

## **Principal's Report to the St Mary's School Community**

**14 November 2016**

The Catholic education system Strategic Direction for 2014 -2016 is to look through the lens of LEAD. LEAD refers to learning, engagement, accountability and discipleship and this helps us to focus and refine what we do not only as a school but as part of a system. All communication – newsletter, board reports and P &F reports by the principal are organised under these headings to show the relationship in our decision making and keep a concise direction for the school as part of the Catholic Education system of WA.

Learning is what we do – we are committed to learning at every level. In 2016 at St Mary's, as a staff, we formulated an ASIP (Annual School Improvement Plan) which focussed on the four areas of LEAD). In 2016 our school goals in LEARNING were:

- Every child to demonstrate the expected average in Ballard Westwood assessment in each strand of arithmetic
- Develop a whole school comprehension tool kit to promote reading comprehension  
In ENGAGEMENT were:
- An increase in engagement with outside community groups to develop a strong identity of St Mary's within the community
- To develop the skills of students to demonstrate protective and preventative behaviours  
In ACCOUNTABILITY were:
- To develop staff skills in the implementation of reading comprehension and assessment strategy  
In DISCIPLESHIP were:
- To engage the school community in the virtues of St Mary's and increase the understanding and application of these virtues to everyday life

To achieve these goals a number of different strategies and resources were employed which include and are not limited to:

CEO consultants on site to deliver PD and support– including Viv Marwick, Sue Williams, Jan Flemming, Greg Parry

PD offered by specialist presenters including whole staff PD as part of the Maths Pilot at CEWA Perth, Maths Leadership PD days, Instructional Leadership PD, Religious Accreditation PD, Early Careers PD, school visits to view nature playgrounds & Walker learning, Primary Connections PD, HASS PD, Letters and Sounds PD, Keeping Safe PD, Autism PD, Brightpath PD, Jill Eggleton reading PD, Maths in the Outdoors Early Childhood PD, OH& S PD just to name a few.

Parent Meeting in Keeping Safe. Dissemination of information to parents and wider community through SMS, newsletters, website, newspaper articles

Staff professional learning meetings and staff meetings. Data analysis of NAPLAN, PAT testing, Observation survey, Hattie's effect sizes, reading levels. There has been specific use of data to drive the inclusion of new teaching practices and programs within the school.

Development of QIP (Quality Improvement plan) for ECE (Yrs K-Yr 2)

Acquisition of new reading and maths resources – which was well supported by the school board and P & F.

Promotion of reading events such as storytelling night

100 year celebration with over 500 in attendance, publication of school centennial booklet, coverage in local newspapers, parish bulletins and on CEWA website

Whole school writing tasks and moderation of writing samples

Outreach to community organisations such as IGA, the Shire, Bendigo Bank, Preston Press and South West Times and the Men's shed who have all supported the school in various ways through sponsorship, resources, introduction & continuation of school banking, visiting businesses, and media coverage of school events

Outreach to less fortunate under the heading of St Mary's values of service and justice in the Year of Mercy by fundraising for wheelchairs for kids, Caritas and the homeless shoebox appeal.

We have had many successes with our goals

- Increased use of school value language by students and staff for example students taking about service, justice, compassion
- Increased recognition of students of the joys of service (e.g. wheelchair appeal conversation and commitment)
- Maths Assessment in Mental Maths at the beginning of Year 3 shows there was an increase of 26% of students achieving above the mean scores expected for their age in addition and a 35% increase in subtraction for students achieving above their age level mean in Year 5/6. In Year 3/4 there was a 31% increase in addition and a 24% increase in subtraction scores. In Year 2/3 there has been 18% growth in addition above the mean and 14% growth in subtraction. This was wonderful growth displayed across the school in an 18 week time period.
- 60% of our students between Years 3-5 have increased their writing years by more than 2 and ½ years growth in that time period. 70% of our students in maths have shown a growth of 2 & ½ years or greater between NAPLAN testing.
- 95% of students in Year 1 have displayed a greater than 12 month growth in reading, 60% of our students in Year 2/3 have increased their reading levels by a greater than 12 month growth, 40% of students in Year 3/4 have displayed a greater than 12 month growth in reading

I would like to thank all the board members for their dedication and commitment this year. Thank you to Chris, Paige, Daniel, Michael, Rodney, Darryl and Sarah. The board have been a wonderful source of support and wisdom throughout the year.

To Mia, Sarah & Bronwyn as the P & F executive and to all the members of the P&F and parent representatives thank you for the amazing role you have all filled this year. Your tireless work, energy and enthusiasm for the school has enabled the school to participate in a range of fantastic activities as well as gain some amazing resources such as maths equipment, reading resources, shade sails, just to name a few.

The staff at St Mary's are tireless in their endeavours to provide a diverse and enjoyable education for the children in their care. I am constantly amazed by their professionalism, humour, caring and

dedication to provide for each and every student. I thank them on behalf of the community for all they have done and continue to do.

This year we farewell Miss Elkington and Mrs Clynick as we end the school year. We wish them all the best for their future endeavours. We farewell Mrs Pettersen as she begins a new chapter in her life and wish her all the best for her maternity leave.

We wish our graduating class of 2016 all the success for the future. They have been a great group of students and we hope they take with them the skills and values from St Mary's to be successful learners throughout life.

In 2016 we had straight classes until Year 1, then composite classes and an enrolment of 139 to commence the year, peaking at 145 during the year. Next year we project our enrolment will be around 140 students (with 15 students leaving for highschool and 12 new Kindy enrolments) with stand-alone classes up to Year 3, then a combined 4/5 and 5/6 class. We welcome some new enrolments in 2016 and look forward to a successful year.

We thank Father Roshan, the parish council and the parish for their ongoing support as we as a community aim to deepen our relationship with God. Through our sacramental programs, altar serving programs, class masses, whole school masses, retreats and prayer focuses we have endeavoured to support everyone on their faith journey.

Finally I would like to thank again all the parents and staff for their exceptional commitment to our school which benefits all the children we have in our care. It is truly a privilege to be a part of such a supportive and engaging community.

God Bless

Annette Quirk

Principal

St Mary's Donnybrook