

AGM 2022

Whenever I write these speeches it forces me to sit back and reflect on the year that was. I am in a privileged position that I have to do this, it gives me enormous amounts of gratitude for all those people who support me and allow me to lead this wonderful community.

Catholic Identity

The lens in which St Mary's views the world is distinctly Catholic. Our faith and values influence everything that we do. It is evident in our actions and words. We maintained this focus on the relationship between our Parish and school this year. As part of our Year 5.6 leadership committees, the students fundraised for a new vacuum cleaner for the Parish and are also on the church cleaning roster, keep the church clean and tidy, prior to the current insurance work.

This was recognised by the Catholic School Parents WA group with an award of excellence in the Parish Category. Once again, we celebrated First Reconciliation and Eucharist with our Year 3 and 4 students we even had a Baptism in our Year 1.2 with Elias Scott, I would like to thank Mrs Lang for her hard work in preparing for these sacraments.

Our school masses continued throughout the year, making changes for COVID and now celebrating mass in our undercover area due to insurance work in our church. Throughout it all Miss Miotti has prepared all masses in consultation and has done a magnificent job. I would like to thank all our staff for their commitment to our faith development in classes. We continue to pray for a speedy recovery for Fr Larry and hope that he will be back with us soon. We have been very blessed to have Fr Hilary with us for school and Parish masses in his absence. I would like to thank Fr Larry, Fr Hilary and Bishop Michael and Mary Smith for their support of our community over the year. They are special people who always put the children first.

Education

Education is what we do and our team has continued to excel in 2022. Our classrooms were fitted out the match our learning style with updated more flexible furniture options. Our deep dive into the Science of Reading led by Mrs Mulgrew, Mrs Carson and Ms Miotti has created a consistent focus across literacy and a change in Spelling program-to-Spelling Mastery has further deepened our Explicit focus for our students. Our intervention program has continued to become more entrenched in our practice with Aimee Carson overseeing this process as Learning Support Coordinator. The growth of our students this year has been incredible with many students growing by more than a calendar year. We have continued to focus on increasing efficacy in our staff group, with a focus on ongoing learning in the Sounds Write program. I am proud to say that all ECE staff will be trained in this program next year, which provides our educators with world class education in understanding how children learn to interact with the written word. Next year we will also focus on Numeracy outcomes for our students, with the same intentional and explicit teaching. It is an exciting time for the school.

I would like to thank the wonderful staff group who have worked so hard this year. Our school is such a busy place with people consistently juggling multiple roles. I constantly have to ask staff for understanding as we dealt with the fallout of COVID and every single time these people have been accommodating and understanding. It has made the struggle so much easier, knowing I have such a supportive group of people.

Community

During 2022 we have leant heavily on our community for a variety of different projects, and they have always been so willing to help and lend a hand.

Our P&F have continued to lead the way with their famous catering reputation. I would like to thank our P&F executive, led by Trin Suckling, and all our volunteers for their tireless work throughout this year. This included fundraising for new drink fountains and repurposing old ones (\$7000) and contributing very generously to our Year 5.6 camp this year to the tune of over \$10,000. There will be a few changes in 2023 as Trin leaves the P&F and whilst they will continue to flourish, Trin has been such a huge presence on the committee.

Our Advisory Council have been so supportive this year of the schools direction and providing fantastic assistance to me. I cannot thank these people enough, led By Karl Suckling, they are truly a special group of people. I thank Karl, Ange and Kirra, who vacate the board this year, these 3 people have provided so much knowledge and expertise during their time on the council and they will be missed.

Stewardship

We have continued to add to our facilities this year as a continuation of the work from the cyclone. Our K.PP playground has been finalised, adding a new playground and cubby houses, thanks to Ben Cripps and Jayden Warr for their expert direction in these areas. We finished off our new storage containers with signage and a roofing structure. Our Basketball Court was completely replaced, this area now drains effectively and will be a lasting resource for the school for many years to come. Finally, our Presbytery Remembrance Garden has taken shape over the last few weeks, which pays homage to the history of the Presbytery. I would like to thank all those community and private organisations for their generous contributions to our rebuild including Lions Club, Rotary and Vero insurance group. These community groups have donated well in excess of \$50,000 to our school to help rebuild our facilities. We have been very fortunate to receive extra funding for CEWA for 2023, which will allow the school to complete all the necessary capital development projects in our maintenance plan, including resurfacing the carpark, upgrading security system and class air conditioners and adding further reticulation to our oval. Student wise we almost tipped 100 this year, which would have given me an excuse to don the cricket whites and raise the bat. All out on 98 students though, I believe is some type of record.

I would like to extend my thanks to all the wonderful people who make this school what it is. My family, Amy, Zac and Izzy have been blessed to call Northampton home. We have felt so welcomed into the community and as parents we could not have asked for a better community to bring up our children in. I have mentioned our amazing staff, they continue to astound me with their commitment and dedication to their vocation. Our parents and families who are just so supportive of everything that we do. Finally, to our incredible kids, I love coming to school every day most of all because of you, you make this job so special and I have been so lucky being able to lead you guys. I am so sad to leave you all and will always hold very special memories of St Mary's forever.