

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

2017 was an excellent year for St Anthony's School and we have received much acknowledgement and recognition as a community for various initiatives. This year, we have had several schools and members of Catholic Education Western Australia visit us, to look at the teaching and learning that occurs in our school and the successful processes we have in place to ensure the growth of the whole child. Our staff, under the focus of "Good to Great," have grown from strength to strength and the level of collaboration between staff, for the benefit of each child, has been outstanding. We are very fortunate at St Anthony's School to have a committed and supportive community of parents and carers who work together with staff to obtain the best outcomes for our students. A positive relationship between home and school not only builds a good school culture where children feel they belong and can grow, but goes a long way in achieving better results for all students. The students at St Anthony's School have been well led by our Year 6 leaders and have shown a genuine care and concern for the wellbeing of all community members. All students are advocates of our school values and strive to live these daily.

Our achievements for 2017 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 our Mathematics focus and have experienced substantial growth in this area. Data walls, instructional walks and goal setting have been instrumental in setting a sound learning environment for our students. Research indicates that a staff who collaborates around a common purpose, with opportunities to come together and discuss learning practices regularly, has the greatest impact on student learning. Several teams exist in the school to ensure this happens at all levels. The staff have also been trained in coaching to ensure conversations are growth focused.

This year, our school was successful in winning a Catholic Education WA LEAD Award for excellence in Learning and Engagement with the Year 1 and 3 STEM project. This project enabled the Year 1 and 3 students to come together to think critically and implement Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics skills to develop and present solutions to problems. Based on this success, the project was embraced by other classrooms. We also had a nomination in the LEAD Awards for the social skills program that assists students to develop social skills through peer tutoring and play.

Our Year 3 and 5 students completed NAPLAN assessments in line with national policy. Students met targets that were set at the conclusion of 2016. Our Year 3 students were above the national average in all aspects of the testing and our Year 5 students were slightly above the national average in Mathematics and closing the gap on the average in other areas. We have identified Writing as an area of focus for our upper primary students. A great majority of students were above national minimum standard - 93% of Year 3 students and 95% of Year 5 students were above the minimum standard in Grammar and Punctuation; 100% of Year 3 and Year 5 students were above the minimum standard in Mathematics; 98% of Year 3 and Year 5 students were above the minimum standard in Reading; 98% of Year 3 students and 96.5% of Year 5 students were above the minimum standard in Spelling; and 100% of Year 3 students and 91.5% of Year 5 students were above the minimum standard in Writing. 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, Numeracy, and Information Technology. To build relationships in learning, we trialled a parent and child Numeracy evening which proved very successful. We aspire to implement this model in future parent evenings in 2018.

Our Junior primary have continued to implement the Early Years Learning Framework and have developed and promoted our Early Childhood Philosophy.

Engagement

In 2017, we have investigated and built relationships beyond the boundaries of our school. St Anthony's School has been part of the Wanneroo landscape for over 80 years and in that time, it has been a significant part of the community. We have continued successful relationships and have sought other opportunities that would be of benefit to our students and community.

A solid relationship exists with the University of Notre Dame and Edith Cowan University in terms of assisting to develop tomorrow's teachers. This year, we extended our relationship, with Edith Cowan University in Joondalup to commence an innovative relationship where university students studying Speech Therapy and Occupational Therapy are placed in our school to assist our junior primary students in these areas. This has been a joint project between Edith Cowan University, the City of Wanneroo and our Federal Member of Parliament driven by St Anthony's School. The impact of this is being researched in the hope that we can access funds to continue this project into the future. We also extended our impact on pre-service teachers by hosting a mentoring program at our school with the University of Notre Dame.

A parent handbook was developed in collaboration with the P&F to assist new families to transition into our school. This publication is on our website and families entering our school are made aware of this resource at enrolment interviews. The P&F have also hosted various Mother's Day and Father's Day events, and assisted with our Grandparent's Day and many other events, all of which have been very successful.

Our relationship with St Vincent de Paul continues to be strengthened with the implementation of the Mini Vinnies program which helps develop awareness of social justice in our community and gives our students the opportunity to give back. We have also continued to provide non-perishable food donations at class masses and our staff will be involved in Christian Service at the end of the year assisting St Vincent de Paul with their Christmas Appeal at the St Vincent de Paul headquarters.

Early discussions have occurred with Fr John and Principals of the three schools in our Parish, including St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School, Mater Dei College and St Anthony's School, on how we can better cater for the spiritual development of our students as a Catholic community. We look forward to continuing to build on this in 2018. The strong parish-school relationship we enjoy is flourishing and a committee to honour the memory of past student, Terry Prunster continues to be a common desire of both parish and school.

As a school, we are looking at ways of developing staff networks that will ultimately build staff capacity and lead to better outcomes for our students. St Anthony's School has led the formation of a network including six Catholic schools in the region and three staff have been charged with developing a framework for making this an effective process. This will begin at the end of this year with plans in place for regular collaboration.

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.

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:

Naturescape playground and Reflection Prayer Space (funded by the P&F), vegetable gardens, completion of Kindy/Pre Primary play area, undercover area re-flooring at the end of the year, Year 1/2 playground replacement, furniture upgrades, planting of additional trees; external painting program, lawn and garden refurbishment 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 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 85th 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.

House charisms have been presented in the undercover area to highlight the founders of our school and allow our students the ability to reflect on and aspire to the values associated with each house. Our school PADUA values are continually referred to and these are visible throughout the school. We also had the opportunity to update signage indicating significant parts of our school that highlight our Catholicity such as the *Mercy Walk*, *Jubilee Walk* and *Paddy Boyle Walk*.

Our prayer garden was developed and skilfully built by members of our Parish. This is an area where students can visit with their class to reflect, or by themselves and with friends at lunch times. Staff continued the Christian Service program this year focusing collectively on assisting the St Vincent de Paul Society. Together these actions help us to live our school motto "A light beneath our feet" and be the light at the feet of others.

Our school would not be the thriving learning Catholic community it is without our cohort of positive considerate students, supportive helpful families, a supportive welcoming parish and professional and caring staff.

Thank you to St Anthony's School staff, Fr John and the parish, School Board and P&F Executive members, parents, carers and community members for your contributions to our school in 2017. It has been a pleasure working with you for the benefit of our students.

Best wishes and God bless

Mark Marando

Principal

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2017 has been a year of change for the Board of St Anthony's. A number of new faces joined the Board including myself. I am very pleased to present my first report as Chair.

I would like to express my appreciation to the outgoing Board Members – Rachel Sinagra, Amanda Hamilton and Ruth Barker – who completed her term as Chair. Ruth's absence was short lived and we have been fortunate to retain Ruth's experience and passion as she took on the role of the P&F representative on the Board.

I want to welcome our new Board Members, Sam Berlinger and Damian Boardman and both have already made a significant impact. Sam kindly agreed to take on the task of Treasurer.

Our stalwarts – aka the existing Board Members have continued their valuable work this year as well – Kim Donnelly, Illona Perovic, Diarmuid McDonagh and Gabriella Murphy. The Board is also well supported by our Principal, Mark Marando and Assistant Principals, John Topliss and Dee Johnston. They do a remarkable job in running the school but are always open to the Board and help us do our work efficiently.

One must also never forget our beloved Fr John Daly and the wonderful teachers and administration staff who make up the fabric of our school.

Every person on the Board understands the importance of our role. We are entrusted with the duty to oversee what is required to ensure the present and future needs of students are met. Our planning is important so that our school can continue to be a leading light in education and so our children and future families will benefit from the systems and facilities that we help put in place.

Every parent member of the Board is a volunteer and we meet every month. We all do this because we love St Anthony's School and want to give back some service in return for all the guidance and support the school has shown our children.

One of the highlights for us this year was the construction of the Naturescape and the wonderful Reflection Prayer Space. This is a project that has been discussed for a long time and I am pleased to have seen it completed this year. By all accounts they are spaces that the students love to use.

Recently the Board approved some long awaited work in the Kindy/Pre-Primary area. The Code of Conduct was established this year. I encourage all parents to read it as it outlines minimum standards of conduct that apply to all staff, students, volunteers, parents and guardians. It can be found on the school's web page under School Information/ Policies and Procedures.

I look forward to another year helping to ensure our school remains a vibrant, safe and enjoyable place for our children.

Colin Kaeser

St Anthony's School Chair

P&F REPORT

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

Firstly, I have to thank our P & F Executive: Laura Stumpers, Vice President; Melissa Matta, Treasurer; and Emily Evans, Secretary; for their tireless efforts and support throughout the year. 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 then some new fresh faces who have added good ideas and points of views to our community which are always welcome. The Class Reps have taken on extra responsibility this year, with each year level taking on one fundraising event during the year and each year level doing a five-week block of changing the school notice boards at the front and back of the school. 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 three years ago. 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. The P & F For Sale page and also a Business Directory linked to our Facebook page have continued to be a great success for families.

We have had a strong focus on community involvement this year, with our first event of the year being a free family movie night, bouncy castle along with a selection of homemade pasta for dinner. This event proved to be a great success and we will continue to do this at the beginning of the year to welcome new families and continue to build community spirit. We continued with our main fundraising events with Entertainment Books, Showbags, Easter Raffle and our Bunnings sausage sizzle, which helped to create a healthy fundraising balance. These fundraisers could not have been as successful if not for the parents who volunteered their time and enthusiasm.

We continued our community spirit events with our 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 70 mums again this year, we had a great afternoon with lots of laughs and many prizes to go around. We reintroduced the Mother's Day and Father's Day Stall, where students could purchase a variety of gifts for their parents. The students enjoyed coming up and buying something special for their parents to take home with them. Father's 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 Kindergarten to Year 3 students hosted by Melanie from Bop Till You Drop, was 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! Years 4 - 6 enjoyed pizza and movie under the stars.

This year, we saw the completion of the new Naturescape in our Junior primary area. We hope to see this provide many children with hours of fun as well as developing important skills. The Reflection Prayer Space has also been completed and allows classes to come out and reflect and pray in a beautiful quiet place. The Pre-Primary playground has acquired a new Mud Kitchen and their nature play area has had its finishing touches to provide the children with an amazing way to develop their physical abilities and allowing their imaginations to run wild.

Teachers have again been provided with a substantial wish list and funds were given to the lower school for books, together with Lexile books for the upper years. Maths supplies have been purchased to provide students with more hands-on activities.

A big thank you to our Principal, Mark Marando, whose tireless efforts and enthusiasm in helping the P & F have been greatly appreciated. Thank you to Jan and Donna in the office for your continued support throughout the year.

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 over the next twelve months

Have a safe and happy Christmas break and I look forward to seeing you all in 2018!

Julie Callus

President of P & F.