

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

2016 was a very significant year for our school being the 170th anniversary of Ursula Frayne and the Sisters of Mercy arriving at Barrack Street Jetty, Western Australia. In this 170 years, the Sisters of Mercy and their agencies have achieved great successes in Australia in the fields of education, care and social service. St Anthony's School was founded by the sisters of Mercy in 1935. This year, to commemorate our link, we had the head of Mercy Works come and speak to our students and staff. Student leaders joined students from other Mercy schools and retraced the journey made down the Swan River by Ursula Frayne and Catherine McAuley. Roses were planted at the school side entrance near the library; these are marked with a plaque outlining their significance. This year we had the opportunity to reflect on this great milestone and to appreciate being part of the larger Mercy community.

Our achievements for 2016 will be outlined under the Catholic Education Western Australia System Strategic Direction of LEAD - Learning, Engagement, Accountability and Discipleship.

Learning

In regard to learning, we have continued to focus on Mathematics and developing consistent approaches across the school. We completed our final year of the OUR Network project looking at developing our vision for learning and implementing a culture of success and growth for our students, community and ourselves. Part of this was to communicate regularly the importance between school and home relationships for the benefit of our children. A student who sees the home and school in collaboration in an environment where learning is valued and where there is mutual respect between home and school is more likely to succeed. To emphasise this, we held a range of parent evenings that included Literacy, Numeracy and Technology presentations. Our Year 3 and 5 students completed NAPLAN assessments in line with national policy. Our Year 3 students were above the national average in three out of the four areas assessed and our Year 5s, though below national average as a whole, had made very significant gains since their Year 3 assessment two years ago. This is important data as it shows that we are experiencing growth in what our students are achieving. This is only some of the data that is used to track students' achievement and progress and as a staff we are collecting and utilising data to inform our teaching and to monitor our students.

As a staff we have been involved in various learning this year and have implemented a school improvement team across the school including representatives responsible for Literacy, Numeracy, Curriculum, Student Support, Education Assistants and Leadership. This has helped us to think and plan strategically for current and future success.

Our staff have also developed and been involved in instructional walks. We have identified criteria from best practice research on good teaching and learning, and our staff regularly visit classrooms in groups and provide feedback to each other on areas where there is evidence of good teaching and learning, and areas that may require further attention. This process has resulted in representatives from several schools visiting, to learn from the process and take this back to their own schools. A group of principals in the region also visited the school and were involved in the experience. We were recognised for excellence in this area at the annual Catholic Education Western Australia Lead Awards and were successful in winning an Award of Merit.

This year, 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. Specialist areas of Physical Education, Science, Music, Drama, Art and Italian have accompanied classroom programs and students have also been involved in camp, swimming lessons, performing arts and many extracurricular activities.

Our junior primary staff have continued to work at implementing our early childhood philosophy including the Early Years Framework and National Quality Standards, and we have been able to include a nature playground in the Pre Primary, Kindy, 3+ Program and Playgroup playground with the help of a staff and parent committee.

Engagement

This year, we released our new website including up to date and more detailed information for community members to access. This included a new newsletter format and by the end of 2016 a parent handbook will be released and available on the website. This year we held many community events, from masses and assemblies to P&F supported events such as our Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day activities. We again held our Grandparents' Day earlier in the year with an excellent attendance and many children proud to show their grandparents and grandparent figures around their classrooms and school.

The new student leadership model was implemented this year which included the reintroduction, after an absence of approximately ten years, of the roles of Head and Deputy Head Boys and Girls, House Captains, Vice Captains and the ministries established in previous years were continued. The students adapted to their roles effectively and confidence was built in this area as the year progressed. Students demonstrated greater responsibility for their school and for each other and many flourished with the opportunity to build their leadership capacity.

Our strong relationship with the St Anthony of Padua Parish continues and there was significant attention placed on the co-responsibility of the school and parish to maintain the memory of past student Terry Prunster, and the scholarship that is provided in his honour. Students of the school became actively involved in fundraising and this not only provided financial assistance but promoted and taught them about Terry Prunster. Our Year 6 Leaders held a mini fete and free dress day to raise money and the profile of the fund.

St Anthony's School is part of the City of Wanneroo and we have been fortunate to have the opportunity to be involved in strategic planning sessions hosted by the City. This has included our students attending events such as Youth Speak, to give their perspective and vision for what they would like the area to provide into the future.

ECU Health Campus is located very close to the school on Dundee Road and we have commenced conversations this year on developing a relationship that will provide essential early intervention for our students and also provide real life learning for university students undertaking studies in Occupational Therapy, Speech and Psychology. This will require extensive planning and consultation but it is a relationship that we hope to foster so as to provide better outcomes for students.

Accountability

St Anthony's School reports to the State and Federal Government as well as the 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.

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:

Nature playground, planting of additional trees; upgrading of cricket nets; additional window installations; increase of internet bandwidth, additional wireless access points, external painting program, addition of reverse cycle air conditioners in break out areas; update of reticulation and many minor maintenance items.

Discipleship

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 has also been introduced to 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. A recent feature of students attending masses is that students are asked, if possible, to bring a non-perishable item which is donated to the St Vincent de Paul Society to assist those in our community in need. This helps students to reflect on the privileged situation that they are in and also to understand that there are people in our community who require our assistance and that we need to express consideration, service and care for.

The 84th Annual St Anthony of Padua 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.

Staff continued the Christian Service program which requires staff to visit and assist agencies in our community. This was the third year that this has taken place and is an opportunity for us to put our faith in action.

Our school values have been visible in the undercover area for some time and signage has been added to classrooms. As a staff we believed that it was important for us to recognise and acknowledge students who demonstrated the school values consistently. This resulted in the introduction of the PADUA Awards this year which reflect our values:

We will each give our **P**ersonal best;
We will each model faith in **A**ction;
We will embrace **D**iversity and difference;
We will be **U**nited;
We will **A**ppreciate and respect each person equally.

These values help us to live our school motto "A light beneath our feet" in our daily lives.

Our school would not be able to offer the extensive experiences we provide without supportive families, a supportive parish and committed and caring staff. I would like to thank the St Anthony's School staff, Fr John and the Parish, School Board members, P&F Executive members, parents, carers and community members for their contributions and dedication to our school and students in 2016.

Mark Marando

Principal

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This year has been a year of quiet activity for St Anthony's School. I would like to thank my fellow Board Members for their time and effort. Our Board Members are all busy with life but are unfailing in their generosity to our school. Current members Rachel Sinagra, Amanda Hamilton and I welcomed Kim Donnelly, Illona Perovic and Diarmuid McDonagh to the table. Kim took on the role of Secretary in addition to her role as Treasurer of the Swim Club. Laura Stumpers stayed with us as P & F representative. Gabriella Murphy continued her contribution as Parish representative, increasing her Board involvement to take on the role of Treasurer, as well as running the Uniform Shop. Dee Johnston as Assistant Principal, solo in Term One, along with John Topliss returning in Term Two after winning a CEWA scholarship in Term One and Fr John Daly complete the Board to assist our Principal, Mark Marando.

Projects and maintenance.

- The airconditioning programme continues with units installed in the breakout areas for Years 4-5 and Years 1-3. Other units have been serviced.
- Kindy and Pre Primary have benefited from an improvement to their playground which has proven very popular. This included installation of a concrete bike circuit, repairs to the shade sails and additions to the gardens.
- The external walls of the school were painted this year.
- Photocopiers/printers were upgraded.
- Our wireless bandwidth was increased to reflect the increased need and additional wireless access points were installed.
- Reticulation pipes, solenoids and brick paving have been repaired.
- Our school waste service was reviewed and a paper recycling component was instituted.

Staff

We welcomed at the start of the year Carmel South and Samantha Spadaro. Later, we also welcomed Belinda Boardman and Natasha Luca to our ranks. We farewelled Michelle Broomfield and also Lauren Allan, who has expanded her family. Dee Johnston was made permanent in her role as Assistant Principal. Mark Marando received a good report in his review.

Initiatives and Events

- Year 6 camp always gets the year off to a good start, with many leadership skills learnt and practiced.
- Our Natureplay development continues.
- At the Grandparents Mass, we again celebrated family ties with many showing that the occasion was enjoyed by all and giving our students the chance to show the quality of our school. The generosity of parents in assisting with this event is immense and we thank you.

- OSH Club grows in popularity.
- Parent Workshops in Numeracy, Literacy and CyberSecurity have been held.
- A Parent Resource Centre has been initiated.
- Performing Arts provides our students with opportunities to excel on a broader stage.
- The Terry Prunster Scholarship Fund has been topped up with over \$2500. We thank the Parish for their assistance and congratulate the Year Sixes on their initiative.
- Board sub-committees have been implemented in the areas of Finance, Maintenance, Capital Development and ICT.
- We have implemented a regular donation of food items to St Vincent de Paul when each class celebrates Mass.
- We have celebrated 170 years of the Sisters of Mercy in Australia by planting three Catherine McAuley roses in our rose garden.

I congratulate our P & F on a successful year. Rachel, Mel, Gill and Emily are tireless in their efforts to improve our school life. Many thanks.

The staff of our school are unfailingly enthusiastic and energetic. Special thanks go to the front office staff for their particular support to the Board. Jan Williams, Donna Geddes, Kylie Warnock and Linda Jolliffe have made our job much easier. Nicole Crosthwaite, Ben Wynne and Janine Maitland have provided parent information evenings. Other staff have run development sessions for the rest of the school. We are sad to farewell Mrs Kaye Gilkison who has run dancing lessons as part of our sports curriculum for many, many years. We wish her a relaxed retirement.

The canteen, library, committees, swim club, netball, carnivals and class excursions are all reliant on parental assistance. Thank you all.

Gabriella Murphy runs the Uniform Shop with great efficiency with assistance from Michelle Kaeser and other parents throughout the year.

We are lucky to have Fr John Daly as our priest. He is unfailingly good humoured and interested in our children. I know his wisdom and energy are valued by everyone.

We wish our Year 6 classes all the very best success with their future studies. I am sure life will hold many adventures.

I am retiring from the Board this year after 4 years. I would like to thank all the members over the years for their assistance and advice. Lastly, a personal thank you to Mark Marando who shows us the way, providing the light from unto our feet. I wish him all success as he takes St Anthony's into 2017.

Ruth Barker

Board Chair

P&F REPORT

It has been an interesting and busy year and a new experience for me as first time President of the P&F. I have had wonderful support in the role – thank you so much to Mel Matta, Gill Gauntlett and Emily Evans, who have worked tirelessly this year to ensure all activities and functions have proceeded smoothly.

Thank you also to the class representatives who have contributed many hours, as well as taking on fundraising roles to assist in making the P & F effective. I would also like to thank the parents who have volunteered their time to attend meetings, contributed through donations and assisted with fundraising activities.

We have had many community events this year. Amongst the events we celebrated was the Mother's Day High Tea, where more than 100 of our school's Mothers were in attendance. Once again, as in previous years, one lucky Mum won the Thermo mix, which was up for grabs, while other Mums won prizes generously donated by members of our school community

The Father's Night was a big hit, ably run by our intrepid Class Reps as we served over 700 sausages. It was fabulous to see so many Dads and father figures in attendance.

In Term 1, our Class Reps stepped up and helped to organise and run the Disco Night for our Kindy to Year 3 students and a Movie night for our Year 4, 5 and 6 students. Our fundraising events this year included some old favourites, as well as some new ideas. Whilst we didn't manage to secure a Bunnings BBQ date this year, we did run an Election Day BBQ, to make the most of the passing voters.

Once again we raised funds through the Entertainment Books and the ever popular Easter Raffle. The Fun Run was organised differently this year, with the use of inflatable castles, which provided a lot of fun and entertainment for the children, whilst raising funds for the school.

New to our fundraising schedule were the family photo days and show bags. Both of these events proved to be popular enough for us to consider running again next year.

We also donated some funds to the school this year to assist with the ongoing Naturescape project.

Finally, a very big thank you to the school staff who have provided a great deal of assistance and guidance that has made my transition into this role so much easier. I especially thank Mark Marando, Dee Johnston and John Topliss, as well as Jan, Donna and Kylie in the office.

I look forward with anticipation to 2017 to see how many fabulous things the P & F can achieve.

Rachel Pederick

P&F President