parent leaders.

As a staff this year, we have continued to build on our partnership with two other Catholic schools, Padbury Catholic Primary School and Our Lady of Mercy, Girrawheen. This partnership is focused on building teacher capacity and ultimately improving outcomes for our students. We were acknowledged at the annual LEAD Awards in Term 3 for this partnership and were successful in winning an Engagement Award. This semester, we have also been working on developing cohesion and alignment across year levels and developing a common language when communicating student development. I would like to thank the staff for their commitment and support of our students and for their dedication to our school.

St Anthony's School is strongly supported by the Parish of St Anthony of Padua. We are blessed to have Father John and Father Thomas involved with our school and I wish to thank them and the Parish community for being consistently available for our students, parents and staff. We appreciate the relationship we have with our Parish and value the positive influence you have on our school.

Most importantly, I want to thank our students, who are the reason our school exists. It has been a privilege learning with you this year. We wish our Year 6 students well for high school and beyond. You are always welcome to come back and visit your school. We pray that you will continue to follow the school motto and be a light beneath the feet of others in your life journey.

God bless

Mark Marando

# BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2014 has proven to be another busy and eventful year for the school and its Board. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Board Members for the time and effort they have all put in. Thank you to our newest member, Amanda Hamilton, Jo Steel, Darryl Hodgson and Christine Susac. Ruth Barker continued as the P & F Representative and also took on the added task of Board Secretary to ensure all our minutes were maintained and organised. Anthony Parker took on the arduous task of Board Treasurer and once again did a fantastic job. Gabrielle Murphy also continued as the Parish Representative. Our Principals Nic Gaglia (Terms 1 and 2) and Mark Marando (Terms 3 and 4) along with Fr John, Fr Tom and our Assistant Principals, John Topliss, Dee Johnston and Nic Gaglia completed our Board.

These Board Members continue in their endeavours to assist in any way they can and their efforts are greatly appreciated.

This year say farewell Jo Steel and Christine Susac. We thank both these ladies for their contributions to St Anthony's over the many years they have both been here. Jo has served on the Board for the last four years and previous to this was our P & F President for three years. Christine has been on the Board for the past two years, has also served as Class Representative and most of the school community will also recognise her from her time in the Uniform Shop. We wish you both well and once again thank you for your time and efforts.

## Projects

2014 has been a much quieter year on the building and upgrading front compared to previous years. Apart from the general maintenance and up keep of the school grounds, we have had the following improvements:-

New carpets to the Year 6 Block  
Upgrade of the speaker system throughout the school.  
New TVs were purchased and installed into the Year 5 Block.  
Additional signage was placed in the school car park to aid with traffic flow

## Initiatives

The EMU program continued to assist children in Year 2 with their Mathematical development.  
Reading Recovery, now in its eighth year, has once again assisted many children.  
The Early Childhood Speech and Language Program continues to be of great benefit to the children in our Kindergarten by identifying Speech and OT needs.  
Our Performing Arts program again shone this year with children from Year 1 up taking part. Congratulations to all students and Ms Fiona Clancy for coordinating this. Special congratulations to the Year 1 and Year 2 Choirs and the Year 5 Dance Group for receiving Certificates of Merit.

The Board would also like to mention the P & F for once again funding smaller classroom initiatives and Teachers' Wish Lists. All of which benefit the students greatly.

Good luck to our Year Six Students who will be leaving St Anthony's at the conclusion of this term. We wish you every success in whatever the future may bring.

## Acknowledgements

The Board would like to thank the following people for their efforts in 2014:

Gabrielle Murphy and Christine Susac for once again running the school Uniform Shop. Thank you for your time and effort.

The P & F, most notably the P & F Executive, Melissa Matta, Alison Van Beek and Gill Gauntlett, for their continued support of the teachers and the whole school community with fundraising and community events. Our front office staff, Donna Geddes and Jan Williams. Donna began with us in Term 2 and has been a valued member of our staff. Thank you both for all of your assistance throughout the year.

Our wonderful teaching staff who always go above and beyond for all the students and families of St Anthony's. This year has seen many changes to staff and we have both farewelled and welcomed some amazing people from/to our School. To those we have said goodbye to, or are about to say goodbye to, we thank you for all that you have done over the years. You have been with us, and for some this has been many years. We wish you all the best in your future endeavours and hope to see your familiar faces back very soon. To our new staff members we hope your time at St Anthony's has and continues to be enlightening and enjoyable.

John Topliss, Dee Johnston and Nic Gaglia for your invaluable contributions as Assistant Principals. Finally our Principals of 2014. Earlier this year we said goodbye to Peter Cutrona. Peter had been Principal for 7 years (with the last 12 months spent at CEO). We thank Peter for his dedication to the school and the community. During his time, St Anthony's became a double stream school and had many builds and changes along the way. We thank Peter for his support and wish him good luck in his new position at St Kieran.

During Peter's secondment to CEO we were lucky enough to have Nic Gaglia as Acting Principal. Nic did an amazing job in his 18 months in the position and we thank him for his support and guidance during this time.

In Term 3 we welcomed Mark Marando to our school. Mark brings a wealth of experience and ideas which already are having a positive impact on our school. We look forward to what the future holds for St Anthony's with Mark as Principal.

Many Thanks

Lisa Carter  
School Board Chair 2014

# P&F Report

Wow ... another productive and successful year is nearly at an end!

Firstly, I have to thank our new Secretary, Alison Van Beek, for stepping in and taking up the role at short notice this year. Alison, with the help of our Treasurer Gill, has made it feel like the three of us have worked together forever. I also need to thank all our Class Reps, some of whom have taken up the role a few years in a row now, and some new faces who have added good ideas and points of view to our community. Additionally, to all the parents who attend meetings, donate or fundraise, we thank you!

This year we have kept up our communication with our Facebook page that we introduced last year. With over 200 families now on our page, communication and community spirit is thriving. We have found this page to be a great way to stay in touch and keep parents informed of up and coming events and fundraising activities. This year we also introduced the For Sale page and also a Business Directory to our Facebook site. These have proved a great success.

Our fundraising this year was kept to a minimum after a very busy and prosperous year last year. We continued with our main fundraising events such as the Fun Run, Entertainment Books and our Bunnings and Masters BBQs, which helped to create a healthy fundraising balance. None of these fundraisers could have been as successful if not for the parents who volunteered their time and enthusiasm.

We continued our community spirit with the Mother's Day High Tea, which again proved popular and a great success. Congratulations to our lovely Mum who was present to collect her winning Thermomix. With up to 100 mums again this year we had a great afternoon with lots of laughs and many prizes to go around.

Father's Night was celebrated again with our dads, who enjoyed a light meal and one lucky dad took home a wheelbarrow full of goodies!! Our discos hosted by Melanie from Bop Till You Drop were again a hit with our kids. They were kept entertained the whole night and by the look of it, we could have some potential dancing stars in our midst!

This year we saw the erection of the new cubby house in our Kindy/Pre-primary area funded by the P&F. We hope this provides many hours of fun for the children, as well as developing important skills. Teachers have again been provided with a substantial wish list and funds were given to the lower primary for books, together with Lexile books for upper primary.

We farewelled Peter Cutrona this year and Acting Principal Nic Gaglia resumed his teaching role and position as Assistant Principal. We thank them both, especially Mr Gaglia for his support and commitment in helping the P&F over the last year. We also welcomed new Principal Mark Marando. With his enthusiasm and approachability we look forward to continuing to build a strong sense of community within the school. Also a big thank you to Jan and Donna in the office who continually support us.

Personally I would like to thank everyone who continued to help and support me this year. I do thoroughly 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 working with, and offering support to the P&F in whatever capacity I can over the next twelve months.

Have a safe and happy Christmas break and I look forward to seeing you all in 2015!

Melissa Matta