

Principal – St Peter’s ACM Report 2023

2023 has been a very exciting and rewarding year! There have been significant changes implemented, with a myriad of initiatives and school projects commencing. I would like to sincerely thank all members of our school community for their contribution this year. Education is a shared responsibility, and collaboration between parents and school is essential in ensuring that all our students receive an education that equips them with the knowledge and skills necessary for success.

Setting St Peter’s Primary School apart from other schools has also been the launch of our updated school logo. A huge thank you to Mrs Katie Pelosi, who has spent hours on this process. Along the journey, Katie presented the process of refreshing our logo to staff, the P&F and the School Advisory Council, and a sub-committee was formed. The new St Peter’s Primary School logo is a successful refresh of the existing logo, continuing to highlight our strong link to our Dominican heritage, whilst setting the logo apart from other Catholic Dominican schools.

The Perth Advertising and Design Club (PADC) awards night was held in early November and the St Peter’s Brand Refresh scored a Gold Skull. For context, only 8 golden skulls were given out on the night across the whole industry, making it a real honour. The St Peter’s Brand Refresh has also been entered in the Australian Graphic Design Association (AGDA) awards to be held on the 2 December. We wish Katie all the best at this event.

Many families have already purchased the new maroon polo tops and reversal sports hats with the updated logo. Our school uniform is a visible representation of our school and plays an important role in promoting a positive image of the school. We will have a three-year transition period to support our families moving from the existing uniform to the new uniform. Students who have already purchased the new uniform have shared with staff their excitement with the new look and provided positive feedback.

2023 also saw the introduction of our Grandparents’ Morning Tea. Grandparents are a huge part of our community, and we wanted to acknowledge the role our grandparents play in our students’ lives and the unconditional love they have for family. Grandparents of our Year 5 students began the day with Mass, and all Grandparents had the opportunity to visit classrooms, as well as enjoy morning tea with their grandchildren. We had an overwhelming number of grandparents come to celebrate this special event! We look forward to hosting an annual Grandparents Morning Tea, moving forward.

In a few weeks' time, we will also be celebrating our inaugural evening End of Year concert. All families are invited to BYO picnic dinner from 5pm, before the concert commences at 6pm. The introduction of an evening concert permitted the event to be a whole school occasion, with the invitation also being extended to grandparents and loved ones. It also means that, as this is a whole school event, our families will be able to watch all children participate in the one concert, rather than come at staggered start times throughout the day.

Each cohort will perform a dance that contributes to the theme '*When I Grow Up*'. This is a great opportunity for students to showcase their talents and demonstrate what they have learnt during dance lessons this term. The evening will conclude with the students and community joining in singing a few Christmas carols together. This family-orientated event will be a special occasion, providing great entertainment and a festive atmosphere to celebrate the end of a successful school year.

After many years of planning, a new chapter began this year with the commencement of our building and construction work on the lower oval. It has been incredibly exciting to watch the development of our new Early Childhood space! I sincerely thank Mr Matt Nettleton and Mrs Bianca Flamini who have worked tirelessly to establish new duty rosters, creating split lunch breaks to ensure adequate play space for all students.

The addition of these new facilities and new space for our Kindy and Pre-Primary classes is sure to enhance the learning experience for all our early childhood students. This great new infrastructure will support our school's continued focus on providing a high-quality education for all our students. I can't wait to see the finished result, and watch, as it helps future generations reach their full potential.

A strong learning culture continues to exist at St Peter's Primary School, with the commitment of the learning community comprised of the students, parents, teachers, and the broader community.

We have continued to expand on our TRUE inquiry model throughout the school, which integrates across all areas of the curriculum. We have also continued to develop our students' problem-solving skills by integrating the Launch-Explore-Summarise model into Numeracy lessons. Writing has been a focus within Literacy, with our goal to improve students' writing skills by using Talk for Writing as an approach to teach writing that encompasses a three-stage pedagogy: Imitation, Innovation and Independent application. Throughout 2023, our specialist programs of Music, Italian, Science and Physical Education continued to enrich the education of our students, as well the introduction of our Dance and Drama program. 2023 also saw the

introduction of specialist classes to our Kindy program. Kindy students thoroughly enjoyed their weekly Physical Education and Dance and Drama lessons. The addition of these specialist classes provided our Kindy students with fundamental skills and diverse learning experiences, assisting them to develop a love of learning and exploring new opportunities. In 2024, we will expand our specialist program to include a sixth specialist class, with the re-introduction of Visual Arts.

In 2023, the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) reset the NAPLAN measurement scale and time series. This means we are unable to compare NAPLAN achievement for this year to our prior results.

2023 saw student achievement in NAPLAN reported using proficiency standards for each assessment area at each year level. Rather than reporting in bands, the four proficiency levels are:

- Exceeding: the student's result exceeds expectations at the time of testing.
- Strong: the student's result meets challenging, but reasonable, expectations at the time of testing.
- Developing: the student's result indicates that they are working towards expectations at the time of testing.
- Needs additional support

St Peter's Primary School consistently demonstrates a high performance across all assessments. For Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar & Numeracy in both Year Three and Year Five, St Peter's Primary School is above CEWA schools, State schools and the National average. Our strong pedagogy was made evident when the West Australian Newspaper published an article in February this year, highlighting St Peter's as one of the top three high performing schools in our area for NAPLAN achievements.

Although we maintain our consistently strong results, we are always refining what we do to ensure the best outcomes for our students. In 2024 we will re-structure our literacy support program to introduce three new programs supported by the Dyslexia Speld Foundation. Heggerty – an explicit modelling of phonological and phonemic awareness in our junior classes, and Mini Lit and Macq Lit - an explicit and systematic reading intervention program for small groups for both junior, middle and upper primary.

Thank you so much to all the incredible parent volunteers throughout the year! Your dedication and support have made it possible for our students to have amazing and memorable experiences. I thank you for sharing your time, energy and commitment, to make a positive impact on our school community.

We look forward to continuing to work together to create even more enjoyable and rewarding experiences for our students in 2024.

I express my sincere thanks to our School Advisory Council - Kelly Matusik, Pip Lapelms, Rozanne O'Kane, Brett Blanchard, Keith D'Sa, Fiorda Kule, Renee Bennett and Hilda Tansley and also our P&F Executive - Renee Bennett, Marieka Rendall, Suz Gallagher, Steve Catania, Dave Dawes and Joanne Aleksoski.

My gratitude and thanks also to Father Jeronimo and Father Israel. At the end of Semester One, Father Jeronimo announced that he would be taking extended leave for the second half of the year to return home and spend quality time with his family. At the commencement of Term Three, we welcomed Father Israel Quirit to our parish community. Thank you to Father Israel for his homilies that are very relevant to life today, and speak to us on a personal level, to inspire us to make some changes to continue to grow and strengthen our faith. Thank you for praying over us, praying with us and praying for us. I would also like to thank Marina Tassone, the Sacramental Co-ordinator, for her continued support in the Parish-based Sacramental program.

We are blessed to continue our strong, positive and collaborative partnership with the Saint Peter the Apostle Catholic Church.

Congratulations to our Year Six student leaders for being exceptional role models throughout the year. I am certain that they will take on the new challenge of secondary school with enthusiasm and determination. They should all be very proud of their achievements, and proud of the young adults they have become. As they move forward, I encourage them to continue striving for excellence, never give up, and always have a positive attitude. As they begin this next chapter in their education journey, I want to wish them all the best for a bright and successful future.

In my first year as Principal at St Peter's Primary School, I am extremely grateful to the staff for their constant support, collaboration, and hard work, I would not have been able to accomplish what we have this year without them. All staff have shown unwavering dedication, professionalism, and passion for education. Their commitment to our school community and the well-being of our students has been truly inspiring.

I thank both Bianca Flamini and Matt Nettleton for their commitment to the role of Assistant Principal. Their dedication, organisation and sense of humour have been instrumental in the success of our team. To our Cluster Leaders Michelle Glanville and Jo Carbone, I thank you for your classroom insights and dedication to ensuring we work as a united team in achieving school improvement. To our admin team: Tony Hunter, Liz Cunningham, Kelly Dalton,

Georgie Bertoldo, Sharon Zanotti and Tammy Hunter – your support, energy and commitment are greatly appreciated.

Sincere thanks to all the Teachers and Education Assistants at our amazing school. You are true professionals who go above and beyond to support our students and ensure that they have the best possible educational experience. Your dedication and passion inspire me every day, and I am truly honoured to be a part of this wonderful team.

As we bid farewell to the year 2023, we also say goodbye to some remarkable individuals who have dedicated themselves to our school community for several years. These staff members have not only made a positive impact on our students' lives but have also supported our school's growth and success. As they embark on new adventures, we want to take a moment to acknowledge their invaluable contributions and wish them the best in their future endeavours.

Although currently on leave from St Peter's, we officially farewell Pina Hutcheson, Holly Mousley, Carmel Cameron and Kirsty Maher. We wish them all the best in their new roles and Carmel as she enjoyed spending more time with her family over the past six months.

We also wish three staff members all the best as they commence new roles at other schools in CEWA - Kym Zagar is moving to Good Shepherd in Lockridge, Mel Hoppenbrouwers is venturing across the river to St Benedict's in Applecross and Sue Cousins will be joining Emmaus in Dayton. I thank Kym, Mel and Sue for all that they have done for St Peter's Primary School and send them our best wishes for their future endeavours.

We wish Kerry Morcombe, Olyvia Browne and Bianca Pengilley all the best as they embark on new adventures! May this new chapter bring them joy, growth, and excitement.

Finally, we also have three teachers who are not leaving, but will be taking leave for 2024 - Rebecca Vacarro, Marg Warrener and Marina Powell. We will continue to see both Bec and Marg as casual relief, as Marg enjoys spending more time with her family and Bec will be completing additional study. I wish Marina Powell all the best as she embarks on her new role as the Director of Performance Arts at St. Andrew's Grammar.

In the final week of term, classes will be confirmed, and all students will be involved on our Transition Day on Thursday 7 December. Many factors are considered when balancing classes, including academics, gender, social dynamics, and emotional needs. In addition, children with any specific needs are also accommodated.

As parents and teachers, our main goal is to help our children grow and develop into confident and adaptable individuals. Meeting new and different people is an essential part of life, as it exposes children to diverse perspectives, cultures, and experiences. Staff think carefully about the composition of each class to create a positive learning environment where all students can thrive. Together, let's encourage our children to embrace change, make new friends, and thrive in their educational journey.

In 2024 we welcome several new staff who feature in the next video, and I would like to welcome those in attendance tonight... Tanya Holland, Jasmine Sinagra and Katie Galati. (Featuring in the video: Tanya Holland, Brian Dobbie, Lucian Watkins, Jasmine Sinagra, Melissa Carosin, Liz Parker (returning), Katie Galati, Aoife O'Connell, Monique Du Toit, Jessica Pepler and Arabella Pisani).

I wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May this festive time be filled with joy, love, and laughter as you gather with your families and loved ones.