

AGM PRINCIPAL'S REPORT 2016

It is with great pleasure that I present the 2016 Principal's Report to the St Andrew's School Community. I feel that the level of involvement from our community has been increasing on a daily basis. Our community is very close knit and supportive. I have been impressed and very appreciative of the high level of support that both the P&F and Board members have shown towards all here at St. Andrew's. There is a very genuine desire to work collaboratively to help make this a better school for all children, staff and community members.

Parish relations have continued to be very positive during the past 12 months and Fr Robert and Fr Israel have done an amazing job of working with us, in partnership, to make our community a better place to be. This year, we continue to work closely with the Parish and other catholic schools within the Parish to develop a truly Parish Based, Sacramental Program. The continuing close relationship, and having the parish office located in the school hall until the new Parish offices can be built, is another example of this ongoing relationship.

A significant highlight this year has been the awarding of a LEAD Award for Educational Excellence to St Andrew's School. (The Seven Keys to comprehension) This is an amazing achievement as there are only 4 awards presented to Catholic schools within the whole state. St. Andrew's should be justifiably proud that the programs being implemented and introduced are having a positive impact on the children. There have been a number of significant achievements this year in terms of improving the facilities at St Andrew's.

During the year other major projects to be completed were:

- on-going maintenance of the school
- Internal doors for each of the classrooms
- Upgrade of the Year 2 toilets
- Upgrade of the gutters especially outside Years 4 and 5.
- Contemporary learning furniture in selected rooms - standing tables, collaborative tables
- Apple TV's in all of the BYOD classrooms
- Upgrade of the library computer lab
- Upgrade of the classroom computers
- New server for the school
- Coding applications for the school including Bee Bots, Sphero's, and Robotics etc. to enhance the teaching and learning curriculum for the children.
- New library books and shelving
- New transfer for the Year 4/5 classrooms onto the oval.
- Upgrade of reticulation
- Shade sail improvements along junior primary walk way

- Upgrading of classroom resources
- New plants in selected areas
- Trimming trees and safety pruning
- Beautification of the school grounds
- Maintenance of the bushland area
- Pin Up Boards in classrooms
- Pigeon holes for the Kindergarten rooms

Counting; Masses, The Year 6 Camp, Open Afternoon, Interview Days, Music performance assembly, excursions, incursion, Mini Vinnies, Father's Day Breakfast, Performing Arts, School Band, Chess Club, School Choir, IN school music program, Gymbus – Gymnastic program, Life Education Van, In term - Swimming, Aqua Fun Day, NAIDOC week celebrations, Sporting events both intra and inter school carnivals, significant fund raisers for Catholic charities – St. Vincent de Paul, Caritas, Life Link, Project Compassion, Missions and Father Robert's missionary work in the Philippines, we are a community that offers a lot. I especially want to mention one event, the open night, which brought our community together, the book fair. No matter where we hold this event, the excitement and love of reading held by all students of our school was noticed. It should also be noted that this Year our TOM team reached the state finals. This is a significant accomplishment and all involved should be congratulated for their effort.

The P&F have once again outdone themselves by contributing towards a number of different initiatives. They include, Literacy Pro books, upgrade of the hall outdoor area and the children have absolutely loved it and it is great watching them being so engaged. Again, I'm in awe of what this group of wonderful workers have achieved. A special thank you is extended to the Executive of the P&F, being Mel, Sally, Gwen, Jen and Mel.

The educational focus for next year will continue to be Transformation, Australian Curriculum, Early Intervention Strategies, ELYF Co-operative Learning, Contemporary Teaching Strategies (inquiry based learning) and the integration of technology into the classroom. I am very confident that the staff are delivering the best practice to your children.

The staff and I have embarked on ensuring that our policies, strategic plan, school improvement plan, quality catholic school exemplars continue to be updated and reviewed. The parents of the school have been provide with access to the strategic plan, School Performance Data and Annual Report to the School Community etc. on the school web site.

This year we offered parent workshops in the ICT Area. Parent workshops in the literacy area Support – A – Reader, the Sacramental Program and Year 5 /6 Family Life Program.

This year our BYOD program commenced for the students in Years 5 and 6. Next year it will be extended to include the children in Years 4 / 5 & 6. A separate parent information night was held earlier this term explaining in detail the program and its implementation. (BYOD is NOT a compulsory program for students at St. Andrew's.) The School has also committed a significant amount of funds to the introduction of Bee Bots, Sphero's and Robotics within the school.

I would like to thank the Board members for their support this year. To Fr Robert, Kate, Bede, Michelle, Jo, Trish, Nikki, Serena, Leanne, Gwen and Nancy. I also extend my gratitude to any P&F members who are finishing their terms this year as well as those who have elected to stay on for next year. We have worked very hard to keep the fee increases at our school to a minimum. 2%. While it is still an increase, it certainly will mean that we can continue to rise fees moderately and without major increases in one go. I must make special mention of Mrs Kate Mesiti. Kate retires from the Board after years of service as Chairperson, P & F treasurer and many other roles that she has contributed to within the school community. It is with the dedication of wonderful people, like Kate, that demonstrates by the example of spirit of giving, service and love of the school that our school continues to grow and thrive. Thank you so much, Kate.

I also want to say a fond farewell and thank you to Trish Ryan. Trish has been on our Board for the past 6 years and has served with distinction. She is always positive, sees the good in all and has a smile on her face. We will miss her.

To Nikki Jaschinsky, who has resigned as a member of our School Board. We all valued her contribution and all that she has done for St. Andrew's. She has been the uniform shop coordinator, Playgroup Leader and now a special needs assistant on staff. You truly have St. Andrew's running through your veins. We thank you so much for all that you have done and what you continue to do.

I would now like to acknowledge the fantastic staff members at St Andrew's. They are all so dedicated and talented and I constantly receive positive feedback from the parents – which is a rare thing in our modern society. They are all a joy to work with and I have certainly appreciated their support this year. To all of you, I say thank you for all of your hard work and dedication. It is not underestimating their contribution, as without this collegiality and generosity of spirit, much less would be achieved at our school.

I need to acknowledge the following staff members who continue to be lifelong learners and upgrade their qualifications, at their own expense, for the betterment of themselves, the school as a whole and for the children. They include Mrs Susanna Lo Faro and Mrs Gabby Parrotte, who have upgraded their ECE qualifications. Mrs Lisa Stokes has commenced her upgrade of qualifications.

Whilst the whole staff has been outstanding this year, I would like to make special mention of the Administration and Leadership teams. Jacqui, Muzzie, Lesley, Warren, Fintan and Karen. They have done a huge amount of work behind the scenes to make sure that this school runs as well as it does. I thank them also for their counsel and openness to implementing strategies to make St Andrew's the best place that it possibly can be.

Next year is an exciting year with the 20th Anniversary celebrations occurring. There will be a number of different events, which will be held in recognition of this milestone. More details at the commencement of next year and through the local press.

In conclusion, I would to personally thank all of the members of our school community who contribute in so many different ways. I wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year for 2017.

Yours sincerely

Sam Fontaine
Principal