

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 20th November 2018

St Munchin's has experienced another rewarding and eventful year as we continue to review and reflect on our practices to ensure that we further enhance and implement, engaging, challenging and rewarding learning experiences. As we ponder on the achievements and outcomes of the students' learning and growth experiences throughout the year, we recognise that student development has been scaffolded through careful planning and selection of appropriate strategies and programs. We continue to strive to fully understand the individual educational, spiritual, social emotional, physical and personal development based on data collected from assessment, observation and from surveys conducted internally and externally.

The positive partnership between home and school is one of the defining factors in the achievements of all community members and in particular, our students who possess very different and diverse needs. This partnership is recognised and evident by many of our families and many more families continue to become further involved in their child/ren's education. Parents/Guardians are the primary educators and as such need to work closely with the school to nurture the development of the child. We invite further involvement and welcome the interest and participation of community members

The Catholic Education Systems strategic direction under the guide of LEAD; LEARNING, ENGAGEMENT, ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISCIPLESHIP continues to be the framework we work on. Currently this is under review and should be implemented in 2019. In 2015 our School Improvement Plan, Curriculum Plan and School Priorities were aligned to the LEAD Framework. This continued in 2016 and will continue into the future.

LEARNING is what we do-we are committed to learning at every level

A Priority in this area is the formation of leadership: Transforming our people to lead outstanding Catholic communities.

ENGAGEMENT is essential-we are committed to Catholic Educations mission through relationships with all

Priorities in this area include a focus on early years learning and care: Partnering across communities to provide the best opportunities for young families

ACCOUNTABILITY is not optional-we have a personal and collective responsibility for our systems success.

Priorities in this area include the health and well-being of students and staff: Providing environments where everyone feels safe and can flourish.

DISCIPLESHIP is our calling-we are committed to deepening our relationship with Jesus.

Priorities in this area include educating at the margins: Engaging with the most vulnerable and marginalized in our society.

As a school, we continue to provide avenues that encourage and engage students to strive for excellence and aim to reach their full potential based on their unique qualities and individual talents. St Munchin's continues to reflect on and further develop educational standards and learning initiatives, which involve best practice in teaching and learning so as to meet the individual needs of all students. Our mantra Be Safe, Be respectful, Be Responsible and Be a Learner is articulated and encouraged on a daily basis.

Catholic Identity, Evangelisation and Religious Education

Catholic Identity is central in all we aspire to at St Munchin's School. We continue to embrace opportunities to celebrate our Catholicity. The way we prepare our students, our interactions, our duties and responsibilities, must reflect Gospel values and the teachings of Jesus Christ. The level of communication must be open, honest and transparent so as to maintain respect and the dignity of the human person.

Our Evangelisation Plan continues to be reflected upon each year as we work to establish a Catholic Ethos that is meeting the spiritual needs, Catholic traditions and practices and is closely aligned to our vision and mission. Focus areas over the past few years have been engaging students more fully in lessons as well as the practice of traditions and rituals so that they are recognised as part of our daily lives and are meaningful in the context of today's society.

Class and whole school masses are held regularly. Classes pray daily, and at school assemblies. The staff meet on Wednesday mornings for prayer and refectio.

Our Religious education units are the basis of our faith formation and development and our Catholic traditions and practices.

As a Catholic School, part of our mission is to assist the less fortunate and marginalised in our community and throughout the world. By praying for and fundraising to contribute to Caritas, Archbishops Lifelink appeal and St Vincent de Paul we aim to do our part through Discipleship. For Lifelink, some staff and students attended an event at Newman College and each school was presented with a plaque by Archbishop Costello, in recognition of the generous fundraising events to date.

Through the spiritual leadership of Fr Philip and his commitment to the Parish and school we have had a very successful year in the celebration of our Catholicity through well attended school masses, commitment to the Sacramental programs and Parent Information evenings for Sacramental Preparation. Fostering these very important avenues in our faith formation creates a connection to faith being lived, practised and witnessed. Fr has visited

classes and spoke to the students about a number of topics. He also spends time with the staff on formal and informal gatherings.

We thank Fr Philip for his commitment to the school and parish and the hard work he has continued to perform throughout 2018.

We also welcomed Fr Hu who is assisting Fr Philip and we appreciate his support and contributions.

Education

Our staff at St Munchin's are very receptive to growing and developing in their roles be it teachers, education assistants and other staff. Our teacher growth and development process, takes place over a tri annual basis. The process continues to be developed through discussion and review so as to make the process a valuable experience with positive outcomes, growth and appropriate goal setting. A process has also been developed for Education Assistants and other staff members to undertake professional development and review their roles and responsibilities so as to improve and update as required.

We continue to have A School Improvement Team which has worked through with staff input on a number of discussions and implementation of internal strategies and ideas. A new team will be voted in by the whole staff and next year we will keep working on ideas for areas of improvement and strategies to achieve these outcomes.

Focus areas in curriculum for 2018 include, further development of the Australian and Western Australian Curriculum, Numeracy, Literacy and ICT- particularly in the use of devices as education tools. This includes the use of Ipads and chrome books and a variety of APPS. This is an ongoing process and each year we focus as a whole staff on appropriate processes and strategies in integrating Technology throughout the curriculum. The guidance of Mrs Stockley, key teachers and outside specialist support from Catalytic It and the Catholic Education Office Leading Lights Team provide valuable support to staff. This year saw the training of another Key Teacher in Information and Technology. Individual staff members have attended many professional development opportunities covering a wide range of curriculum areas and also areas of special interest to them which will enhance their roles and responsibilities. Our Curriculum Plan guided the work covered in this area.

As a teaching staff, we are putting together Scope and Sequence Charts for each of the learning areas so that we are aware of what content is covered in each of the year levels.

In Numeracy, we have embraced an eclectic approach using a variety of teacher texts, MTS online, MangaHigh online mathematics, open-ended tasks and using manipulatives to understand processes on a practical level. This will continue in 2019. Other focus areas include the Times Tables and working towards instant recall.

A team of staff members including the Principal and Assistant principals have been participating in a Numeracy project which has led us to clearly define areas where we can further develop and enhance our Numeracy teaching and learning so that we strive to improve our students understanding and achievements.

Our focus on improving Literacy standards continues to strengthen. Data indicates improved student outcomes individually and as a whole school.

NAPLAN results have shown a steady improvement in the past few years and this year's results have shown a big growth by the majority of students in Year 5 since Year 3.

As part of improving our Literacy standards this year, we continued to focus on spelling strategies in all year levels. In the early years we have implemented the Letters and Sounds program and the marked development of the students is very pleasing. The Reading Recovery Program continues to gain momentum, so too does the Hickey Phonological program, Levelled Literacy Intervention and the Extending Mathematical Understanding program. In 2019 The EMU program will be extended to Years 4-6. These programs assist and support students at risk in these areas. The support staff in Mrs Petta, Mrs Taylor and Mrs Loh adds much support to teachers and students with intervention strategies and ideas.

Miss Harrison co-ordinates the Inclusive program for students with Disabilities and works with teachers, students, parents and consultants to ensure that their learning and social emotional needs are catered for.

We continue to further develop the co-ordination of curriculum areas with key teachers participating in workshops in Literacy, Numeracy, ICT, and Early Learning.

Our specialist programs are an integral part of learning and are extremely well received by students. These teachers include, Mr Marino in Phys Ed, Mrs Gonzales and Mrs Hogan in Music, Mrs Crimp in Library, Mrs Stockley in ICT and Mrs Sartorelli in Science for years 4-6 as well as years 1-3. The specialist programs contribute to providing a curriculum which is diverse, covering a number of areas. I also acknowledge Mrs Iacobelli's contribution with a comprehensive Italian program across the school.

The Quality Improvement Plan to address National Quality Standards has had extensive work by teachers and assistants in Kindergarten to year 2. I thank all the Early Learning Staff for their involvement and contributions and their strong commitment to enhancing the Early Learning program and environment. The work that covered in the Early Learning areas indicates a strong commitment from the school and staff in ensuring quality learning as well as growth and development, as well as embedding sound strategies in the whole school curriculum.

Accountability- Student Assessment and Reporting/Compliance

In July this year, the school participated in the five yearly School Audit, which covered areas of accountability to the government. These must be effective and in place in order for the school to be recognised as a registered education institution. The process was extremely successful with only a few minor adjustments to processes or procedures required.

One of our ongoing forms of accountability is the assessment of students so as to gauge their capabilities and to gather solid data evidence on student progress and development. This data evidence is used by the school for planning improvement in teaching and learning and to cater for the academic and personal growth and development of the students.

Assessment tasks are explicit and meaningful catering for the children's varied learning styles and provide diagnostic information for future planning. Reporting to parents is purposeful, varied and reflects the child's whole development.

National testing (NAPLAN) takes place each year in Year 3 and 5. The trend in results at St Munchin's over time, shows a clear improvement each year. This year has seen a marked growth in Year 5 students since they sat the test in year 3. In 2019 the NAPLAN testing will be conducted online and we have been preparing for this during 2018.

Further examples of standardised and formal assessment include ACER Maths and Literacy, Progressive Achievement tests, On-Entry Assessment in Pre-primary, Word Recognition testing, Phonemic Awareness testing, Mathematics Assessment Interviews, Observational surveys, Anecdotal recording keeping and teacher devised assessments. This year we have introduced Brightpath Assessment specifically for writing genres from PP- Yr 6.

Reporting to parents includes parent/teacher meetings, written reports, portfolios, learning journeys, work samples, regular class testing and formal results from NAPLAN and Bishops' Literacy Assessment for year 3 and 5.

Formal written reports this year used the format provided by SEQTA which all Catholic Schools use. The format and content will continue to become more informative and we will continue to add more features.

SEQTA also provides our attendance record of students and in the future and the management in the storing of student data.

Speech Assessment and Occupational Therapy Screening has now become an important aspect of student assessment. The results of the screening not only assist in early intervention but help the school recognise students who need further development. KZ Speech is the company that we have established a contract with and the Speech Pathologist and OT come to the school to work with the students at a much reduced cost to families.

This initiative continues to be a valuable strategy benefit and the school in general by providing specialist support to teachers.

OSHC continues to offer a very enjoyable, diverse program, which covers all National Quality Standards. Ongoing development of the centre in ALL aspects has led us to meeting the requirements of NQS. Thanks must go to Rebecca Curtis and her staff for the wonderful work they carry out in providing this valuable service to our families. Numbers continue to grow and the students are always engaged in very meaningful tasks based on their interest.

Discipleship/Stewardship

Pastoral Care is the role of all members who belong to a community. At St Munchin's we continue to be blessed to have so many caring, committed and willing people who have the best interests of the students and other community members wellbeing and family circumstances.

Our school social worker Mrs Hodgson is always ready to assist and support students and families who have a need. This interaction is confidential and is only shared with leadership if deemed necessary.

The Rainbows Program to assist students who have experienced some sort of trauma in their lives continues to gain momentum. Mrs Taylor will continue the program in 2019. We once again have received funding through the National Chaplaincy Program for for the next 4 years.

We continue to add the extensive pool of resources we already have at St Munchin's. Apart from academic resources we continue to enhance student facilities and carry out planned maintenance to provide excellent facilities to maximise our learning environment.

Work began on our Capital Development Plan to restructure the tennis courts and carpark. All the engineering work and concept plans have been completed and we await approval from CEO before submitting to the Shire of Gosnells for approval. This may take a number of years as we strive to prioritise capital works based on immediate benefits for students education and their safety and wellbeing. During 2019 the student toilets will be refurbished beginning with the senior block during the January break.

In preparation for the July audit, many minor maintenance tasks have been completed.

In the Early Learning Area, the Nature Playground continues to be added to, and we plan for new play equipment to be purchased for the front as funds become available.

The P and F have raised funds which have been distributed throughout the school fulfilling teacher wish lists and requirements. This is a wonderful achievement by the committee and generous through generous parent support.

Community

One of our focus areas for 2018 was to engage our families further in the work of the school and the education of the students. This will continue to be a focus area into the future. As parents are the primary educators of their children it is imperative for parents/guardians to be involved at some level. We will continue to explore and provide opportunities for our community to be part of and participate fully in the life of St Munchin's School. We will continue to add to our communication avenues and invite parents and caregivers into the school to be part of the learning process by assisting during lessons.

The parents and Friends have held several events, both fundraisers and social, which have been well supported and attended.

Our Community is so culturally diverse and we need to continue to celebrate and nurture this diversity.

St Munchin's is indeed very fortunate to have so many people who have contributed to our many achievements during 2018.

The School Board supports the principal, staff and students in a consultative role. I extend my sincere gratitude to School Board members led by Luke Bresland- Board Chair and P and F representative, Treasurer, Kevin Lin, Secretary Robyn Wall, Daria Weber, Mike Hutcheson, Derrick Ingram, Joe Musitano, Lisa Harrison and Fr Philip and Lenny Parish Rep

We farewell Robyn Wall who leaves us at the end of the year and thank her for her support and contributions as Secretary of the Board.

We sincerely thank all members for their commitment, dedication and contributions throughout the year.

The hard work of the P and F committee of Gaylia Evans, Helen Rosendahl, Vanessa Killen, Janene Neale, all the regular attendees to meetings and all the families who supported them in some way throughout the year. All volunteers are to be commended for their community spirit and for the work and interest in raising funds for the school and in particular the students. Thanks to Vanessa Killen for compiling and publishing the Parents and Friends Newsletter with assistance from Robyn Wall, and for co-ordinating the School Banking.

I thank all our parents for their commitment to our school and for their crucial support of our home school/ partnership. Our volunteers in the Canteen, Reading Book exchange, Weekly Banking, Excursions, Incursions, Classrooms and sports events have all demonstrated commitment to our school through action and enthusiasm. Without this support, we would not be able to achieve all round education with our children.

Thanks Katrina Vanderwel and her volunteers, for managing the canteen and all the work carried out in maintaining the service for the students and families. The canteen continues to make a small profit. This is a testament to the good service, fantastic food and Katrina's commitment. It would be wonderful if we could have a few more volunteers in 2019.

Students

I thank the students for being here and bringing the school to life with their

- Energy and enthusiasm
- Their innocence and honesty
- Their perseverance and accomplishments
- Their willingness to learn and their friendship
- Their beautiful smile

Staff

The strength and vitality of any school rests with its staff. Whether they operate in the classrooms, in the grounds, library or office, all contribute their skills to advancing the education and well-being of our students; I thank each one of them for giving their time and energy to enriching the lives of others.

St Munchin's is blessed to have such a dedicated, committed, caring and collaborative staff that always have the needs of students at the forefront.

I continue to be appreciative of the work carried out by our Assistant Principals, Miss Harrison and Mr Musitano who execute their roles and responsibilities in an exemplary manner. Their support to the Principal, staff and families enhances all work carried out at St Munchin's.

I am especially grateful for the support of our office staff- Mrs Yozzi and Mrs Campbell, for their seamless collaboration and enormous contribution to our school and community. I thank each one of them for their support, their efforts and hard work. Their attention to detail and knowledge of our families provide the backbone for all that we do.

St Munchin's School is abundantly blessed with very good people. As a leader, I have the privilege to work with the community and strive to practise and live the values introduced by the Mercy Sisters so long ago. The teachings of Jesus and Gospel values continue to be

our foundation. As Jesus said, "Whenever one or more of you are gathered in my name, I am in your presence".

On behalf of our staff and students I wish all our families, the blessings of Jesus, a safe and joyous festive season and a refreshing holiday break and we look forward to working with you in collaboration in 2019.

Rob Romeo
Principal