

Principals Report 2017



Good evening everyone and peace be with you. It is my pleasure to present the 2017 Report for St Patricks Catholic Primary School. From a teaching and learning perspective, this year, our focus has been on developing our mathematics pedagogical skills to improve our mental and written maths skills. Our Annual School Improvement plan has had a major focus of our whole school numeracy and literacy documents. At our recent combined classes' information night, you would have seen snippets of the whole school plans.

Our school has been very active in the community supporting Harmony Festival, Concert in the Park, performing at Bethshan and supporting ANZAC Day dawn services and Remembrance Day ceremonies in the Shire. Our students represented the school with pride and were so enthusiastic when singing at Shire events.

We started 2017, with our professional development days focused on Explicit Instruction. We had Roger Saulsman, retired Principal of St Helena's Catholic Primary School speak to the staff of St Bernard's Kojonup, St Matthews Narrogin and St Patrick's Katanning. Roger has worked extensively with Dr Lorraine Hammond and supported schools with the implementation of explicit instruction. We will continue to focus on explicit instruction being implemented and refined in 2018 at St Patrick's in Religious Education, Literacy and Numeracy

I would like to thank Fr. Francis Constantino, our parish priest for all of his hard work and commitment to our school and community. Fr. Francis started home visits this year and it was a valuable experience for him to meet the parishioners and the community. He has really connected with the students and their families. I will not forget the Graduation homily and song at mass – True colours. Where all our graduates and their parents embraced on the sanctuary of the church. This year also saw some new faces on the Parish Pastoral Council. A big thank you to Patrick Kennedy our parish chairperson for his work in the parish and support of our school. We will continue to build the important links to the parish through our Family focused, school and parish supported sacramental programs. A big thank you to Mrs Julie Poett for her support of our Altar Servers, we had many students from the school participate in the altar-serving program, which is a wonderful ministry for our school and parish.

A huge thank you to our P&F Executive – President: Shannon Beeck; Vice President: Joselyn Prosser; Treasurer: Kym Hamon and Secretary: Davina Davies. Coordination of our fund raising and friend raising activities is a difficult task and we are very appreciative of the time given by the dedicated members of the P&F. This year our P&F have trialled some new fund raising activities. Our Fun Run was an amazing success. It was the first time the school has taken part in the event and it was very successful, raising close to \$7000. The Fun Run was an exciting and fun-filled afternoon, and the students, staff and families had a wonderful time. The other main fund raising opportunity was the Ram Sale and this year our volunteers exceeded expectations, raising over \$7500. Our P&F have been very proactive in providing excellent learning opportunities for our students with the SciTech incursion and Stargazing events. Both these events were well supported and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

I would like to thank the School Board for their advice and support through a very busy year at St Patricks. A special thank you to our Board chair: Simon Kerin; Treasurer: Sheldon Kowald; Secretary: Gail Butterworth; our Committee member: Mike Allen; our P&F Representative: Tania Edwards; our Parish Representative: Marie Hanna and our two seconded members for 2017: Debra Bearcroft and Helen Robinson. The School Board has worked tirelessly in supporting the major initiatives in the school and supporting our many fund raising events this year. There have been opportunities to carry out valuable maintenance of the school site

and prepare for the development of the nature play areas around the school. I wish the School Board every success in the future and I know they will support the new Principal wholeheartedly.

It is with much sadness that we say goodbye to a number of our staff this year.

Emma Ackland has been our sports teacher for the last two years and has done a wonderful job with teaching skills but also with the coordination of our faction and interschool sports carnivals. Emma has the travel bug and will be doing some travelling in 2018. We thank Emma for her dedication, commitment and hard work in supporting our students.

Laura Anderson finishes her contract with us at St Patricks at the end of this year. I would like to thank Laura for all of her hard work and growth throughout this year. She supported her students in the Sacrament of Holy Communion and it was a wonderful celebration. It is also amazing that Laura and I share something, her year 7 class teacher at Ursula Frayne happens to be my best friend Mr Pizzolante. I had to call him and let him know how well she has done at St Patricks and he was very pleased.

Nerida Campbell is taking a year's leave without pay to explore other avenues of her vocation. I thank her for her work with Pre Primary and her support of the National Quality Standards program at St Patricks. Nerida has supported our staff in developing our Quality Improvement Plan for our junior primary area; I wish Nerida the best of luck in all her pursuits in 2018.

Lauren Courtney has also caught the same bug that Emma has. She will be travelling to Europe and based in sunny England. Lauren will be working in schools around London. I wish all the best with her travels and thank her for her hard work with our Kindy students. Lauren has developed her teaching skills and gained much knowledge from our professional learning communities.

Jade Lilleyman has secured a teaching position at Mandurah Catholic College, she will be much closer to her family and I know that she will really relish this change. I thank Jade for her work with our Sacrament of Penance and supporting all of our children in Year 3. Our celebration of the sacrament was wonderful and is a credit to Jade's preparation and commitment.

Carly Vartesi has also secured a teaching position at St Gerard's Primary School in Mirrabooka. Carly has been at St Patricks for 7 years and has made an enormous contribution to the school and community. A very special thank you to Carly for her role as Literacy coordinator over the past two years. Carly has been instrumental with the development and implementation of our Whole School Literacy Plan. Your drive and enthusiasm will be greatly missed in the school. Your skill with timetabling and your sharp 'grammatical eye' has supported the staff on many occasions.

It is with happiness, I welcome back to St Patricks **Melissa Matthews**, who has been away on maternity leave. Melissa is very excited to be returning to teaching and being part of the school community. Melissa will be looking after our Year 1 class in 2018, *I originally told her she was doing Phys Ed but she swore at me!* Therefore, we had to put into a class. I know that she will be an asset to the school and her kind and caring way will support our wonderful year one students and their families.

I also welcome **Tara Punch** to St Patricks, as our new Physical Education teacher. Tara didn't swear at me, in fact she was very excited about taking on the role for 2018. Her skills are well known in the community and I know she will give her all to support the students and school community.

A special thank you to our current staff members at St Patricks. It has been a wonderful year in the school and I have been very proud of how they have met the many challenges we have faced. The staff are committed to the use of Explicit Instruction, as they have seen the growth in our students over the two years of its implementation. It has been wonderful to see how they have supported the St Patrick's School Values. All staff have promoted our school values in their classrooms and in the playground. A special thank you to **Debra Bearcroft**. Her enthusiasm and love of the Arts has continued to grow on our students, staff and families, and we have taken part in many Shire and community events in 2017.

A huge thank you to **Helen Robinson**, our school Admin Officer. Her organisational skills and budget management are phenomenal and she has been an amazing support to Deb and me this year. Our staff are sensitive to the feelings and emotions of all our families. As St Francis has stated: "Preach the Gospel at all times, and if possible use words." Our staff is a living example of preaching the Gospel in a very humble way. Thank you to all our staff members for your dedicated hours of work in helping our school community.

In concluding my Annual Report, I would like to say a huge thank you to the students of St Patrick's. It has been a pleasure to watch them grow and develop their skills and talents throughout the year. 2018, has been a year of growth and development for our students. Helped by their teachers, staff and their parents, they have been able to make excellent progress. I have been very impressed with their care and concern for each other in the playground and in their classrooms.

I would like to sincerely thank everyone for their support of my family and I, we will miss Katanning and we will cherish all the learning experiences we were so lucky to have. My children have learned about so many wonderful things and been able to experience everything nature has to offer from wild storms that lifted our trampoline to a new location; flooding rains, searing heat, beautiful bunny rabbits as my 'Evie' would put it and very scary tiger snakes and dugites.

All my hopes and prayers will be with the children and families from St Patricks. I will dearly miss all the children from St Patricks, and wish them every blessing for 2018.

I wish you all a very peaceful and Holy Christmas. Travel safely over the holiday period and have a wonderful and prosperous New Year.



Christopher Smith

Principal