



2019 AGM Principal's Report

As you are aware Martin Barrett took long service leave in Term 1 and subsequently retired at the end of Term 2. On behalf of our school Community, I would like to thank Martin Barrett for all his hard work over the past 5 years to build a fantastic school whilst driving the educational standards of the students to a high level. I cannot thank him enough for the positive impact that he has made on our school and our community. I have been blessed with the opportunity to lead such a great school from Term 2 until the end of Term 4. It is quite humbling to work with such great students, staff and parents. I believe that we have a truly unique quality here at St Maria Goretti's Catholic School. Darren McDonald has been appointed the substantive principal beginning in 2020. This is a very exciting time for our school where he can further build upon Martin's legacy.

I would firstly like to thank our students. Truly our students are second to none. The way they take care of each other and try the best in all they do is a reflection of the work their parents and teachers do each and every day.

Numerous times throughout the year during liturgical celebrations people have noted their reverence and respect while entering and being in sacred spaces.

To each and every individual staff member, Martin would say that in all his time as principal that he has not worked with such a professional, close knit and dedicated staff. I am at work at 7:00am each day and the majority of teachers are coming in to work at 7:30am and stay back way after they need to. This shows the high level and commitment and love for the students we have entrusted in our care. Being in the classes and seeing the quality teaching and learning that is happening is truly humbling and very exciting to witness. To our staff I cannot thank you enough. You are all truly appreciated for all the hard work that you have put into the students, your profession and the community.

At this time I would like to farewell staff that have taken on a teaching position in 2020 away from St Maria Goretti's. Nicole Glanville has accepted a teaching position at Aranmore Catholic College. Christine Hayes has accepted a position at Holy Cross College. Our school thanks you both for your commitment and hard work. We wish you all the best in your new roles. Gerard Pol left us in Term 2 and I would also like to acknowledge the fantastic work that he has put into our school.

Leanne McDonagh has accepted a position at Santa Clara commencing in 2020 in her same role. Lee-Ann Pavicic and Rebecca Watson will be taking a year's leave. Our school wishes them all the best for their plans in 2020.

To our spiritual leader Father Quynh. Thank for you your commitment to our school. You are truly valued for your tireless time and dedication that you put into our school so that our community can flourish spiritually.

The NAIDOC Week presentation in Term 3 as always received extraordinary praise and many CEWA consultants commented that they would love to work in this community. We cannot get higher praise than that.

To the parents, I would like again to thank you for your tireless commitment to our school's mission. The raised engagement is fantastic to see and will continue to be a focus for 2020.

To Mrs Johnson, Mrs Hayes, Miss Horrocks and all the members of our Professional Learning and Leadership Team (PLLT) thank you for the continuous drive to raise educational standards and wellbeing.

To Mrs Marion Pasini, Mrs Sharon Hindle and Mrs Clare Borg - I thank you for your advice and support in administration and finance. I have learnt so much from you and this will hold me in good stead for the future.

To our parent community - I truly believe that to be a school of excellence parents and educators need to work side by side. The existing families open day was one example of this. To see the students excited that parents and grandparents had made time in their busy lives to see first-hand what the students are learning and to spend quality time at lunch was exciting to witness. Another more recent example was our school fete. What a fantastic success. This event highlighted for me that our school is truly one big family!

I would like to personally thank the School Board and the P&F for their time and energy that they continue to put into the school so that we achieve our best. You truly have the students at heart, and I have been blessed to be able to work with such a great P&F and School Board.

A Principal is required to report on some aspects of school as part of the funding agreement, which I will now do and again I do so - with pride and great excitement.

For the sake of brevity I will simply highlight the main points

Catholicity

- to continue to focus on bringing the Gospel to life
- Christian service – school choir will expand singing

Educational Standards

Special initiatives have included:

1. **The Coding Club** which has maintained two nights a week from Years 4 to Year 6. Thank you Lewis for all your work throughout the year and we wish you all the best for the First Lego League Competition coming up in two weeks.
2. **Digital Technologies** – As this has been one of school's key goals over the past three years it is important to acknowledge the growth in this area. The integration of digital technologies across the curriculum has enhanced the experience of learning for our students. This is an area that our school will maintain while focusing on other areas of development for the betterment of our students.
3. **The learning growth** as measured by NAPLAN and the annual standardized testing battery is outstanding and our growth as a school is an incredible endorsement of everything that has been put in place for the past 6 years. Our NAPLAN growth exceeds the growth of the National Mean Growth.

NAPLAN Growth from Year 3 to Year 5

	<i>School Mean Growth</i>	<i>National Mean Growth</i>
<i>Spelling</i>	104	85
<i>Reading</i>	83	75
<i>Writing</i>	81	60
<i>Grammar and Punctuation</i>	69	60
<i>Numeracy</i>	97	86

Although our results are pleasing, it is not a time for complacency. Our results were mostly above National, however over the last four years the schools Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage has increased, and our Similar School category is now above National standard. NAPLAN data indicates a need to focus on Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy.

Mean in relation to National and CEWA Similar Schools

	READING		WRITING		SPELLING		GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION		Maths	
	Natio nal	Sim ilar	Natio nal	Simil ar	Natio nal	Simil ar	Natio nal	Simil ar	Natio nal	Simila r
Year 3	Above	At	At	Belo w	Abov e	Abov e	Belo w	Belo w	At	At
Year 5	At	Bel ow	At	Belo w	Abov e	At	At	Belo w	Belo w	Below

A stanine between 4 and 6 is considered mathematically normal and our school average is 5.54 in Reading Comprehension and 5.32 in Mathematics.

In the end of year testing for Mathematics and Comprehension using the PAT tests the school achieved an Effect Size – which measures improvement across the past 12 months - 0.73 in Maths and 0.8 in Comprehension which is mathematically very significant.

4. Well Being Program

Funded under the Australian Commonwealth Government the Well Being program is in the second year and is a fantastic success. The Well Being Program has resulted in the embedding of the Keeping Safe Framework, which is a government requirement for all schools and the blending of the PATHS program commenced some four years ago.

The Well-Being role is led by Miss Ford who has provide emotional support and self-awareness training for individuals, groups and the staff – her work is invaluable.

5. Aboriginal Playgroup

This continues to be a great success. There have been 6 new enrolments in Kindy for 2020 as a direct result for Tenelle, Candy and Leanne's efforts.

The focus to engage with the local Aboriginal community has seen a growth from 1 Aboriginal student 6 years ago to 15 in 2019 – increased Aboriginal enrolments is a KEY strategic target for Catholic Education WA. Our school's future focus is to develop close ties with other organisations in the area to further build on the success of this program in 2020.

The Playgroup provides parents with access to a facilitated program in place of a 3 Year Old program that at other schools is charged for at the expense of the parent. We are very fortunate to have this wonderful playgroup for free.

6. **Engagement with CEWA pilot programs** which reflects our growing status as a light house are exemplified by:
 - a. Power BI Project – focusing on streamlining processes for administration and wellbeing
 - b. Digital Technology in Focus Project

Our foci for 2020 are:

1. To revisit and extend our focus on explicit teaching and the practical application of the work by Dr Hatti, as exemplified by Success Criteria and Learning Intentions.
2. To research and begin to implement collaborative teaching practices.
3. Develop extracurricular activities in Physical Education and the Arts
4. The embedding and maintaining of the Keeping Safe Program.
Miss Ford has done an incredible job of blending the Keeping Safe Curriculum with the PATHS program which runs through all our classes.
5. Maintain the integration of digital technology at the highest level

To all those who have helped improve our school this year to our Board members, Parents and Friends and the many parents and friends who have helped develop and extend our school I thank you.

It is with great excitement that we greet Darren McDonald in 2020 as the substantive Principal of our school. Darren and our community are truly blessed, and I cannot wait for the great outcomes we will achieve together in 2020 and beyond. Thank you.

Andrew Gaudoin
Principal
26 November 2019