

# Saint Patrick's Catholic Primary School

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT 2021



**"Do all you can with the means at your disposal and calmly leave the rest to God."**

*Saint Mary MacKillop*

As I begin my annual report, the above quote, from such a special saint, epitomises to me the educational community that is Saint Patrick's. We work together, tirelessly as a community, to provide the very best experience for our children. At the same time, we place our faith in God, assured that he will embrace us and provide for our needs.

What a wonderful year 2021 has been; my first at Saint Pat's. I am truly blessed to have been given this opportunity to work in such a vibrant and caring community. Clearly, a very special culture has developed here over many years. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those in our community for being so welcoming towards the Wilkie family. We have certainly felt the warmth of the community on countless occasions, as we have settled in to a new town and school.

I would like to thank the St. Pat's students for all of their hard work, but also for the way they treat people. I constantly admire the way our students display respect and compassion in their interactions with others. In particular, I would like to acknowledge our graduating group of Year 6s. To Lucy, Max, Ben, Milo, Nicholas, Nate, Cristian, Lewis and Joseph - you are each talented people in your own right and I am sure you will be very successful in everything you do in the future. You have left a tremendous mark on our school. While I've only known you for a year, I will always remember fondly the leadership class from my first year at Saint Pat's. I also wish to acknowledge those families who have their youngest child graduating this year. To the Clegg, Lane and Kowald families- thank you for entrusting us with the education and care of your children. You have each been wonderful families who have contributed to our school in so many different ways. I thank you and wish your families nothing but the best for the future.

2021 has seen so many achievements, but none would be possible without the support of an amazing group of staff members. Our staff give their heart and soul to the school and have a genuine desire to see the students in the school thrive in every way. I would like to especially thank Mrs. Helen Robinson, who has been a constant source of support and information for all of us-she is truly the glue that binds us! I acknowledge also the contribution of Miss Jayde Wolfe, who will be pursuing other opportunities in life next year. Jayde, you are mature beyond your years and I have greatly admired the professionalism, energy and dedication you have shown in your role. You have had an enormously positive influence on the students in your care- I wish you all the best for your future endeavours.

Any effective school can only succeed in partnership with parents. The children in our school come from such beautiful families, where they are loved unconditionally and assisted in their learning. I would like to personally thank the parents for their support this year. There have been numerous times where parents have put their hands up to assist with canteen, uniforms, P&F events, carnivals and other activities. These efforts have not gone unnoticed or unappreciated. I would like to especially acknowledge those parents who have served on the School Board and/or P&F Executive this year. It is a real credit to our small school that we can so easily find parents to volunteer their precious time to serve in these roles. It is something that I have certainly not taken for granted. I thank especially Mrs Tania Edwards and Mr

Sheldon Kowald for their contribution to our School Board, as they finish their term of service this year.

The Parish and School continue to enjoy a close relationship. This year, we have once again successfully run our Sacramental programs, as well as participating in a range of Masses and Liturgies. I wish to extend my thanks to Father Gerome, who has been a great source of spiritual guidance for all of us here at Saint Pat's.

2021 has been a year of so many achievements. We have implemented the Making Jesus Real program, which we have already seen making a hugely positive influence on our school culture. We have been able to complete much-needed repairs to our leaking kindy roof, as well as fixing our water-damaged walls in the canteen and adjacent rooms. Earlier this term, our little school was the focus of Catholic Education for a day, as we hosted the STEM Showcase. This involved hundreds of visiting Year 3/4 students from fellow Great Southern schools displaying the final product from their STEM projects. At this Showcase, we were fortunate to play host to a number of V.I.P. guests, including the Executive Director of CEWA, Dr. Debra Sayce. All of the visiting guests made positive comments about how well our school presents. Importantly, the process of preparing for the STEM Showcase meant that our Year 3/4 students had a great experience of a different style of learning, needing to collaboratively work through a design-thinking process to manage a long-term project based on community needs. We hope to further explore and embed this style of learning in the coming years. There are too many other achievements to mention them all, but it is worth highlighting a significant opportunity that we have accepted this year, for 2022 and beyond. The Low Fee Initiative should have a significantly positive impact in making our school vastly more affordable for our current families, while also helping to make us even more appealing to new families. I honestly believe that this is one of the most significant developments for our school in recent years and has the potential to have an enormous impact on the sustainability of our school moving forward.

Through working together, we have achieved so much at our great school in 2021. Whether it be our considerable academic success, our sporting endeavours or achievements in the creative pursuits, we have so much to be proud of this year. We approach 2022 with confidence that we will continue to be a place where students, inspired by our motto of 'Concern', can continue to flourish in all that they do. Have a happy and safe Christmas and holiday break.

Brett Wilkie

Principal