

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 21st November 2017

2017 has been a very busy and rewarding and eventful year for members of St Munchin's Catholic School community. As we continue to review and reflect on our practices to ensure that we further enhance and implement, engaging, challenging and rewarding learning experiences we celebrate the outcomes achieved and the learning and growth experienced by not only the students but staff and community members as well.

On the 30th and 31st October St Munchin's participated in a 5 yearly School Cyclic Review. A panel consisting of members from CEO and 2 Principals met with staff, students and representatives from the School Board, P and F and parents. The purpose of the review was to consider processes and strategies in place for school improvement within our school. Wonderful affirmation was received for the school of the many positive aspects which are part of our improvement process. The panel also encouraged the school to continue to consolidate the consistency in the processes and strategies we have commenced.

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 foster and nurture the development of the child so they continue to flourish. We invite further involvement and welcome the interest and participation of community members in the education and growth and development of all our students.

St Munchin's continued the Catholic Education Systems new strategic direction throughout 2017 under the guide of LEAD; LEARNING, ENGAGEMENT, ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISCIPLESHIP. Our School Improvement Plan, Curriculum Plan and School Priorities were aligned to the LEAD Framework.

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

Priorities in the area have been to enhance student achievement and wellbeing and increase student and staff engagement in their own learning and faith formation.

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

Priorities have been to enhance parental involvement in their child's learning and faith formation and develop our people to be leaders in Catholic Education's mission.

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

Priorities in this area have been to increase understanding of our individual and collective responsibility for Catholic Education's mission and ensure inclusivity, good governance and resource allocation required to meet our mission.

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

Priorities in this area include enhancing opportunities for personal faith development and increase enrolment of the vulnerable, poor and marginalised as a visible sign of our faith in action.

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 2017 included extending our knowledge of Jesus and unpacking and living gospel values and broaden our experiences of prayer. In 2018 we will be revisiting the Evangelisation Plan and updating revisiting our mission and vision to clarify and understand these aspects more deeply.

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, the Archbishops Lifelink appeal and St Vincent de Paul and Children's mission we aim to empower those less fortunate than ourselves hoping that through our action their

lives will change for the better. The generosity displayed by our community in raising funds for these projects is exemplary and valued and appreciated.

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. St Munchin's has been blessed to have had Deacon Konrad assisting Fr Phillip and the school community for over a year. We have been fortunate to experience the commitment, deep faith and spirit of service demonstrated by him. Fr Konrad was ordained last Friday and we wish him the very best for his future in the priesthood. Fostering these very important avenues in our faith formation creates a connection to faith being lived, practised and witnessed. Fr Phillip and Fr Konrad visited classes, spent time with staff, celebrated the Sacraments, masses and attended special events in the school calendar such as sports days. -who will forget Fr Konrad's 100metre dash to help the teachers win!

We thank Fr Philip and Fr Konrad for being active and present in our community. Their commitment to the school and parish and the service provided for us all throughout 2017 has enriched our faith journey.

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. The Growth and Development Process for teachers has worked well with teachers focussing on their goals and achieving the desired outcomes. 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.

This year we have a new School Improvement Team which continues to build on from the first team in 2015/16. This team has worked through with staff input on a number of discussions and implementation of internal strategies and ideas. The SIT will keep working on ideas for areas of improvement and strategies to achieve these outcomes.

Focus areas in curriculum for 2017 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 I pads and chrome books and using a variety of APPS. This year there have been many developments in Leading Lights the expansive technologies platform schools in the Catholic Education System are learning to use. This has required a number of changes to current practices in the Information and communication Technologies.

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. The Curriculum Organiser and many available planning tools on line have given an extensive platform for support in planning and preparation of learning programs

In Numeracy we have embraced an eclectic approach using a variety of teacher texts, MTS online, open ended tasks and using manipulatives to understand processes on a practical level. Strengthening Mental computation throughout the year levels will be a consistent focus.

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.

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. The school covers the cost of the program for individual students from the general budget without inclusion on the school fees.

In 2015 we developed our school's Early Childhood Philosophy and developed our Quality Improvement Plan to address National Quality Standards requirements. The Early Learning Staff from K- 2 have been meeting regularly to review and plan goals and outcomes into the future. I thank them 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 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.

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. The nominated supervisor and the Principal work closely with Our early years' consultant from the Catholic Education office. Thanks must go to Rebecca Curtis and her staff for the wonderful work they carry out in providing this valuable service to our families. The students are always engaged in very meaningful tasks based on their interest and careful observation of each student records the progress made in the program throughout the year.

Unfortunately, due to low numbers for the January holiday break we are unable to run the program as a minimum number of 10 students is required on each day to make opening feasible.

Quality Catholic Schooling Components 2017

During the last week of term for staff the components we will be reviewing are:

1. Engagement with the School Community
2. Wider Community Partnerships
3. A Culture that promotes learning
4. Targeted use of school resources
5. Systemic Curriculum Delivery

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 generously provide for 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. Ms Alexander has worked with students through the grades with pleasing results. This will continue in 2018. 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.

At the end of 2016 we moved back into the refurbished Administration Centre which has been a pleasure to work in

In the Early Learning Area, we began constructing a Nature Playground at the back facing Southern River Road. A large fort and tunnel play zone has been added and we will continue to add to this area in the future.

We are looking at restructuring the drive in and exit to the back car park and the back car park and Kiss and Drive. We have engaged surveyors and engineers as recommended by Gosnells shire to ensure work is carried out within guidelines and for quick approval.

A new water bore has been installed at the back of the hall and currently the existing bore which needs replacing is being drilled and should be completed soon.

Community

One of our focus areas for 2017 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.

Our Community is so culturally diverse and we continue to celebrate and nurture this diversity. We celebrated community with events such as whole school masses, Mother's day, Father's Day and Grandparent's Day, Parent Information Night and Learning Journey night and many events with the students and all the social events organised and run by the P and F.

St Munchin's is indeed very fortunate to have so many people who have contributed to our many achievements during 2017.

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- Marc Metzger, Robyn Wall, secretary, Mike Hutcheson, Derrick Ingram, Kevin Lin and Parish representative Louise Ireland. Also to Joe Musitano, Lisa Harrison and Fr Philip as ex-officio members.

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, Janene Neal 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 the Parents and Friends Newsletter and for co-ordinating the School Banking and Lisa Pitman for all the marketing Flyers and information.

This year we have seen the attendance and commitment to P and F grow and now we have a regular crew attending and bringing along new members. The funds raised by the P and F have been exemplary and as recorded and reported in the President's report covers a wide range of projects completed through these efforts. Well done to all involved!!

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 great service, fantastic food and Katrina's commitment is evident in the large queues and amount of orders each day it is open.

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 especially note the work they carried out along with Joan Mackin during my unexpected need for surgery and lengthy recovery.

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.

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 2018.

Rob Romeo
Principal