

Annual Community Meeting Principal's Report 2018

Good evening everyone and welcome to our Annual Community Meeting for 2018.

THIS YEAR

From a religious education and faith development perspective, this year has again been a very good year. We have witnessed and celebrated well over 100 children from Years 3, 4 & 6 receiving the gifts, blessings and closer relationships with Jesus through their reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation respectively. We have continued to build our relationship with the Schoenstatt Sisters through our Sacramental Retreat Program conducted at the Schoenstatt Shrine out near Armadale and through the naming of our new Schoenstatt Early Learning Centre in their honour. Our Social Justice program and fundraising initiatives continue to provide very real and meaningful opportunities for our children to make a difference to the lives of so many children, families and communities around the world and right here at home, that have so little compared to us. I am always very impressed and humbled by the energy, enthusiasm and focus that the children bring to the table when fundraising for "Kids 4 Kids", LifeLink, Caritas and St. Vinnies Christmas Appeal.

Academically, it has been another very successful year for our students. Our NAPLAN results this year were, once again, quite strong. Our students' mean score averages were above the Australian averages in 10 out of 10 categories! Some were significantly above the Australian averages. In 6 of the 10 domains 100% of our students achieved above the minimum standard and in the other domains our percentages achieving above the minimum standard ranged between 96% and 98%. A very worthy effort and result given that so few of our students who are eligible for exemptions actually do so.

Another example that illustrates our children's academic abilities and strengths was evidenced by our school being selected as one of only 6 schools to showcase our STEM skills and learning in a STEM Showcase Event hosted by CEWA. Our Year 1/2 and \$.1 classes combined in mixed teams to apply STEM processes to a global problem and come up with a local solution they could implement here. Apart from setting up interactive displays at CEWA for other schools to visit and ask questions about, our teams also presented a talk to teams from the other schools to explain the process they went through in arriving at their solution. Our children had worked on this project over the course of a term in our new Makerspace and you simply could not help but swell with pride to see the way they presented on the day in front of an audience. My opinion of our teams' efforts was obviously shared by the judges, as one of our teams was judged the winning team, having presented the best presentation and solution on the day! Terrific vindication of our work and progress in incorporating STEM processes into our classroom teaching and learning.

On the sporting front it was a year full of terrific competition, great sportsmanship and some notable victories and highlights in many areas. While being the smallest school in the competition does present its challenges at times, our children nevertheless always give a very good account of themselves in all sporting competitions. The year was peppered with some great individual performances and some terrific team efforts. As always our children displayed admirable sportsmanship and enjoyed the support of the biggest and noisiest cheer squad of parents from any school!

Of course these wonderful results and opportunities would not have been possible without the fantastic organisational skills and coaching prowess of Mr Bridgeman and other staff members such as Miss Knight, Miss Laity and Mr. Iannello. There was also a small army of other staff and parent volunteers that assisted in so many ways. Suffice to say your time, effort and contributions have been greatly appreciated – so thank you all!

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In the area of Performing Arts we once again had many great performances as part of the Catholic Schools PAF. There were several Certificates of Merit and Honourable Mentions across the board this year, which is testament to the wide range of talents and abilities our children possess and our fundamental belief in supporting our students to discover and develop their talents and abilities to become well-rounded, well-educated, confident young people. My sincere thanks to Mrs. Perry for her untiring work in coordinating our entries in the PAF, as well as managing our choirs and their outstanding performances. A special "thank you" to Mrs. Margaret De San Miguel, our piano accompanist, without whom our Choir's terrific performances would simply not be possible.

This year I am very pleased to report that we have achieved 4 out of the 5 goals we set for ourselves in our Annual School Improvement Plan (ASIP). Our staff have worked together extremely well to focus our efforts, develop programs and solutions and successfully implement them to achieve our goals. A few of the highlights would include;

- Developing staff capacity to target student needs and develop relationships (differentiation)
- Incorporation of explicit teaching into a play-based learning environment in Kindy and Pre-Primary
- Further refinement and enhancement of early identification and intervention strategies for all students.
- Improved effective integration of technology across the curriculum to improve learning outcomes for students.
- The development of professional growth plans for staff based on SMART Goals.

NEXT YEAR:

A few key highlights from our 2019 ASIP;

- Celebrate Harmony Day - a focus on celebrating the rich diversity of cultures we have within our school community through food, stories, literature, national costumes, traditional children's games etc.
- A focus on NAIDOC Week celebrations at the end of term 2
- Curriculum – Implementation of the Future Focussed Learning initiative, working with Lee Watanabe Crockett – 10 shifts of practice – an inquiry-based learning process. Empowering our students to develop processes and skills that will foster and harness their natural curiosity to want to investigate real life, real world problems and issues and investigate, problem solve, collaborate to develop models, solutions, products and then test them to see what works best, what doesn't, re-design and produce their final solution. This initiative is about providing our children with the strategies, processes, skills and confidence to apply what they learn to any problem, inquiry or area of interest or concern to them. These are skills, thought processes and habits that they can take with them through high school, tafe, university and into the work place of the 21st century.
- Continuing focus and support for Staff to achieve personal goals in their Professional Growth Plan.
- We are all very excited about our Future Focussed Learning Initiative with Lee Crockett. We are joining with staff from Orana and Yidarra to form a cluster of 3 schools to work with Lee and his expert international team in implementing his program. All three schools have committed to a 3 year agreement to work as a cluster of schools to fully implement the program. This is a significant undertaking and one that all 3 schools are all fully committed to. Groundwork has already commenced this year and will ramp up early next year. One of the key events early next year will be a joint parent information evening for the parents and

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caregivers from all 3 schools. Lee will be the main presenter and this workshop will be held in the Gym at Corpus Christi to accommodate the large numbers. Further details will be sent home before the end of this year, so you can save the date in your calendar. We very much believe that this initiative will put our children and staff at the cutting edge of best practice in 21st century learning.

Staffing in 2019. Please do not bother getting your phones out! This staffing list is only a draft version and there may well be some further adjustments before the end of the year. As Nicole has already mentioned in her report, our budgeting and staffing processes in planning for next year have been impacted by a much later timeline than usual. This has been caused by the Federal Government announcing a re-negotiated and improved funding package for Catholic schools and systems across Australia back in July/August. This improved funding package meant that CEWA had to re-work all their funding calculations and allocations based on the new data from Canberra. Normally, we would be able to access our initial Budget data at the start of 4th term on Monday 8 October. However, this year our information and data was not available to us until Monday 5 November – 4 weeks later than normal. Consequently, our initial budget is not due for submission to CEWA till Friday 7 December, and at this point in time is a work in progress.

This also explains why our staffing arrangements have yet to be finalised, as some positions and hours of work are dependent on funding allocations. As soon as we are able to finalise and bed down all staffing arrangements, we will release an updated staffing list to all families.

I would like to finish my report with a few well deserved thank you's.

1. Firstly, to our terrific staff. They are without exception a very caring, compassionate, selfless, kind and generous group of dedicated professionals. They continually strive to be innovative, to be risk-takers, to explore better ways, because they care and do want to make a difference to the lives of the children they teach. I thank them all for their long hours, hard work and willingness to work as a team to achieve great things.
2. I would like to thank Fr. Paul for his on-going support of the school, our families and our children. We are very blessed to have a Parish Priest who works so tirelessly to attend to the needs of not just his parishioners but all the members of our school community as well. His pastoral leadership of our school community is greatly appreciated by everyone.
3. To the members of our School Board this year, I wish to say thank you for all your help, support, advice and selfless giving of your time. Your support and encouragement this year has been greatly appreciated. I would particularly like to thank Chris for his work and leadership as Board Chair for the last five years. It has been a pleasure to work with you and your advice has always been very astute and highly valued by myself and other Board Members. Chris has now completed the maximum allowable 6 years on the School Board and so steps down at the end of this year to have a break. Chris, on behalf of everyone in our school community, I thank you for your immense contribution over the last 6 years in providing ideas, direction and leadership to our school community. Thank you very much!
4. Russell Wylie – his contribution has been cut short by going and getting his own School Board! A terrific contributor over the last 9 years as an AP and parent member of the Board.
5. Michael Cosmelli – 2015 – brought vast experience and business acumen to the Board, especially during capital development planning stages and strategic planning discussions.
6. Colleen McManus – 2017 P&F Rep as well – twice the meetings to attend!
7. Our P&F have had a fantastic year this year and the Committee and all who have been involved throughout the year deserve our thanks. It has been very pleasing to see some new faces present at some meetings this year – a diverse range of ideas and opinions is

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always welcome. The P&F has again had a very successful year, but I'll allow them to tell you all about that. I would like to acknowledge a couple of individuals who step down from the P&F Executive at the end of this year. Andrew Upfold has been on the P&F Committee for the last 5 years, including the last 3 years as President. I would like to thank Andrew for his patience, calm manner, thoughtfulness and willingness to work hard to build consensus in reaching decisions. Andrew has always been willing to roll up his sleeves and help out at fundraising and social events and has always led by example. Thank you so very much for all your hard work and contributions Andrew! Cas Thomas has been a member of the Executive for the last 3 years having fulfilled roles as Vice President and Secretary in that time. Again, Cas has been one of those wonderful parents who is always willing to share her thoughts and opinions as well as ensuring that the meetings are minuted correctly and that all correspondence is dealt with efficiently. We could not have wished for a better Secretary and I know Cas's contributions to meetings will be sorely missed. Thank you for all your hard work and organising over the last 3 years Cas.

.... And now this....

I would like to thank you all for coming tonight and wish you all of God's blessings for Advent, Christmas and the New Year. Take care, relax and enjoy the holidays with your families. We look forward to seeing you all back happy and healthy for the start of school next year. Thank you.