



2016 AGM PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Good evening and a warm welcome to everyone.

Taking up the position as the newly appointed Principal in a school helps one understand the feelings and anxiety of a child commencing school for the first time. There are so many people to meet and so many customs and traditions to uphold. Thankfully though, the period of anxiety was short lived and I have come to experience the richness of community life at St John Paul II.

It has been a year of firsts as the school underwent a name change from the commencement of the school year. No longer Banksia Grove Catholic Primary, SJP2 is now our patron saint.

Religious Education:

In our first year as St John Paul II Catholic Primary a new evangelisation plan was put together, providing us with an opportunity to reflect on what our core business is as a Catholic school. Two of the main initiatives from our evangelisation plan are:-

1. Providing regular enriching prayer experiences and liturgical celebrations that focus on our relationship with Jesus in classes and as a school – for example, we've tried to create a more prayerful atmosphere during community prayer and Masses.
2. Forging a stronger bond with our Parish community – for example, we have now provided an opportunity for each class to celebrate a Cluster Mass on a weekend as part of the Parish, we work very closely with the Parish Sacramental program in preparing students to receive the Sacraments, the band and choir play at Masses on a regular basis and various other efforts are made to support the Parish.

Throughout this year our school community has supported a variety of charities including Project Compassion, the Lifelink program run

by the Archdiocese of Perth and Saint Vincent's Orphanage in Vietnam. The school will soon undertake to help out the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal. Thank you to those who have generously supported these charities.

A part of the school's accountability is to make annual reports to the school community on the financial, educational and spiritual environments within the school. As with any evaluation process there is the need for ongoing development.

Other than the spiritual environment already mentioned, the focus areas identified at the end of 2015 and acted on this year include:

Reviewing the assessment cycle, using best practice teaching strategies, a focus on data analysis, introduction of the Letters & Sounds program and developing Kagan practices. Staff continue to give up their holiday time in order to increase their understanding and ability to incorporate Kagan into their teaching.

Performing Arts:

The School places a strong emphasis on promoting the Arts. We have seen some outstanding performances by the children, none more so than the exceptional talent displayed by so many in the recent Performing Arts Festival for Catholic Schools and Colleges in Western Australia.

Dance, band, ensembles, choir and individual performances all received excellent comments from the adjudicators, many receiving Certificates of Merit. For the first time our dance team lead by Miss Jess Schofield were awarded an Honourable Mention.

Thanks to Mr Maxwell for organising the school choir to perform in the amazing One Big Voice concert at Perth Arena. The introduction of instrumental lessons this year has also given the children playing an instrument an opportunity to take their talents to another level.

Children also participated in the Wanneroo Art Exhibition.

I congratulate all the children and their teachers, on their efforts and wonderful achievements.

Sports:

In the sporting arena, SJP2 competed for the first time at the Interschool swimming carnival. We sent a small squad of 11 students who represented the school with honour. In the first Semester, our students also received coaching in gymnastics and

dance, with the dance coach showcasing every classes routines at a school concert.

It was also terrific to hear the children talking excitedly about their victories against other schools in various winter sport codes which included soccer, rugby and netball. Our students went to Mawson Park this year to compete against 21 other schools in our regional X-Country Championships.

The School Sports Day held this year proved to be a great spectacle and many went on to represent the school at the Interschool Athletics carnival. A special thank you to the teachers who organised the teams and assisted with the training.

In term four our year 5 and six students competed in the summer sports carnival which included badminton for the first time. By all reports, our badminton team took out top honours on the day!

Our before school sports again proved very popular this year. We were lucky to secure coaches for every term. Sports provided included: cricket, basketball, athletics, badminton, tennis and AFL.

In mentioning a few of the schools involvements this year I have purposely refrained from listing them all. Suffice to say that the extra curricular activities have been many and varied.

Library

The school library has had another great year of events and fundraising.

We started in March with Lyn and Rae organising a 'Monster' themed Scholastic Book Fair. It was promoted with monster displays and monster books. It was a very busy and successful night which raised a total of \$1032.00 to go towards the purchase of new library books.

Book Week was in August. The theme this year was Australia Story Country. A display was created in the library to promote the theme and we also had a colouring in/ writing competition leading up to that week. The children and teachers were also encouraged to dress to this theme and there were some amazing costumes on parade day. The teachers put on a very entertaining show! Prizes of books and canteen vouchers were awarded for the competitions and best dressed.

In the Book Week theme, Mrs Murphy organised for a popular WA author to come visit the school in September. Wendy Binks writes and illustrates beautiful picture books featuring Australian animals. She spent a whole day at the school with most classes attending.

She showed the children the process of creating and printing a book as well as drawing lessons to create her most popular book characters.

We also discovered that we had \$1161 in Scholastic rewards!! It was used to purchase another 150 new Lexile Readers.

Certainly, the great amount of work put in by Mrs. Murphy is appreciated by staff and students.

I realise I have been in the school only a short time, however, like moving into a new house, it's often the best time to notice things you'd like changed or modified. Many changes have been simple requests, tweaks on current practices and often as a result of questioning – Why are we doing it this way? Is there another way of doing it? Change should be seen as a growth opportunity.

Improvement Plan

This year the leadership team has been working very hard on developing a 3-year school improvement plan. Staff are familiar with this plan that involves aspiration, a focus on the learning environment and on teaching and learning practices. I'm sure they're sick of me harping on about high expectations, learning intentions, explicit instruction, feedback and team efficacy. There you go, I've managed to get it in again! A timeline for initiatives as well as key performance indicators have also been developed. We look forward to tracking our progress over the next few years.

We have also developed a leadership model that staff have committed to and next year will look to introduce a coaching model. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the staff for the way they have embraced the changes introduced this year, and especially thank those who have taken leadership roles.

Board

Since joining the SJP2's school community I have received support and assistance from many individuals and groups within the school. I would like to say thank you to all the Board members whose regular attendance, support and willingness to get involved is much appreciated.

P&F

To the Parents and Friends Association I also offer my thanks. Susannah has done a wonderful job bringing the P&F committee together this year. They have provided valuable support to the school, not only financially, but also at a social level drawing the community together. I know the children's disco and bush dance were very successful events and I'm sure the end of year family Christmas picnic will be well attended.

Working hard for the benefit of the community is the canteen managers, Lisa and Tracey, their core of regular helpers and other volunteers. I'm sure many parents, as well as children, are appreciative of the time put into running the canteen and the service that it provides.

Alexia Pierre and her merry band of helpers in the Uniform Shop also do a tremendous job serving the community.

To all those who are coming to the end of their term in office and to those who have worked so hard in and around the school, I thank you for your involvement and contribution to the school. Your time and effort is very much appreciated by the whole community and reflects your commitment to the school.

Volunteers

Like most schools SJP2 relies heavily on voluntary assistance. We have volunteers in the canteen, uniform shop, library, doing the children's banking, on rosters in the classrooms, assisting with excursions and camps, training sessions, carnival days and in many other ways. I will refrain from the dangerous habit of naming people suffice to say that their valued assistance enriches the spirit of community and gives valuable support to the school.

Fr Vinh

On your behalf I would like to express my gratitude to Father Vinh for his work on the Board and assistance in the educational and spiritual guidance of your children. I know he has been working very hard with the new Parish Council and we are all eagerly awaiting the day he comes in with news that the Church building will be commencing soon.

Sr's

It has also been great to have both Sr Tuyen and Sr Duyen have an involvement in the school as well as a link to the parish.

Mrs. Tricia Davis

Mrs. Tricia Davis left at the end of last year and is currently travelling the Holy Land. I'm sure she is enjoying semi-retirement. It would be remiss of me not to thank her for the work she has put into developing the school over the previous 12 years. She has been responsible for many of the great initiatives operating in the school and has taken the school from a small initial intake of 40 children, through many building stages, to an almost double stream school of 375 children.

Office Staff

The office is central to the smooth running of a school. It is usually the first point of contact for new parents and the place for gathering and disseminating information throughout the school community.

I would like to especially thank our Office Manager, Di McMahan, whose knowledge of the school has proved invaluable to me over the year. With the need to take time off to recover from her illness, both Kerry and Lea stepped into the hothouse. They have done a wonderful job! Mailyn has also been very efficient as school bursar. I have been fortunate that all of them have demonstrated flexibility and a willingness to perform a wide range of tasks right down to reminding me of appointments and providing first aid to children. Their thoughtfulness, thoroughness and above all, ability to work under pressure as a team has ensured the school operates harmoniously and efficiently.

Well Being Team

This year the Well Being Team saw the introduction of several new initiatives.

A Sensory Integration Program commenced this year and regularly supports students who have additional sensory needs.

The School Breakfast Program offers all students a healthy breakfast each Tuesday and Thursday morning. It averages about 45 students and has a regular team of 5 parent volunteers who have greatly contributed to the success of this program.

The Massage in Schools Program is a multisensory peer massage activity that fosters positive relationships.

The Social Worker and Chaplaincy worker also moved to a new and larger room during the year which enabled more opportunities for small group work, counselling and play therapy. A lunchtime knitting club has met each week for year 6 students. Plans for

future small group lunchtime activities are being investigated for 2017.

Handyman / Groundsman

For the second half of this year we have been fortunate enough to have a groundsman / handyman. Allain's appointment has been a blessing for me and the school has been very fortunate to have someone of his experience take on the role. Within a very short time he has managed to put his stamp on the school. His work ethic and practical skills, including rounding up kangaroos has not gone unnoticed.

SWD co-ordinator

Vickey Draper was appointed to the role of SWD co-ordinator at the start of second term. I thank her for the work she has done in identifying students and following through with necessary appointments, paperwork and funding applications.

Literacy Support

Mrs Kerry Brown and Mrs Lyn P have worked diligently in providing literacy support to children. They have also been cluster leaders, coaches and as part of the leadership team, responsible for the development of our school improvement plan. They have been a great asset as their professional flexibility knows no bounds.

Assistant Principals

My personal thanks go to the Assistant Principals, Mr. Andy Dalton and Mr. Tim Maxwell who have both worked closely with guiding me through the year. Both had their work cut out for them being in the front line regarding issues to do with the school of which I initially had little knowledge.

Tim

Mr Maxwell has continued to develop the Religious Education role throughout this year. His enthusiasm and organisational skills have enhanced the work being done both in the school and with the Parish. His efforts in organising a staff retreat to focus on the school's new patron saint, the challenge in developing the school Evangelisation Plan and any other projects that seemed to fall his way were always done efficiently and to a high calibre.

Andy

Mr Dalton has taken responsibility for many of the administration tasks that require both astute planning when it comes to timetables and organising sporting events to quick thinking when last minute occurrences require snap decisions to be made, one example would be staff sick leave and required relief. As far as sickness goes I don't think there has ever been a year to match this one. Andy was also recently ordained an acolyte and now helps serve on the altar at our school Masses.

Staff

International Teachers' Day was celebrated last month. Yes parents, this is the staff responsible for your children! I would like to recognise the efforts of all the staff for the work they have done throughout the year. I feel teaching is often an underappreciated profession and yet if you asked a parent, they would say there is nothing more important than the education, health and well-being of their child. To this end you can rest assured the staff at SJP2 do an exceptional job and give of their best for your children. Staff have also been diligent in supporting each other and working on a multitude of projects from literacy and numeracy development to catering for children with disabilities and special needs. I have been blessed to have a responsive and hard-working staff ready to tackle the many varied challenges that present every day in the life of a school.

As is often the case, a number of staff will be finishing at the end of this year.

Mrs Hayley Wells was seconded to the CEO from the beginning of the year and recently tendered her resignation. She worked as the SWD coordinator in 2015.

Mrs. Celeste Spencer returned this year from maternity leave, initially in a SWD coordinator role for first term and then as a teacher in kindergarten. Prior to this she taught at the school for many years. She was successful in being able to secure a full-time position next year at St Dominic's. I thank her for her service to the school and wish her the best for the future.

With the reduction of SWD children attending the school next year, funding has been cut for 2017. Ms. Georgie Triance, Mrs Jane

Peckar and Mrs Jo Sheehan will finish this year. I would like to thank all departing staff and wish them all the best for the future.

Mrs Jane Cullen and Mrs Michelle Clapp will both be on maternity leave throughout 2017. Mr Zac Baker will not be taking the year off but he and wife Ashley are soon expecting the birth of their first child. I wish them all a joy filled year of experiencing parenthood. I also wish Dani a memorable wedding occasion, we look forward to hearing all about it next year when she returns as Mrs Scadden.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the SJP2 School community for the support given to me throughout the year. The genuine Christian concern for others combined with the positive attitude present in the school community has made my time in the position of Principal a most enjoyable and rewarding experience.

Thank you for your presence here tonight and I wish you and your family, a very safe, Happy and Holy Christmas season.

Chris Lamb