

2018 Principal's Report: Mrs Cathy Voak

It is with great pleasure that I present the 2018 Principal's Annual Report. This year, we continue to see many developments come to fruition, which deserve to be acknowledged and celebrated. Tonight, I will address some of our achievements and I would like to focus on the many people who strive to make our school a place that is abundant with opportunities for stimulating, relevant and constructive learning experiences.

Student Enrolments

We had 77 students enrolled from Kindergarten to Year 6 this year. Next year we will have 2 Kindergarten students enrolled for the year and Ronan Kelly's son in Pre-primary. Our projected student enrolment for 2019 will be around 64 students from K-6.

LEARNING

Curriculum

Literacy has been a significant focus this year, especially in the development of writing skills. Our assessments and NAPLAN results in student achievement have shown a significant growth in their writing skills in comparison to the previous year. This will continue to be focus for next year through the continued implementation of Seven Steps to Writing Success and the CAFÉ model. The impact of these programs and strategies has shown student engagement, improved sentence structure, expansion of ideas and an understanding of the requirements for different writing genres. Professional learning is planned at the beginning of 2019 to introduce Guided Writing in all year levels to build on student's writing goals and to embed a practice of daily sustained writing.

A focus on providing daily religious instruction for Year 5 students, has shown a significant improvement in their knowledge and understanding of religion in their BRLA results for 2018.

Increasing numbers of students in the early years have required speech therapy intervention and therefore, we have continued to focus on Oral Language development by implementing public speaking in all year levels. This focus has broadened to include regional schools in the form of a public speaking competition, in which our students gained places and thus, this competition raises oral language standards within our school.

Letters and Sounds program continues to be implemented in the K-Year 2 classes to improve phonological knowledge and understanding. Intervention is provided by teachers, Support teacher and Education Assistants to students, who require additional support. Our School Mean result for Year 3 continues to be above the National Standard in Reading. A big thank you to all the teachers, who worked hard to ensure the implementation of the reading programme was successful and to our parents who supported their children in the Home Reading programme.

Our 2018 NAPLAN Numeracy results have shown good growth in student achievement for the Year 5 students. We have been using Stepping Stones, as a whole school Mathematic's program and we are looking to complement this program with other resources to further extend our top mathematic students in 2019.

Numeracy literacy has been a focus among the TREE schools this year and this will continue to be the main focus for St Mary's in 2019, as our NAPLAN results show that this is an area for improvement in the early years. Teachers will be explicitly teaching numeracy comprehension skills, so that students are able to understand what the question is asking of them, in order to take the steps in solving the math problem. Our school will continue to focus on increasing the percentage of students in the upper percentile rankings, while continuing to support those students achieving at or below minimum standard. To achieve this goal the school will monitor curriculum differentiation within all learning areas, extending and challenging students to maximise performance and with a specific vision of improving Literacy and Numeracy skills.

Support

St Mary's continually monitor the progress of our students, providing differentiation across the curriculum and providing additional support for our students, as needed. Teachers continue to implement Individual Education Programmes and Curriculum Adjustment Plans, with support from CEWA consultants and in-school support.

ENGAGEMENT

Parent Involvement

I would like to acknowledge the very energetic and focused Parents & Friends within our school. Parents have maintained consistent and practical support for the school in many ways. This year's fundraising committee planned a number of activities that have been outstanding in community spirit and financially successful. I would like to express an appreciation of the current executive, Lizzie Twigg, Kate Cumming, Emma Fortune and Aliesha Bock, whom have gone beyond their role expectations to serve the school community. The P&F have done an amazing job this year in fundraising, raising significant amounts of money to meet the needs of all of our students both within the classroom and out in the playground. For example, \$17,000 being part of the money raised from the Auction evening was donated towards the purchase of the shade sails over the junior playground and the development of an early years secure playground. They also contributed \$2800 for the Year 6 camp and \$650 for the Year 5 camp, making it possible to provide different and challenging experiences for our students.

I would also like to thank the P&F for organising social opportunities, which includes welcoming new families to the school at the well-attended Cricket-Big Bash.

I am delighted to acknowledge the hard work of parents in supporting the education of their children, in supporting roles, such as, canteen roster, uniform shop coordinator, library assistance, and catering coordinators. To the many parents, who help with reading in the mornings, help in the classrooms, carnivals and excursions, you are valued and appreciated.

Your support is incredible and St Mary's is so much richer for your involvement. I would especially like to acknowledge Linda Daleboudt for running the P&F Uniform Shop over the past 4 years. She has done an amazing job of helping families in out of school hours in either fitting or ordering uniforms, beyond what was required of her. Thank you Linda for being so generous with your time. Kate Cumming for her terrific organizing skills in catering and the ability to put parents at ease through her support in the canteen. Thank you so much Kate. Aleisha Bock for her role as Treasurer, making sure the right monies go into the bank account and liaising with the school over financial matters. Thanks Aleisha.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

Staffing

I applaud the staff of St Mary's for their dedication they are wholeheartedly committed to the personal wellbeing and educational development of each student in their care. The demands placed upon all teachers continues to increase, but without exception, all teachers are committed in providing the best possible learning experiences for their students. This tribute to the staff at St Mary's recognises the collective skills, dedication and commitment in serving this community and ensuring that we continue to be the school of choice.

In 2019, we will continue to see further changes to our personnel structure.

Gemma Hester will be taking leave for a year and I wish her all the best during this time with her family.

Jane Wheeler will be taking Long Service Leave for Semester 1 next year and I wish her all the joys of family life.

Ronan Kelly will be short term principal for 2019 and I wish him every success in his role at St Mary's CS. He will be working with our amazing and dedicated staff.

Staff member positions 2019

K/PP/1	Sue Sumner & Margaret Evans
Year 2&3	Barbara Marsh
Year 4/5	Scott Tweedie & Carolyn Harvey
Year 6	Nicole Reilly & Sharon Nield
Art	Carolyn Harvey
Music/Drama	Rochelle Gear
PE	Scott Tweedie
Language	Nicole Reilly
Science	Margaret Evans Semester 1/ Jane Wheeler Semester 2
Support	Margaret Evans Semester 1/ Jane Wheeler Semester 2/Education Assistants
Library Admin	Hayley Cook
Admin	Emma Fortune & Gemma Aird
Education Assistants	Hayley Cook & Deb Corp
Learn & Grow	Hayley Cook

Board

The School Board has continued to monitor the school finances and their commitment in improving buildings and surrounds is a credit to the Board members. The school is fortunate to have outstanding leadership in our School Board members and I am grateful to our Chairman, Mr Mick Hester, for his advice and leadership, our Treasurer, Mrs Aleisha Bock, Secretary Mrs Emma Fortune and Fr Roshan.

This year I would like to thank Michael Hester, who has dedicated six years in his role as Chairman and overall eight years of service on the School Board. Michael's friendly and approachable personality has enabled the Board to carry out many successful projects over the years to ensure that St Mary's has great learning facilities for our students. Michael ensures that he represents the community well and makes decisions supporting the School Vision, which ultimately benefits all the students. Thank you Michael, for your huge contribution to St Mary's in all that you have achieved to make this a school something we are all proud of.

I would like to thank Ben Murphy for your willingness to donate time to St Mary's as a Board member in making Board decisions and working on projects. Your sense of humour has added to the meetings and I have valued your contribution over the past four years. Jenna Welch, who has been a Board member for 2 years, has brought clarity to some of the discussions through her questions and I have valued her as a Board member.

In 2018 the Board continued to use the Strategic Plan to improve the learning areas for our students. Technology equipment was purchased in line with the CEWA Leading Lights initiative, so that we were able to provide staff and students with access to all the latest programs. The Board members have actively assisted in these projects to ensure that St Mary's students have the best possible learning environments. This year the Board renovated the courtyard by removing loose stones and replaced the area with brick pavers. This has made it a more useable space by staff and students alike. This year, the Board has enacted the School Vision in ensuring that teachers have been well supported to attend professional learning, which has resulted in improved pedagogy practices and therefore, improved student engagement and learning. The School Board has also put a lot of energy into promoting the school within the wider community by donating equipment to the Boyup Brook Playgroup and extending the playgroup session 'Learn and Grow' to accommodate 0-3 year olds. This has been a successful venture, with increasing number of families attending each week. We will be running these sessions again in Term 1.

Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS)

The school's work on Quality Catholic Schooling has focused on four key areas in 2018. These were: *Analysis and Discussion of Data, Differentiated Teaching and Learning, Expert Teaching Team and Systematic Evangelisation Planning*. Reviewing practices within our school, enables us to plan relevant action in each of these areas to improve the teaching and learning. The 2018 The Student Engagement - Primary Survey showed that the school mean of 90% indicated that students feel accepted and valued by their peers and by others at their school. An area of improvement for 2019 is to increase the number of students in Year 6 (60%) and Year 5 (57%) to ensure that students place value in doing their homework with a positive attitude and in a timely manner.

The school mean for students who have moderate or high levels of anxiety was 28%. I organized a presentation on Anxiety with the school psychologist in Term 1 of this year and there are plans to have another parent session on Anxiety Coping Strategies for 2019.

DISCIPLESHIP

Sacraments/Religious Education/Liturgy

St Mary's continued to provide religious education instruction and catechesis throughout 2018. The Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation were celebrated with students from our school community in the Parish. Congratulations to everyone and thank you to Father Roshan, for his guidance and spiritual leadership during Masses and class Liturgies.

The Bishop's Religious Literacy Assessment 2018 Year 5

Students in Year 5 have shown an improved understanding and knowledge in religion, as indicated in the recent Bishops' Religious Literacy Assessment.

Graduating Students

I would like to acknowledge the Year Six students, Kiedis, Hamish, Xaver, Jenna, Kaitlyn, Anastasia, Rosie, Lauren, Josie and Zara, whom will graduate this year. They have made an excellent contribution to our school as leaders and developed their roles within their ministries to something that we are very proud of. I feel very privileged to have led the school and to serve the community and my decisions have always been around what is best for our students. I am passionate about teaching and learning and I have encouraged and supported all staff members to professionally grow within their roles. I am sad to leave this community, but I feel that I have raised academic achievement to a level in which I feel proud and enhanced the wellbeing of all students. All of this was not possible without the support of staff and parents and I sincerely thank you.

In conclusion, I wish every family a happy and holy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.