

Queen of Apostles Primary School

Principal's Annual Report to the School Community



23RD NOVEMBER 2022

Queen of Apostles Primary School

Principal's Annual Report

OUR SCHOOL VISION

Queen of Apostles is a vibrant and inclusive Catholic community. Our vision is:

To inspire a passion for life-long learning in an environment of faith, love and care for others.

OUR SCHOOL MISSION

Our mission is to empower students to:

- BE** passionate and curious learners
 - BE** confident and creative individuals
 - BE** faith-filled and active in their care for others
-

Our school embraces diversity in teaching and a modern approach to curriculum delivery and design. **Teaching and learning** at Queen of Apostles occurs within **21st century classroom environments with access to 21st century teaching tools.**

As a committed group of educators, we support individual needs and **accommodate learning differences** whilst encouraging and fostering a culture **of experimentation, flexible learning, adventure, problem-solving and creativity.**

INTRODUCTION

It is my privilege to present the 2022 Principal's report to the Queen of Apostles community.

I begin by acknowledging the Wadjuk Noongar people and pay my respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging. We acknowledge their deep, ongoing spiritual and cultural connection to this Country – and to this land on which our school has been built.

With the COVID 19 pandemic, my second year at Queen of Apostles was an interesting and at times very challenging one. We were in uncharted territory, and it certainly was a huge learning curve for me and my leadership, particularly in Semester One. As a school we managed to focus on our identified priority areas and consolidated our relationships with parents and the broader community. I am incredibly proud to be Principal of this wonderful school and so privileged to meet and work with so many wonderful students, staff and community members. The school is now a fully single stream school and is in a great position with increased enrolments, excellent facilities and a wonderful staff who provide high quality teaching and learning opportunities for all students.

Each year we are guided by our School Improvement Plans and we continue our strong commitment to offering quality teaching and learning which draws on pedagogical practice that is data informed, evidenced based and aligned to the Western Australian Curriculum. All we do aims to cater for and enhance the spiritual, pastoral, educational, physical, social, emotional and cultural needs of all children entrusted to our care.

The level of involvement and support from our wonderful community has been outstanding. I have been impressed and very appreciative of the high level of support the P&F and School Advisory Council members have shown towards Queen of Apostles. There is a very genuine desire to work collaboratively to continue the efforts to ensure a strong and vibrant community spirit.

The relationship between our Parish and School is a very strong one. This alignment is led by Fr. Paul who takes a keen interest in school affairs and makes himself available to advise, support and encourage. He is a great asset to our community and he brings the human and pastoral face of our God to all.

This report outlines some of the highlights of our year's journey across the domains of Education, Community, Stewardship and Catholic Identity.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, SACRAMENTS & LITURGY

Queen of Apostles School is a place where every individual is welcomed, cherished, respected and valued. Our Catholic ethos ensures that a Christ-centered approach is at the heart of all we do. We live and learn within a community that is caring, loving, compassionate and forgiving. Meaningful relationships form the basis of all our interactions.

Prayer is an important part of school life at Queen of Apostles. Opportunities are provided for staff, children and parents to nurture our Catholic Faith through meaningful Class Prayer, Liturgies, Gathering Reflections and Whole School Masses. Staff Prayer is held on a regular basis and provides active witness to our community of the importance of our faith. Overall, our aim is to provide prayerful experiences for the community in order to give opportunity for each person to further develop their personal relationship with God.

The school implements the Archdiocesan Religious Education Curriculum. In addition to developing children's knowledge and faith through strong curriculum, the school demonstrates an active partnership with the local parish and is enthusiastically involved in the broader life of the Church.

I sincerely thank Father Paul for the support and guidance he offers to the staff, students and the community of Queen of Apostles. I extend my personal thanks to Father Paul for his support and efforts in maintaining such a positive and healthy parish/school relationship.

In 2022 we fostered liturgical prayer and life through a wide range of experiences. These included:

- Whole School Masses throughout the year
- Reconciliation services
- Rosary recital in May & October
- Daily classroom prayers
- Lenten and Advent reflections
- Queen of Apostles Feast Day
- Ash Wednesday
- Feast of the Assumption
- Sacramental Commitment Mass
- Remembrance Day Prayer Service
- Graduation & Thanksgiving Mass

- Sacramental Retreats
- Celebration of the Sacraments of Confirmation, Eucharist and Penance

MISSIONS & CHARITIES

The generosity of our school community throughout 2022 to support those less fortunate has been amazing. As a result, significant contributions, both spiritually and financially, has been extended to the following charities and organisations:

- Caritas' Project Compassion
- Lifelink
- St Vincent de Paul
- Flame of Love Orphanage

MAKING JESUS REAL (MJR)

On the first day of Term 2 our staff were involved in a Making Jesus Real (MJR) Professional Development Day. On this day, we learnt about the Making Jesus Real program and how we can use it to complement the Religious Education already taught throughout the school.

Making Jesus Real is a holistic approach so that all who encounter the MJR philosophy will be inspired by the words, actions and teaching of Jesus Christ. It will help the students discover the values, qualities and attitudes necessary for a faith filled, positive life.

Making Jesus Real is aimed at helping our students gain and maintain a positive attitude to life through assisting in the development of people skills and life skills. It is centred around the belief that we are the image of Jesus to all those people around us.

EVANGELISATION PLANNING

Below are the major focus areas and implementation strategies of our Evangelisation Plan over the next three years.

1. WITNESS – Examples of Expressing the Divine Within & Raising Awareness of the Presence of Jesus

- Religious symbols in prominent positions in the school
- Display of indigenous religious symbols
- Prominent prayer focus in each classroom
- Understanding and observing religious etiquette
- Introducing Making Jesus Real to assist in understanding the person of Jesus in contemporary terms

2. CALL TO FAITH

- Staff and students focus on Social Justice issues
- Christian Service
- Social Justice focus during morning announcements
- Gospel summaries in newsletter

3. CALL TO GROW IN DISCIPLESHIP

- Introduction of Sacred Silences as a form of prayer and reflection
- Participation in Lenten and Advent Liturgies

BISHOPS’ RELIGIOUS LITERACY ASSESSMENTS

Children in Year 3 and 5 sit The Bishops’ Religious Literacy Assessment each year. This year the test was administered online. Results of this test are used to inform teaching and learning from Kindergarten to Year 6. The summary data is as follows:

	QUEEN OF APOSTLES CLASS AVERAGE	ALL PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS AVERAGE
YEAR 5	54.8%	51.4%
YEAR 3	63.8%	48.9%

EDUCATION

2022 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

In line with our School Improvement Plan for 2022, the past year has seen the accomplishment of a number of significant milestones.

These include:

Catholic Identity Focus: Raising awareness of the presence of Jesus

- Understanding the person of Jesus in contemporary terms through the Making Jesus Real (MJR) programme

Education Focus: Developing teacher skills and understanding in differentiation in the Mathematics Learning Area

- Through the Introduction inquiry-based mathematics lessons after professional development with Ben Saulsman (CEWA consultant)

Community Focus: Engage in ongoing wellbeing education to support a holistic approach to student, staff and community wellbeing

- Introduction of Wellness Week into the school calendar each term.
- Staff Wellness Committee formed

Stewardship Focus: Plan for the consistent maintenance of classroom, playground and staff facilities ensuring spaces are contemporary, attractive and conducive to flexible learning opportunities

- Staffroom to be re-located to allow for Year 3's to move out of demountables
- Music Room to be relocated from demountables
- Glass panels to be placed on doors to allow line of sight

MATHS INQUIRY APPROACH

As a school we have been on an inquiry journey over the past four years with our Future Focused Learning philosophy. We are proud of the progress that has been gained in this area and look forward to continuing to embed inquiry practices in our learning programs.

At the beginning of 2022, as part of our School Improvement Plan, we investigated the possibility of extending this into the mathematics area. Contact was made with the CEWA mathematics consultant, Ben Saulsman who agreed to work with us in moving towards an inquiry approach to teaching mathematics.

Over the past year, we have been working with Ben on consolidating practices that encourage students to explore mathematic concepts through inquiry. The *Launch, Explore, Summarise* approach has been the springboard into using rich tasks to develop mathematical understanding and problem-solving. This model focuses on the teacher serving as a facilitator of their students' mathematical understanding by posing rich tasks, providing opportunities for students to collaborate, use materials, and by posing questions to support task completion. We will continue our work in this area in 2023.

VISUAL ARTS SPECIALIST

This year Mrs Perry was employed as a Visual Arts specialist across the school. She worked with all year levels from Pre-Primary to Year 6 and raised the profile of art in our school. The students really enjoyed their lessons and this showed in the work they produced. The art show on Open Night was an amazing showcase of this work and gives our students another opportunity to shine.

TOURNAMENT OF MINDS

As part of our enrichment classes this year we entered three mixed teams of year 4, 5 and 6 students in the Tournament of Minds competition at EUC in Joondalup. Tournament of Minds (TOM) is an international educational competition challenging students to develop diverse skills, enterprise, time management and the discipline to work collaboratively within a challenging and competitive environment. Mrs. Anderson worked very closely with these students as they worked on problem solving skills and preparing solutions to STEM, Arts and Literature challenges. All teams performed extremely well and should be commended for their efforts.

CYBER SAFETY

This year, to compliment what we already do in class, the school and P&F engaged Paul Litherland to talk to our parents on the topic of Cyber Safety. Paul is an ex-police officer and excellent presenter who gave our parents tips on ways to keep our students safe when using certain apps, gaming sites and websites. Paul is booked in to speak to our Year 5 and 6 classes in Term 3 next year.

PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL

In 2022 we had quite a number of students participating in the Catholic Performing Arts Festival (PAF). We had many instrumental solo performers as well as our Year Five class choir. Our students performed extremely well with many excellent results achieved. Our music assembly in Term 3 was a showcase of the talented musicians we have here at Queen of Apostles and an insight into the PAF performances. I thank Mrs. Perry for her coordination of the PAF students and offering them this wonderful opportunity.

YEAR 6 CAMP

In Week 9 of Term 3 the Year Six class spent three fantastic days at Woodman's Point Camp in Coogee. We were very proud of our Year 6's as they worked together extremely well to complete some very challenging activities. They also need to be congratulated for the way they used their manners and followed instructions. It was a wonderful time and we are very grateful that it could be rescheduled so our Year 6's didn't miss out.

FACTION ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

This year we ran our athletics carnivals a bit differently now we are a fully single stream school. The PP and Kindy classes had their events at school in Week 8 of last term and the Jumps and Throws were also held at school in Week 9. In week 10 we took all the year 1 to 6's to Ern Clarke for a full day of individual and team events. Despite the weather it ran quite smoothly and we will review it to make some tweaks for next year. I thank all staff and parents that helped out. I also thank Mr Bridgeman for his hard work.

MERIT AWARDS

Initially introduced as a way of ensuring we don't have a high volume of parents/carers and grandparents at assemblies (COVID mitigation strategy), we decided to hand out merit awards at our Gathering sessions in the Undercover Area. Gatherings happened on selected Friday mornings at 8.50am and families were informed earlier in the week if their child is receiving an award so they could attend. Receiving merit awards in front of the community is a special occasion and this is something that worked very well. After positive feedback we will continue with this model in 2023.

NAPLAN DATA

In May of this year, National Literacy and Numeracy Assessments were administered to students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. The assessments in Literacy covered: Reading, Writing, Language Conventions, Spelling and Grammar & Punctuation. The Numeracy test covered mathematical concepts. The Writing assessment was based on the narrative writing genre. This year all assessments except for Year 3 writing were done online.

Individual and detailed reports are provided to the parents of children who undertook the national assessments. Furthermore, school receives detailed evaluation of the whole school and class cohorts, which allows for ongoing school improvement. The data provided to school also allows teachers to examine individual and class performance on each of the questions. It is important to remember that the national assessments are only one source of evidence of student achievement, gained on one particular day. Similarly, comparisons from one cohort to another can be remarkably different. The summary data for Year Three and Year Five for our school is as follows:

<u>YEAR 3</u>	<u>QOA Mean</u>	<u>All Australian Schools Mean</u>
<u>Reading</u>	466	439
<u>Writing</u>	455	423
<u>Spelling</u>	470	418
<u>Grammar & Punctuation</u>	488	433
<u>Numeracy</u>	442	400

<u>YEAR 5</u>	<u>QOA Mean</u>	<u>All Australian Schools Mean</u>
<u>Reading</u>	510	510
<u>Writing</u>	486	485
<u>Spelling</u>	511	505
<u>Grammar & Punctuation</u>	497	496
<u>Numeracy</u>	502	489

Next year NAPLAN for Year 3 and 5 students will take place in March.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our dedicated staff continue to engage in professional development. This ensures that our staff are at the forefront of the latest developments in the Catholic Identity, Educational, Community and Stewardship domains. The following is a snapshot of the development undertaken.

- Future Focused Learning
- Mathematics Inquiry Learning
- Judging Standards
- Talk for Writing
- Digital Technologies
- Faith Development
- Staff Wellness
- Learning Support
- Leaders' Forums

INCURSIONS & EXCURSIONS

To enrich curriculum delivery teachers organise a number of incursions and excursions. These activities help to broaden the learning experiences for students. Some special events in 2022 included the following:

Perth Mint

Sacramental Retreats

Book Week Incursion

Perth Zoo

Adventure World

School Camp

First Aid

Peninsular Farm

Willetton Sports Centre

Chinese New Year

Growth & Development

Perth Museum

COMMUNITY

OUR COMMUNITY

At Queen of Apostles School, we provide a nurturing learning environment where students feel happy and safe. Our students respect themselves and others in a non-judgmental manner and show tolerance and respect toward all cultures, both within the school and in the wider community. We ensure that all within our community are treated with dignity and respect. Our school encourages all people to participate within the school community. All classrooms are open, welcoming and include all children regardless of needs.

VIRTUAL PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS

This year our Pre-Primary to Year 6 classes presented their Parent Information Sessions online due to COVID restrictions. The teachers worked very hard on their presentations to ensure our families had all important information about how the classes would run and content covered. It was great to receive many appreciative comments from families.

MOTHER'S DAY & FATHER'S DAY

Unfortunately, due to COVID the P&F were unable to hold the annual Mother's and Father's Day breakfasts this year. They will be back on the calendar in 2023!

DISCO

The Glitz and Glam disco put on by our P&F in Term 4 was very well attended by both junior and senior classes. The students had a great time and were very well entertained by the DJ. I thank the organising committee of the P&F for putting this on for our students.

PARENTS/CARERS SUNDOWNER

On Friday 9th September from 5.30 until 7.30pm the P&F held a very well attended sundowner on the new grassed area. This was organised as an alternative to not being able to have our Mother's and Father's Day celebrations. The ice cream van, giant games and magic show were all very popular by those in attendance. I thank our P&F for organising this for our community.

GRANDPARENTS MASS & MORNING TEA

Our Grandparents and Friends Mass and Morning Tea on Thursday 20th October was a fantastic celebration and very well attended. The students did an amazing job and were very well prepared by our teachers. It was great to have our special visitors in the classrooms and around the school.

I have had some wonderful messages from parents, grandparents, staff and students saying how much they enjoyed the morning. Well done to everyone involved.

OPEN NIGHT

It was great to welcome our families to school and the classrooms on Open Night. There was a real buzz in the air with many excited children taking their family members on a journey around the school. Each of the classrooms really looked the part and it was great to see the wonderful work the students have been doing. The Book Fair was very popular again and this year our Art Exhibition really added to the night. I would like to thank the hard working and dedicated staff for the hours of work to get ready for Open Night. It is very much appreciated and I'm sure the community would agree.

COLOUR EXPLOSION

In Term 4 this year, the P&F again ran Colour Explosion in the school. The aim of the Colour Explosion was to promote fun and fitness across the school. There was also a fundraising aspect that raised over \$10 000. This was a wonderful effort by our students and families and a great initiative by the P&F. I thank our P&F, Carem Carasco & Bianca Di Silvio for their efforts in getting this up and running in 2022.

PARENTAL PARTICIPATION

The commitment of our parents in supporting school is greatly appreciated by all staff and students. Along with assisting on excursions, parents have been actively involved in a range of activities across the school including:

- Canteen
- Library – covering books
- Classroom learning
- Social events
- Raffles
- Sports Carnivals
- Colour Explosion

STEWARDSHIP

MOVEMENT OF UPPER CLASSES

In Term Three of this year, we contracted Primer Facie to turn the staff workroom into a staffroom and the current staffroom into a classroom. This has meant that all Year 3 to 6

classrooms are now in the main building of the school and no year level classrooms are in demountables.

NINJA PLAYGROUND ON ANNEXE OVAL

We are currently in the process of trying to get approval for a Ninja Playground to be built on the Annexe Oval. This playground (certain aspects) will be able to be used by all year levels and will be fully funded by the P&F. I thank the P&F and School Advisory Council for their work in bringing this project to life. I hope to hear good news soon.

PAINTING AND MAINTENANCE

This year was the second year of our 7-Year painting contract with Programmed. This contract ensures that our school is looking good and remains a place our community can be proud of.

REASPHALTING

The surface around the new grassed area will be re-asphalted in January before the students return to school on February 1 next year. This will tie in with the basketball court and will mean we have a new smooth surface for the students to play on. I thank the School Advisory Council for their assistance on this project.

FENCING

The fencing around the staff car park and on the Tudor Ave side of the school will be replaced with black garrison fencing in the holidays. This will also include new gates to the church car park. This will add a layer of security to our school as well add to the aesthetics of the school. I again thank the School Advisory Council for their guidance and assistance with this project.

SCHOOL BOARD/ PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

The Parents and Friends Association of our school needs to be thanked for their excellent efforts in securing funding, supporting school activities, enabling extra opportunities and in building a strong school community. Their planning and commitment in another year with COVID interruptions needs to be congratulated. The generosity of our families, as members of the Parents and Friends Association, always amazes me and I am grateful to every person who has contributed in some capacity to support the school. I thank Kath Anthony who this year took on the role as the Parents and Friends Association President. Kath has done a great job in leading her team and ensuring the P&F provided numerous opportunities for our students and families, particularly in the second half of the year. I have really appreciated Kath's support this year and thank her for her commitment to our school. I would also like to thank Aislinn Trodden, Ashlee Lang and Alicia Chee who all took on executive roles this year. They have done an excellent job supporting Kath and volunteering to give up their time to support our school. Thank you also to

our general committee members Louise Wynne, Bianca Di Silvio, Carem Carasco, Renee Butterworth and Melissa Reilly. With a new structure next year will be I am excited to see what the future holds.

To members of our School Advisory Council, Rob Wynne (Chair) Paul Martin (Vice Chair & Treasurer), Andrew Upfold (Secretary), Ben Indrisie, Sheri McDonald, Jamie Liu, Belinda Fabling, Pavel Orjzanowski (Parish Rep) and Fr Paul Manickathan. Thank you all most sincerely for your generosity of time, good humour, forward thinking, expertise, confidentiality, positivity, genuine support, care and concern and for staying composed, astute and measured through the various issues and developments we have been working through this year. My sincere thanks must go Rob Wynne and Sheri McDonald who will step down from the Advisory Council at the end of the year. Thank you for your commitment to our school. It is particularly sad as Rob and Sheri are both leaving our school next year. Thank you both for your outstanding contributions to Queen of Apostles over the years.

STAFF

We constantly recognise that all members of our staff – regardless of position or qualification - are teachers - as their influence on the education of our children is insurmountable. Teaching is not always fun or easy and is certainly not an 8.30am to 3pm job. The staff of Queen of Apostles are sincere, passionate people and this drives them to put so much energy into everything they do. Their passion helps them to keep going when faced with difficulties and motivates them to continue to look for ways to improve their abilities – regardless of their experience and expertise. You cannot be a great teacher without a very real and obvious love of and passion for learning. Our children are fortunate to have great role models that instill a love of living life fully and a true hunger for learning. Our staff work hard and are always willing to do whatever it takes to ensure the best outcomes for all. As individuals, and as a team, they strive for the common good and understand that it is through consistent effort and endeavor that we truly succeed. Our staff care about our children. They show our children they believe in them, and their abilities, and know the importance of challenging them to excel while supporting them to do so.

Thank you to Mrs. Jennifer Anderson who, as Assistant Principal has carried out her leadership responsibilities with professionalism and amazing energy. Jennifer’s passion and commitment to the vision and purpose of our school is endless, and her support is greatly appreciated.

STAFFING COMPOSITION 2023

Our school has an established and dedicated staffing composition that provides a wealth of knowledge and skills and thus ensures continuity for our community. The staffing composition for 2023 is as follows:

Principal

Mark Ryan

Assistant Principal	Jennifer Anderson
3YO & 4YO Kindy	Ann Fanto
Pre-Primary	Emma Ashworth
Year 1	Robyn Salvia
Year 2	Simone Gordon (3 days) & Maddi Kuhn (2 days)
Year 3	Gabrielle Lesque
Year 4	Brianna Joiner
Year 5	Jessica Jenzen
Year 6	Valencia Maloney
Inclusive Support & IT	Marika Beacher
CEWA Consultant	Yvette Mistry
Music	Sheryl Perry
Visual Art	Sheryl Perry
Physical Education	Ross Bridgeman
Science	Ross Bridgeman
Mandarin	Ivy Wang
Library	Susan Peach
Social Worker	Tracy Small
Educational Assistants	
Pre-Primary	Tracie Spadaro (3 days) & Debbie Radice (2 days)
Pre-Kindy	Farah Gul
Kindy	Mara McGinty Pam Johansen
General/Special Education Support	Dawn O'Brien Lee-Anne Oliver
	Debbie Radice Tracy Watkins
	Elizabeth Kingston Farah Gul

Office Staff

Finance Officer

Caroline Hunneybun

Administration Officer

Terri Healey (Tues – Thurs) Kathleen Duncanson
(Mon & Fri)

Ancillary Staff

Canteen Manager

Sharon Fernandes e Soares

Grounds

John Boley

CONCLUSION

As 2022 comes to a close, sadly there are some farewells for members of our community whose immediate connection will draw to a close this year.

To our families that are leaving us this year we hope and trust your time at Queen of Apostles has been a rewarding and positive experience for you and your family. We wish you all the best as you embark on the next chapter in your journey.

To our Year Six students, we wish you well as you journey onto high school. Your time with us has been very special, no matter how long, and with the help of all staff you are now ready to take the next step. We are proud of you and hope that you come back and share your new adventures with us with us. Thank you for your contributions to our school and good luck on the next chapter in your life. Remember to embrace all challenges that come your way and do your best in everything you do. You will be missed.

To **Miss Chelsea Moore**, who has decided the time is right to make her tree change to Donnybrook permanent. Thank you for the many significant contributions you have made to Queen of Apostles School over the past years. You have had a great impact on the many students you have taught, colleagues you have worked with and the school community as a whole. Your experience, ideas and advice have been appreciated by everyone at Queen of Apostles. I wish you all the best in your future journey and know that we will see you around.

To **Miss Georgia Mola** who has decided that the time right to explore the world now that the COVID restrictions have lifted and you can travel freely around the world. Although Georgia has only been a teacher at Queen of Apostles this year she has contributed greatly to the life of the school. Thank you for being very passionate about teaching as a profession, and for making your Pre-Primary class engaging and fun. We wish you well on your travels and all best for your future.

To **Miss Emily Barton** who has who has also decided that the time right to explore the world now that the COVID restrictions have lifted. Emily has also only been at Queen of Apostles this year but has had a huge impact on her year 5 class and the life of the school. Thank you for your dedication to the school community and for also making Year 5 a fun and stimulating environment. I wish Emily all the best on her travels and for the future.

To **Mrs Amy Lumsden** who will be leaving us after 2 years to spend more time with her young family. Amy has worked in many year levels during her time and has always given 100% effort. I wish Amy all the best for the future.

Our school is indeed very fortunate to have so many people who have contributed to our many achievements during 2022 and for this; we have a lot to be thankful for. Our school continues to follow the tradition and practices of Catholic Education, which for over 60 years has offered an outstanding and personalised primary education to the children of Queen of Apostles School. Our children have been involved in wonderful faith, sporting, cultural and academic pursuits and have thrived through the support of teachers, teacher assistants, parents and the parish coming together as one. In conclusion, I thank everyone involved in making our school the vibrant place that it is.

May God bless all members of our community with the spirit of peace, hope and joy, this Christmas season, and may we all be blessed abundantly in 2023.

Mark Ryan

Principal