

St Luke's School Annual Principal's Report 2016

Good evening everyone and thank you for attending the school community AGM . My report will be a brief overview of the important achievements we have made this year in terms of educational programs and outline new initiatives planned in 2017.

School Improvement

A significant aim of this year's improvement plan was to further develop teacher confidence with ICT and effectively integrate new skills into the facilitation of learning, particularly in literacy and numeracy. Incorporated into the strategy was the release of Mr Baker three days a week to work closely with teachers across all year levels instructing and modelling how technology can be used more effectively to drive student learning. Increased use of mobile devices in classrooms contributed to this overall outcome which has seen both teachers and students grow in confidence in using technology with some improved results in Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT) across the school. Our most recent testing in October this year revealed 68% of students were achieving at or above the national mean in Mathematics and 66% in Literacy (spelling, comprehension, grammar and vocabulary). Next year we have set a further 5% improvement as an achievable target as we continue to better use technology and data in teaching and learning. Behind the scenes data from Naplan and PAT testing is used to identify curriculum areas of strength and weakness so that strategic interventions can be instigated at a class level or at individual student level to drive progress. Improved knowledge of the Catholic Education System's Seqta suite this year has contributed to the enabling of student reports to be accessed online by parents, pastoral care notes made by teachers concerning students to be accessed and shared, student attendance to be monitored more efficiently and communication with parents to be further improved. We will endeavor to continue to learn about and use effectively the Catholic Education Leading Lights school management platform into 2017 to assist staff members being more efficient and effective in their teaching.

Throughout 2016 we have been mindful of the data received in 2015 from the Insight surveys completed by staff, students and parents. That data pointed to a need to improve clarity of purpose both in terms of teaching and student learning. As a result leadership staff have been involved in creating a Teaching and Learning Accountability document that clearly sets out staff roles and expectations of teachers in terms of planning, assessment and reporting. Additionally, more effective timetabling has enabled staff to meet in regular cluster meetings on a weekly basis to share their ideas, successes and new competencies with each other to improve teaching outcomes for children.

In an effort to provide greater opportunities to develop leadership in staff ranks and share the many extra portfolios that allows schools to operate effectively, staff members work in cooperative teams to facilitate the many school events, non-teaching and pastoral responsibilities that make up a school year. From a student perspective opportunities to develop leadership through the recent addition of the student council have proven successful and will be continued into 2017.

School Program 2017

The 2017 academic program we see us maintaining a similar level of staff resources in student academic support and Education Assistants as we have this year. Likewise, our Arts program will continue in its current form of music, visual arts and dance. In 2017 Civics and citizenship components of the Humanities and Social Science curriculum will be added to the curriculum in Years 3,4,5,6 and Economics and Business to Year 5 and 6. This is in line with government expectations across all education sectors in WA.

We will continue to develop the ICT capacity of the school by ensuring the school computer hardware is upgraded appropriately and our increased provision of mobile devices for use in classrooms is maintained. Following my report Mr Baker will be presenting a short summary of some of the digital learning priorities we will be embarking upon next year together with a brief overview of a trial in Year 2 aimed at exploring anticipated benefits of 21st century contemporary learning environments. A more in-depth presentation is scheduled for our current Year one parents in week nine.

The National Quality Standards (NQS) implementation began in earnest this year and will continue to be a focus for our junior primary staff in 2017. Staff members have already embraced key aspects of the standards and are working hard to make the learning environment for our youngest children the best we can make it.

From the beginning of 2017 it will be mandatory for all catholic schools to have in-place a Code of Conduct policy. The purpose of the policy will be to clearly describe minimum standards of conduct in all behaviour and decision making to ensure the safety and well-being of students. I will be working with staff early in the new school year to familiarize them with the conduct statements and how they influence appropriate teacher student interaction. The policy will extend to parents and students as well. The school administration will look at appropriate ways to disseminate an understanding of the standards to all who are involved in the school community.

As you already aware, for 2017 we have made adjustments to class commencement and finish times with the expectation that the earlier start time will benefit student learning across all year levels. I am confident that the new earlier school day will be embraced by students and eventually lead to acceptance by all in the community of the benefits.

Thankyou Staff

A school's performance is very much determined by the ability of its staff and its members' commitment to their roles. I acknowledge that I have a talented and hardworking staff who continue to give their best in the service of our children. I look forward with optimism that we can further improve our teaching which ultimately results

in improved results and care for our children. I ask that you continue to support them in their important work next year.

Parish

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Father Francisco, our parish priest, and parish council, for their involvement and support of our school this year. The inclusion of school representatives at parish council meetings and the parish council's representation at school board level have no doubt facilitated communication between church and school and enhanced the understanding of any issues. Similarly, I extend my thanks to all parish workers including Michelle Dastalik- the parish catechist leader for her work with our teachers in preparing children for sacraments throughout the year.

School Board

This year the school board has again been proactive in ensuring our children receive the best possible facilities and opportunities our resources will allow. I thank all our board members for their time and continued support of educational programs at St Lukes. I wish to particularly thank Mr John Mason in his role as the School Board chair facilitating the board in being effective in its planning and resourcing of our school this year. I wish to thank all board members for their time and commitment to advancing our school by volunteering their expertise and would particularly like to thank retiring member, Paul Bird- treasurer, for his contribution this year. He has ensured the sound fiscal management of the school over the last two years.

Parents and Friends Association

In addition to the fundraising role it plays, the P&F has been instrumental in providing opportunities for parents to develop a real sense of community in our school. To all the parents who have contributed to the success of the P&F events; on behalf of my staff, I thank you most sincerely. In particular I wish to acknowledge the efforts of our retiring president, Tracy Detata, and her executive team of Vice President - Natalie Campbell. Secretary - Rebecca Mackie. Newsletter editor - Nicki Francis. Grounds coordinator - Jason Noonan and Board Rep Nicki Barrett for their outstanding work during the course of the year. I also look forward to working with the new P&F executive next year.

Parents

Finally, on behalf of the staff, can I thank you as parents for your support of the staff and the programs they have put into action this year. Our school relies heavily on the generous support you provide and the input you have in the many services our school provides and the events we run. To those who have helped out in the uniform shop (Particularly Jodi Lyra as the manageress) I thank you sincerely. To the volunteers in the school banking program, parent helpers on excursions, as sports-day officials, as rostered class helpers, visual arts helpers, costume makers for performing Arts, at Busy-bees and in the kitchen on pie days, I thank you for your generosity. And to all parents in general,

I thank you for the help and guidance you have provided to your children together with the generosity of your time in assisting implementation of school and class based programs throughout the year. Our staff looks forward to your continued support again next year.

Thankyou

David Hunter