

Principals AGM Report

Wednesday 20th November 2019

CEWA Strategic Direction 2019-2021

Catholic Schools of Excellence	Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable System of Schools	Catholic Pastoral Communities	Inspiring Christ-centred Leaders
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This year we have continued to improve the quality of education that we offer at St Patrick's, we have built upon the relationships within our school community and have improved the aesthetics of the school ensuring a safe, clean and modern facility for our students to enjoy. Our parents have worked tirelessly to support the school, raise funds and build community, and, collectively with staff, we continue to work towards creating a child inspired learning environment where students feel and know they belong.

This year the school participated in a Government Compliance Audit. The feedback was very positive, and we are meeting all areas in terms of our registration requirements. We also completed a Climate Survey which looked at many aspects of our school including relationships, staff and student wellbeing, and communication. Again, the school has performed well across all areas. Most notable for parents was improved communication, happy with how we deal with behaviour, supportive staff and a welcoming school. For students it was teacher support, rule clarity, dealing with bullying and expectations on learning.

Our students have also performed well in NAPLAN with the information being made available to parents via the MySchools website soon. Most noticeably in writing where we have seen dramatic growth from previous years.

Next week the school will also complete the National Quality Standards verification which looks at the improvement agenda for the early years. The NQS verification will provide us with some meaningful recommendations as we move forward continually aiming to improve our place and our practice.

This year the school contracted Eric Hood Painting to paint and maintain our school over the next 10-year period. The new colour scheme and fresh coat of paint certainly has improved the presentation of the school. The addition of inspiring quotes and brightly coloured walls has livened up the school and has contributed to the child friendly environment we aim to achieve. The restructuring of the Kindergarten and the building of another nature play area has given our early years students more choices about their learning, including opportunities to move between indoor and outdoor learning spaces and nature play; which are essential elements of a quality early years program.

The school has continued its focus on quality teaching and learning, and this year implemented both IntialLit in Pre-Primary and Talk for Writing across the whole school. This improvement agenda, focused on explicit teaching pedagogies, has seen significant growth across all years in reading and writing.

This year we also introduced a parent involved three-year-old program known as "Mini-Stars." The program has been a huge success and has provided an engaging and fun early learning experience for our future Kindy students. A big thank you must go to Ms Bearcroft, Mrs Barnes, Mrs Willey and Mrs Horgan who have coordinated the program.

Our students have again made us proud when representing our school at sporting and community events. We are a small school, however, the heart our students continually show when competing or performing is inspiring.

This year we had another finalist in the Vi Barham Awards for Excellence. Congratulations must go to Ivana Penaverde who placed in the top 10. Congratulations Ivana, we are all very proud of you and we wish you all the best at High School.

This year we have had 14 students from the school and parish involved in the sacramental programs offered. Our staff have shown great commitment to preparing our students for the sacraments and supporting them on their faith journey. This year we also welcomed Fr Gerome to our school and parish community. It has been great having him in our community and I thank him for his continued support and guidance.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff who are leaving us. Mrs Clegg will not be with us next year as she takes the time to be with her family and concentrate on their family business. We thank you for your commitment to our school and students and wish you all the best for the future, though we will still see you around, supporting me with sport. Next to Mrs Sugg, Paulette has been at St Patrick's for approximately 20 years. She has been instrumental in the improvements we have seen in reading over the last two years and has built many positive and lasting friendships with our students, staff and community members. Please try and think of us in July when you are walking along the beach in the sunshine, with Paul, surrounded by your new friends in Exmouth. Thank you again, Paulette.

Lastly, I walk around our school every day, through classes, on duty and in the carpark before and after school, and every day I am thankful for our committed staff, our enthusiastic and charismatic students and our supportive parents. We are truly blessed to call Katanning and St Patrick's home and I sincerely thank everyone involved for their contribution to the success our school has experienced this year.

Thank you all, I hope you have a safe and enjoyable Christmas break and come back refreshed ready for another successful year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AG', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew Gammon
Principal