

St John's School Board Annual General Meeting 2017 ***PRINCIPAL'S REPORT***

Good evening, all, and thank you for attending the 2017 Annual General Meeting for St John's School. I want to open my report by expressing my gratitude to people such as yourselves, a dedicated, supportive, enthusiastic group of parents, who are constantly putting up your hands for membership at Board level, on P&F Committees, helping out in any way you can around the school, and supporting our educators with your children's schooling.

I also want to express my gratitude to our staff who work so diligently for the good of the students – which is after all our very purpose for being here! Our teachers work extremely hard to cater for every child's individual needs. They also ensure our Education Assistants are well equipped with the information required to supply good support. I thank and applaud you all for your commitment to our children. We also thank our remarkable and efficient Administration Officers. My gratitude is extended particularly to our head AO, Jeanette Williams, for her very efficient management of all the financial aspects of our school.

The intent of this annual report is to inform the school community on the progress of the year's focus areas in school improvement planning. It also provides an opportunity to reflect proudly on what has been achieved in an educational and resource sense for the year. John Donald has referred to our continuous attention to the 'growth' of our school refurbishments and grounds, and spoke of future planning projects, so I will contain my information to the educational side.

It is a Govt and CEWA mandated requirement that schools articulate their progress across specific areas within the Annual School Improvement Planning process. As you can see in the accompanying slide, many areas are given specific attention across the school: the Curriculum focus, our Quality Improvement Plan - aimed at providing better quality learning experiences in the Early Years..., the Quality Catholic Schooling components which are aligned to support other goals... , the results of Australian wide assessment such as NAPLAN and the Aust Maths testing, our Evangelisation Planning are all supporting planning documents that help the ASIP achieve its hoped for outcomes.

The Annual School Improvement Plan and its bigger, broader brother, the Strategic Plan are divided into the following four categories: Learning, Engagement, Accountability and Discipleship. All of which relates to CEWA's LEADing a Call to Action aim. And we **are** actioning!

Speak to Power Point - areas of LEAD

2017 Curriculum Focus

Writing was continued on as the Curriculum area of further extension this year. We determine our focus, based on a variety of data sources such as class testing results and the analysis of our Yr 3 and 5 NAPLAN data around about the latter half of Term 3 each year. We organise Professional Development on the Curriculum Focus and discuss data gathered during our PLCs (Professional Learning Community meetings), held fortnightly. We held a combined PD on Grammar and Punctuation with St Dominic's at the commencement of the school year then had more PD on a writing analysis tool we adopted called *Brightpath*. This is a system that allows teachers to compare and thereby moderate writing samples at each year level. This served a dual purpose: we used the samples in the Brightpath toolbox to compare our students writing samples and converse with

other teaching staff here at school during our regular PLCs and also had further moderating experiences with our colleagues of a similar year level within the “Beaches Network” - Holy Spirit, City Beach; OLGC and St John’s.

Ashlee De Campo was instrumental in preparing and presenting these two PDs and we thank her for her contribution to our curriculum focus. I have been very impressed with the development of our staff in analysing student’s writing ability through this regular moderation process.

Quality Catholic Schooling Components

Those investigated in 2017 as part of our annual **School Improvement Plan** were:

202–Wider Community Partnerships, led by Ashlee De Campo

308 – Effective Pedagogical Practices, led by Pia Parrella

403 – Pastoral Care of Students, led by Yvonne Rudrum.

All these components were selected as the ones most suitably aligned with our ASIP and our Curriculum focus.

Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) in early years, PK-Yr 2

Our school was audited this year as part of a government process and we were praised for our quality teaching in the Early Years- PK to Yr 2. We plan for our students to be given opportunities for input to their learning, to be given the time, and training, to reflect on their learning. It is hoped this was apparent in the ready development from Term 1 3 Way Interviews to the Term 3 Three Ways for those of you that had that experience. After Professional Development from Trish Collins, our resident ECE consultant and librarian, in providing children with greater autonomy in their learning experiences many year levels adopted the ‘focus child’ strategy, enabling them to better gather a wider range of information on a very clearly defined cyclical rotation. These aspects were remarked upon very positively by our Auditors.

Our Evangelisation Planning. A strong area of development this year was the continuation of a focus on St John the Evangelist – the patron saint of our school. This was emphasised at a deeper level during our St John’s week celebrations through a beautifully prepared mass and special Open Night where the rich learning experiences our students undertake were on display across a variety of curriculum areas. We then held a fundraising event called Missions Day to gather some much needed funds to contribute to the Archdiocesan poor.

We had a strong focus on raising money for the Archdiocesan charities and areas of service to the community through our support of Lifelink Day and our Yr 5 and 6 students, and parents from all classes, have continued the cleaning groups that contribute so generously to our parish, through the Church Cleaning roster. Yr 4 collected toiletry items for a Women’s Refuge and Yr 6 took on 3 hours of Community Service. We are very proud of the projects and the capacity they have to instil empathy for others and a social conscience within our students.

This year we will farewell three staff members; Yvonne Rudrum, Sally Rutherford and Julianne Passera. We will miss all three and look forward to catching up with them at some stage next year as they continue on with new life experiences and challenges. This also means we welcome new staff members which is also always exciting, so we welcome Stephanie Portwood to the staff. Stephanie will take on Yr 1 next year. We also welcome Janine Le Febour and Rachel Mardon to

the team as an Education Assistant and the Uniform shop Coordinator. Thank you to all staff for a great year.

Official reports done I am now able to turn my attention to some very important *thank you* messages.

The 2017 **P&F Committee** is to be commended for the successful social and fundraising events organised this year. The resources supplied to the school are always greatly appreciated by staff and students and the social events are essential in building community. We thank all our Committee Members, particularly our new Exec members, Ainslie Winkler, who took on the President role and Peter McDonald who accepted the role of Treasurer this year and all our Class Reps. Tonight we particularly express our gratitude to Richelle Howard and Wendy Hunt, both of whom leave their roles as Secretary and P&F Representative to the Board respectively. Both Richelle and Wendy have been wonderfully supportive to committee members in a variety of ways and both have always conducted themselves with great dignity and a great sense of purpose that they are there for the children. We also thank Jenny Gascoyne for her very productive and supportive year as VP and wish her much joy and adventure for her 2018 travels.

All our Executive members and Reps have been unstinting in their energy and creative input to numerous projects during these years and we are very appreciative of their gift of time and knowledge to St John's school.

Thank you to all the **School Board** members of 2017 for the areas of expertise that you bring to the Board. Your skills are greatly valued. Effective *Strategic Planning* and the improvement of facilities make a positive difference to the school environment and you all contribute in a range of ways. I extend a heartfelt thank you to John Donald for his role as Board Chair and for working closely with me in such areas as the Strategic Planning and the Maintenance and Asset building. I thank Mark Langridge for his close consideration of the School's finances in his capacity as Board Treasurer and for being so readily available for monthly Finance meetings with Jeanette and I. These two gentlemen are retiring after 6 and 4 years on the School Board and will be sorely missed. Apart from being genuinely lovely people, John has been unstinting in his time and availability across many projects and Mark too has always provided his considerable expertise very graciously and generously. Thank you both sincerely.

And last but by no means least a heartfelt thank you to **Father Benedict Lee** for his support of St John's students, staff and parents this year and for his good humoured ministry in all areas of our faith within our school and parish. We are very appreciative of the efforts Father expended in getting renovations done to the church for our parish.

May God bless you all and keep you safe over the holidays. We look forward with pleasure to your continued support and involvement next year and wish you a peace filled Christmas where we all keep Christ at the cornerstone of our celebrations.

Regards
Mary Bizzaca