

Good evening one and all and welcome to the 2021 St Mary's School AGM.

After another wonderful year this evening gives us the opportunity to reflect on and celebrate everything we have achieved this year.

As usual the principal's report comes under the 4 domains of Catholic Education WA: Catholic Identity, Education, Community and Stewardship.

Firstly, Catholic Identity: As a Catholic school we work hard to ensure that we integrate Religious Education at all opportunities throughout the day.

Our sacramental program returned to full capacity this year. We had eight students receive the sacrament of first reconciliation, nine students receive the Sacrament of First Eucharist in and eight students received the Sacrament of Confirmation in Term 3. We also had one student in Year Four join the Catholic faith through baptism which is a testament to our school's catholicity and RE program. A special highlight this year was having Bishop Gerard Holohan preside over our Confirmation mass.

The history of the presentation sisters, their founder Nano Nagle and the many sisters that spread across Australia in different towns like ours establishing schools is something that we hope to give our students further knowledge about over the course of 2022 given that we will celebrate 65 years of our school.

Next year, given that we will be celebrating 65 years of our school we are hoping to pass on more about the history of St Mary's, the presentation nuns who founded it and their founder Nano Nagle to the students.

Moving on to Education.

We have had another strong year in teaching and learning.

Our educational goals in literacy this year revolved around continuing and improving processes and programs already in place. Thanks to targeted use of programs such as letters and sounds, soundwaves, birghtpath and our reading data wall, coupled with our targeted intervention support program we saw pleasing results in NAPLAN 2021 across reading, writing and language conventions. Our Year three students results were outstanding. Our Year 5 results showed excellent growth since they sat NAPLAN in year three.

In numeracy this year our goal revolved around maintaining our solid gains in recent years while introducing an inquiry approach to the teaching of maths. We had several professional development sessions around this throughout the year and teachers used this approach in conjunction with stepping stones to help students develop their skills in problem solving. Our Numeracy results in year three NAPLAN this year were outstanding while in year five we saw strong growth since they were in Year 3.

Once again this year our response to intervention program run by Mrs Hester and Mrs Nield saw students that required extra assistance have considerable support according to their needs. Further to this Mrs Hester started her genius hour weekly sessions with different classes and this was well received among the students.

Our staff spent time this year with a learning spaces consultant working out how we can make the best of our learning environments. Our work with Peter Lippman of places created for learning has been very

effective in helping us tweak our classrooms to create more open spaces that in turn lend themselves well to cooperative learning. I look forward to having Peter work with us again in 2022.

Next we move on to community:

Our school has a strong sense of community and each year it is important that we continue to nurture this. I would like to thank our P&F for their outstanding work in this area and for their continued support of many different initiatives that benefit the school. I would particularly like to mention the outstanding effort that went into our auction in term three. It was a massive success and one that raised a huge amount of money for the school. Well done to everyone involved.

Our Learn & Grow program is a great way for our school to engage with the community and this year it once again attracted large numbers on a regular basis. This has helped attract new families to our school for Kindy 2022 at a time when we have no sibling enrolments. Huge thanks as always to Mrs Cook for her outstanding work in this space.

As next year is our 65th anniversary as a school we will be celebrating this throughout the year. As we are also opening newly refurbished classroom spaces we will also be hosting an official opening ceremony. These will be great opportunities for us to open our doors and welcome people into St Mary's to sample our community and view our wonderful facilities.

Finally, we discuss stewardship.

This year has seen the culmination of almost 3 years of planning in terms of the school renovations come to fruition. As I'm sure you'll agree the work done so far is outstanding and will benefit our school for years to come. Our students, teachers and parents deserve the best and by the start of next year we will have 4 outstanding classroom spaces with an outdoor learning area for Kindy/PP to follow. I would like to thank the school advisory council for their support and input into this project. Our building contractor BRC from Bridgetown have gone above and beyond to bring about a great outcome for the school. I look forward to seeing all rooms and outdoor areas completed.

Further to improving our facilities is making our school sustainable and affordable for all. This year during our cyclic review we were put forward for CEWA's low school fee initiative. We have been approved for this and next year school fees will be considerably lower, \$390 for 1 child. This will hopefully help ease any pressure within our current community but also open the door for other families to consider our school that may not have previously.

In terms of school finances we continue to maintain a balanced budget going forward. While this gets slightly more challenging as student numbers decrease we are very fortunate to be in a healthy position in this area. While there will be some other expenses related to the current renovations we will continue to manage this area carefully.

As I have now finished the 4 domains I would like to thank our school advisory council chair Ben Thompson and all members for their continued support. Tonight, I would particularly like to acknowledge our outgoing members, Wayne Girando, Aliesha Bock and Emma Fortune for their years of service and wish them well as they are freed from the bonds of two board meetings a term. In particular I would like to thank Emma for continuing as secretary of the board for the past few years as well as

providing the financial reports to the treasurer each month. We will acknowledge them in front of the community on Friday night after the school play.

I now finish with our staffing arrangements for 2022.

This year we said goodbye to two staff members: Mrs Harvey, who had worked at the school for 8 years and Mrs Gear who was here 4. Mrs Harvey taught across many year levels from Kindy through to year five in the classroom as well as also teaching art as a specialist subject this year. Mrs Gear had taught music/drama and most recently technologies. I would like to thank both for their work at our school and wish them both well for the future.

It is always sad when you have to farewell staff and for 2022 we unfortunately lose Mrs Reilly as she relocates to Busselton. While we wish Madame Reilly well we are very sad to be losing her at our school. For over a decade she has provided outstanding professionalism and commitment to the students of our school. She has a wonderful presence on staff and is always ready to take on a challenge. While we are sad to see you go Nicole we are grateful for the time you have spent here and your legacy will live on for a long long time through the many different programs and initiatives you have led during your tenure. You will be a fine asset to any school and your decision to take part in CEWA's Kimberley calling program shows your commitment to serving Catholic Education in some of its most challenging and remote communities. Good luck. Could we all please pause for a moment and give Mdme Reilly a round of applause.

As one door closes, another opens. I would now like to announce our staffing for 2022. While the loss of valued staff is difficult for any school it also opens opportunities to welcome new staff. For 2022, we welcome two new staff members to our school. Mrs Miki Glisenti will join us and teach French in 2022. Mrs Glisenti is moving to the area and has enrolled her two sons Max (Year 1) and Liam (Year 3) at our school. She currently teaches Year 1/2 at Austin Cove Baptist College south of Mandurah and is an experienced educator who will be a great addition to our staff. Mr Michael Chambers joins us and will teach Year 5/6 Monday to Thursday in 2022. Michael is a mature aged graduate who is moving to the area with his wife. He currently works as a teacher and EA at St Joseph's school Queens Park and prior to becoming a teacher had a varied career including a stint in the ADF during which he served a six-month post in Afghanistan. He is a very gentle man with good varied experience and I believe he will be a great fit for our school and our students.

Here is a breakdown of our 2022 staffing overall:

Kindy/PP: Mrs Jane Wheeler. Year 1/2 Mrs Margaret Evans. Year 3/4: Mrs Barbara Marsh. Year 5/6: Mr Michael Chambers (Mon-Thu) and Mrs Sharon Nield (Friday).

Specialists: French: Mrs Miki Glisenti (Monday). Science, Technology and Sport: Mr Scott Tweedie. Art: Mrs Michelle Lloyd.

Educational Assistants: Mrs Hayley Cook (and Chaplaincy) and Miss Deb Corp (4 days).

Front Office/admin/finance/everything: Mrs Emma Fortune and Mrs Gemma Aird. Same as last year.

Cleaners: Mrs Vicki Lawrence and Mrs Kerrie Parker. Groundsman: Mr Ross Parker.

I would like to thank our staff for their great work and commitment again this year, I look forward to working with you all in 2022.

Thanks also to all of our families for their support of our school. I would particularly like to thank our outgoing families: the Hesters who have been with us since 2006 and the Rhodes family. We will acknowledge them on Friday night at our school play.

I would also like to thank our students. Overall they are an awesome group and are great to work with. It is our privilege to have you at St Mary's and I am very proud that you now have the classroom facilities you deserve. We will miss our graduating students and we wish them well for the future, they have been great leaders for our school and it has been awesome watching you grow as people over the years.

As always I would like to finish by thanking my wife Aishling for her constant support of me in my role here at St Mary's. It is great to have someone so calm by my side to offer encouragement and support.

I wish everyone associated with our school a very safe end to 2021, a happy and blessed Christmas and a great new year. We look forward to welcoming you all back in 2022 as we celebrate 65 years of St Mary's history, 65 years of QCE in our community. Thank you.