

2021 AGM Principal Report

Good evening everyone,

Invariably when I sit down to write these reports, I look back at the year before. Everyone sitting here is well aware of the ongoing challenges we have faced and continue to face, so I won't go through it again. I will say that it makes the achievements of 2021, so worthwhile, as they have been accomplished through adversity. I will try to stay brief, but will mention our journey based on the 4 pillars of Catholic Education: Catholic Identity, Education, Community, Stewardship:

Catholic Identity

Throughout 2021 Catholic Identity has once again been a focal point in the way we speak and act at St Mary's. Our liturgical calendar saw regular masses celebrating feast days and the start and end of term, prepared ably by Miss Miotti and led by Father Larry, thank you to these two wonderful people for your commitment and service to our school. Once again, our students developed their knowledge of the Sacraments in Year 3 to 6 with Reconciliation and First Eucharist, prepared by Mrs L and celebrated by Father Larry and Confirmation prepared by Miss Miotti and celebrated Bishop Michael. As usual all our Sacraments were fantastic community celebrations, I would like to thank all those involved for their hard work. Catholic Identity at St Mary's is all about our actions and this year we have developed a few initiatives which link to these. Firstly, our Faction Tokens which students earn by displaying our values and secondly our St Mary's Superstars, which recognise students who go above and beyond in living our school values and Fruit of the Spirit program. I would like to thank our staff for supporting these initiatives and for our students in bringing them to life. Finally, we have started back with our outreach again at Brookview which is great, we hope to continue these visits with as many students as possible in 2022.

Education

Teaching and learning this year has once again been a focus. We have continued to refine our Numeracy planning and have been deep diving into Literacy research, led by Mrs Mulgrew, Miss Miotti and Mrs Carson. This Science of Reading project, which will build capacity in our staff's understanding of explicit Literacy instruction, will continue in 2022 and I am very excited by the learning to come. We have drastically upgraded our technology integration in class, with a large bank of iPads in K.PP and a 1:1 iPad program from 1-6. Finally, we have stepped up our invention programs this year, with the continuation of Mini-Lit, led by Mrs Briers and targeted 3-6 intervention led by Mrs Carson. I am highly passionate about all children achieving their learning goals, and I am very proud of the work we have done in this space, plenty more to come with Mrs Carson again with us next year and putting plans in place to increase our deliberate and explicit delivery of intervention.

During 2022 we will continue to build alignment and consistency between classes and create environments that reflect our 21st century Vision for learning at St Mary's.

I would like to thank all our staff for their hard work and effort throughout the year from our Kindy's all the way through to Year 6. All our staff come to school each day with a passion for learning and an openness to grow. Teaching is a tough profession, often requiring long hours, emotional labour, constant upskilling and physical exertion. Our staff complete their roles with dedication at a consistent high level. Can we please give a big round of applause for our amazing staff?

Community

Our community is the backbone of our school and you have been so instrumental this year in supporting our school this year. Term 2 really brought this home for me, with the care and support we showed for those people who were displaced or going through tough times. St Mary's provided support at the point of need for our families, whether that was food, clothing, technology, power. It truly was an incredible effort and one which once again earned us an award of merit at the Quality Catholic Education Awards.

Amid all of this our P&F have been catering up a storm to raise money for ongoing initiatives, this is such an enormous amount of work that often goes unseen by many. I would like to thank our P&F executive, led by Trin Suckling, and all our volunteers for their tireless work throughout this year. Can we please give these people a round of applause?

Our School Advisory Council have also been so supportive during this year, whether it be organising enormous busy bees to level the area of the presbytery, helping with grant funding and being a sounding board for projects we want to complete. I would like to thank our Advisory council for their support this year, led by Karl Suckling and the executive. I consider myself incredible lucky to work with such an amazing group of people who assist for all the right reasons. Can we please give these people a round of applause?

Stewardship

The area of stewardship this year has been a big one, as a short non-exhaustive list we have had: A principal review, school climate survey, financial audit, school registration standard audit, ongoing insurance work, including: development planning and building approval for our shipping container project, repairs and replacement of all shade sail structures, replacement of furniture and damaged items/areas around the school. Maintenance work around the school. New classroom furniture for all classrooms in line with our Vision for Learning. Upgrade of internet infrastructure. Demolition of old reticulation tanks and installation of new ones. 2 new playgrounds installed for our 1-6 students. Continuous negotiating with CEWA for extra funding to cover our growing costs and finally grants applied for and received from CBH and Vero to the tune of over \$30,000.

Along the journey our office staff have been central to assisting alongside the items mentioned above. Beth and Maree are a formidable team, and it would be remiss to not thank them for all their hard work throughout the year. Thank you, Beth and Maree,

2022 will bring to fruition several projects that have been planned throughout this year. Our basketball court will be replaced, a roof structure will be added to our containers along with artwork depicting the story and history of our presbytery. Our K.PP playground will be reopened bigger and better than before. Our enrolments continue to grow which on last count we are at 93, which is amazing.

I offer my thanks and gratitude for the support and faith that you have shown me in leading the school for my 3rd year, it is an honour and privilege to be the Principal of St Mary's. Thank you.