

2017 AGM Principal's Report

As with last year's Principals Report I will be reporting to the School community in line with the LEAD lens and against the required criteria.

LEAD standards for

Learning –

is what we do. We are committed to learning at every level.

Engagement –

is essential. We are committed to Catholic Education's mission through positive relationships with all.

Accountability –

is not optional. We have personal and collective responsibility for our systems' success

Discipleship –

is our calling. We are committed to deepening our relationship with Jesus.

As you can imagine the finalizing of the Capital Development Plan has been a primary focus for 2017 – and what a fantastic result. Our new classrooms and Covered Assembly Area has been a great boost to our current and future as a school.

Our other primary focus has been the continued improvement in our learning outcomes across the board. This year our endeavours to extend our top end students has begun to bear fruit – this focus will continue to gather momentum in coming years.

Learning

We have had a very successful year both in NAPLAN and the End of year testing when measured against our students' growth and achievement.

At a meeting on last Thursday Mrs Suzanne Fox, School Improvement Advisor, whose team had completed analysis of our 2017 NAPLAN results compared to Catholic, State and National Standards – and Sue was glowing in her praise of the achievement of the children and staff for the rate of growth achieved in terms of Outcomes achieved.

Growth is the focus of the analyse and our school's results are fantastic!

	2015-2017			
Years 3-5	CEWA	WA	NATIONAL	St Maria Goretti's Catholic School
Reading	78	75	80	109
Numeracy	99	97	96	134

Writing	65	63	57	100
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Sue was glowing in her praise of the growth in learning outcomes for the children and of the work of the staff – for which I thank them sincerely.

The results are a ringing endorsement for the work of the staff and children over the past four years.

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 - 0.658 in Maths and 0.65 in Comprehension which is Mathematically very significant.

Other Learning Initiatives introduced this year to build upon the very sound foundations established over the past 4 years have been:

Firstly, a pilot Extension Program for Years 4 – 6, led by Mrs Johnson and Mr Gaudoin, which has focused on introducing the children to self-directed learning and problem solving through the introduction to Coding and more recently the introduction of Minecraft. The Extension Program will grow and develop over coming years. Targeted Learning Programs and problem-solving pedagogies are also being explored for those in the early years.

Secondly, the Coding Club a voluntary after school club has provided the children with an opportunity to experience coding and programming for robots. The work of Mrs Gaudoin and Mr Cunningham who have developed the Coding Club from an idea to its current demand which has resulted in two sessions a week. The Sumo wrestling was particularly impressive and the display at the Stage 12 and 13 Opening has drawn praise from many programmers who were in attendance.

The continued focus on offering the best learning environment will ensure continued improvement.

Our foci for 2018 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. The embedding 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.
3. The incorporation of the new Information Technologies Curriculum and learnings to enhance pedagogy particularly in the areas of Mathematics and Reading.

Engagement

Aboriginal Education Plan and Community Relationships

Aboriginal Education

This has been an incredibly successful year – many initiatives are beginning to bear fruit.

Aboriginal Families as First Educators, The Playgroup has grown from having an attendance of 4 – 6 on Wednesday to being offered two days a week with 12 -15 children and families attending each week.

Our multi-cultural groups continue to be strongly supported.

I would like to acknowledge the work of Leanne McDonagh, Tenelle Climo, Candy McKay and Nicole Glanville who lead this initiative. It is a fantastic initiative which is having great success!

NAIDOC Week Celebration

Those who were fortunate enough to be present for our NAIDOC Week celebrations realize how talented and special our children are.

The community engagement with our drive to engage with the local community could not have been in better hands than our children.

The NAIDOC Week presentation and displays drew the highest praise from parents, friends and many Catholic Education representatives who were present.

Nurturing

This year Miss Ford has completed the development of a new Curriculum which will be embedded in 2018. The program aims to provide the children with a framework and the skills to keep them safe throughout their lives. Beyond safety the program will aim to provide the child with the social and emotional skills necessary to enhance their lives and build resilience.

I thank her for her work.

In addition to the above Monique has been working with small group to develop Mindfulness and resilience.

Miss Ford's role has been a special funding initiative - we are awaiting notification as to whether the funding will be continued in 2018 and beyond.

Goals for 2018:

1. To embed the new Keeping Safe/PATHS curriculum with the daily life of the school.
2. To establish a School Reconciliation Action Plan.
3. To review and extend our Strategic Plan to ensure we continue to move forward.
4. To establish Individual Learning Plans for each Aboriginal Student.

Accountability

Building and Infrastructure

Thankfully we have finished the re-build of our school.

But as I am sure you will all agree it was worth all the stress, pressure and inconvenience.

Everyone who visits our school are glowing in their praise!

Since the beginning of this term we have been able to celebrate a number of functions in our fantastic new Covered Assembly Area including Book Week, NAIDOC Week, two whole School Masses, two Openings, a P&F Music Bingo Night and on Friday the first of many School Disco.

All have been a huge success and set the foundation for a brilliant future.

Our classrooms and learning areas are just as good!

Our new Car Park and landscape grounds set off the beautiful school and make the children's learning environment ever more pleasant!

We are very lucky.

Increased Enrolments

Our enrolments continue to grow slowly. I acknowledge the work of the School Board's Advertising Committee led by Mr Glenn Richmond.

Enrolments will continue to be a School focus for many years to come.

Our goals for 2018 will be:

1. To establish a long-term Maintenance Plan to ensure we maintain our new infrastructure at its as new condition.
2. To install a new wireless network which will enable the extension of ICT program.
3. To establish a programmed approach to the provision of a One-to-One device program.
4. To continue to grow our school enrolment pattern.

Discipleship

Catholic

With the Blessing and Re-dedication of the School Chapel we became the first Catholic primary school in Western Australia to have a tabernacle and the right to reserve the Blessed Sacrament on site.

Those who were present for the Blessing and Re-dedication how magnificent our children were and particularly the Year 5 School Choir. I would like to acknowledge Mrs Pollock who has done a fabulous job of taking our Music program to and even higher standard.

The class Masses and Liturgies have continued to be of the highest order and have continued to gain greater support from the parents – which the children love!

Our goals for 2018 will be:

1. On developing and extending the norms surrounding the use of the Chapel and reflection on our Faith.
2. Deepening the faith opportunities available to staff.
3. Continuing to engage parents with the school based celebrations.
4. Providing the children with the skills and experiences to deepen their engagement with the Chapel and the reflective practices which will enhance their lives.

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

To our children who have worked so hard this year without being distracted by our building program. This year the school was relocated, the oval was reduced in size and we had to split the recess and lunchtimes and yet they have continued to give of their best in their learning, at sport and in their socialization.

To our staff you are a credit to your chosen profession you could not have given more generously to our children, school and parents.

Our school has a fantastic future!