

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 15 November 2016

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.

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.

In 2014 Catholic Schools were introduced to the Catholic Education Systems new strategic direction under the guide of LEAD; LEARNING, ENGAGEMENT, ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISCIPLESHIP. 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***

***Priorities in the area are Staff Professionalism and Discretion; Staff Morale and Staff Relationships; Developing an Expert Teaching Team and Differentiated Teaching and Learning.***

***ENGAGEMENT is essential-we are committed to Catholic Education's mission through relationships with all***

***Priorities in this area are Managing Student Behaviours; Integrating Catholic Life, Faith and Culture.***

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

***Priorities in this area include giving special consideration in the roles Parents, Caregivers, Students and taking into account home life situations, cultural background and traditions.***

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

***Priorities in this area include Pastoral Care of Students and Caring for and being inclusive of the poor and marginalised.***

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.

### **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 for 2016 included extending our knowledge of Jesus and unpacking and living gospel values and broaden our experiences of prayer. In 2017 we will be revisiting the Evangelisation Plan and updating the content as required.

Class and whole school masses are held regularly, classes pray daily, at school assemblies, so too do the staff who meet Wednesday mornings for prayer and reflection.

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 this year Miss Harrison and I accompanied a group of students for the Launch which took place at Lake Monger.

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 2016.

## **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. We have developed and implemented a teacher growth and development process which will take place over a tri annual basis and this has been developed through workshops where ideas have been explored so as to make the process a valuable experience with positive outcomes and 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.

St Munchin's is also a part of a pilot project for School Improvement working closely with the School Improvement Advisor Hamish Valentine. A School Improvement Team was established last year and this team 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 2016 include further development of the Australian and Western Australian Curriculum, Numeracy, Literacy and ICT- particularly in the use of devices as education tools, such as Ipads and chrome books. This year saw the training of a 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, Mathletics, open ended tasks and using manipulatives to understand processes on a practical level. This will continue in 2017 and another focus will be Times Tables working towards instant recall.

Our focus on improving Literacy standards continues to strengthen and is evidenced through improved student outcomes individually and as a whole school.

NAPLAN results have shown a steady improvement in the past few years.

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. These programs are aimed at assisting 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. The specialist programs contribute to providing a curriculum which is diverse, covering a number of areas.

The BluEarth program continued to be integrated this year and we introduced early morning fitness 3 times a week to ensure that students are participating in 120 minutes of organised physical activity as well as improving skills development in a number of PE areas. The majority of teachers in the school now have the BLU EARTH training to continue the program in their classes. The program focuses on team work and collaboration skills as well as developing physical and mental skills.

Up until this 2014 The Italian Program has been funded by the Italo Centre. Last year the school contributed \$5 per child. In 2016 the Italian program was funded by the school out of the general Budget. The curriculum requires mandatory offering of another language and it is also part of student assessment. Mrs Iacobelli, delivers a very comprehensive program to our students.

In 2015 we developed our school's Early Childhood Philosophy and developed our Quality Improvement Plan to address National Quality Standards requirements. We thank Mrs Giuffre and the Early Learning Staff for their involvement and contributions. The work that has been 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 is embedded in the whole school curriculum.

### **Accountability- Student Assessment and Reporting**

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.

Further examples of standardised and formal assessment include Easymark 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.

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 we will explore, through SEQTA, the managing and 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 has seen students 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. After major work in the past two years ALL aspects have been passed as 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 have grown 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 and Mrs Manick and Ms Alexander have worked with students through the grades with pleasing results. This will continue in 2017. We once again have received funding through the National Chaplaincy Program for 2017/18.

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 and refurbishment of the Administration Block and Early Learning Centre and this is almost complete. The Early Learning have moved into their new section and the Administration will be ready before the end on this year.

In the Early Learning Area, the focus now will be to construct a Nature Playground at the back facing Southern River Road.

The P and F have raise funds to install for 6 new Television sets to be installed in the next few weeks. This is a wonderful achievement by the committee and parent support.

In 2017 projects that will be worked on are extending the back carpark and kiss and drive area and restructuring and resurfacing of the tennis court area.

## **Community**

One of our focus areas for 2016 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.

One of the most successful family events held this year by the P and F was the mini fair held in term two.

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 2016.

The School Board supports the principal, staff and students in a consultative role. I extend my sincere gratitude to School Board members led by Jacquie Vogels Board Chair, Treasurer Luke Bresland and P and F representative, Mike Hutcheson, Derrick Ingram, Joe Musitano, Lisa Harrison and Fr Philip.

We farewell Jackie Vogels who leaves us at the end of the year and thank her for her support and contributions as chair 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 Robyn Wall, Helen Rosendahl and Vanessa Killen 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 and for co-ordinating the School Banking.

A special thanks to Tammy Costantino and Dee Navarra for coordinating the Book Club which is so very popular with the students.

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 with our children.

Thanks Katrina Vanderwel for managing the canteen and all the work carried out in maintaining the service for the students and families. The canteen this year has made a small profit and this is a testament to the good service, fantastic food and Katrina's commitment.

Students

I thank the students for;

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

## 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 and every 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 full of very good people and I am fortunate to be in a position to experience the values introduced by the Mercy Sisters so long ago, continue to flourish year by year. 2016 I, the Year of Mercy, we celebrated in various ways and have made stronger links with the Mercy Charism.

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 2017.

Rob Romeo  
Principal