

Annual General Meeting 24 November 2015 Principal's Report

In the second year as Principal of Good Shepherd School I would like to commence my Annual Report with a vote of thanks to all members of our wonderful community for their ongoing support and encouragement throughout the year. I have no doubt that your support played a major role in my reappointment as Principal for the next five years. I feel blessed to have been given this opportunity and eagerly look forward to working closely with you all during the next phase of the schools development and history.

The highlights of the year included:

- The implementation of our new house names of Foley, Francis, Noonan and Maali and their respective banners
- The introduction of the Explicit Direct Instruction teaching strategies in years Kindy to Year 2
- The refurbishment of the Administration building to include more office space and teacher work stations
- Extension of I.C.T resources around the school including a fully refurbished I.C.T. hub in the Conference Room

School Enrolments:

School enrolments are increasing with a full Kindy cohort for 2016 and near to full classes in Pre Primary to Year 6. Increasing enrolment enquiries and a waiting list in some year levels places the school in a very healthy position for the future.

Staff Appointed for 2015:

Chris Caridi – Year 4
Patricia O'Brien – Year 5
Katie Webb – Year 5
Janis Blake – Numeracy Coordinator
Helen Lornie – Literacy Coordinator
Sue Ammendolea – EA Kindy
Leanne Barns – EA Kindy

Staff Changes during 2015:

Tianna Ciffolilli and Natasha Morisco replaced Anne Marie Donnelly
Jenny Lazzaroni – Administration Officer
Sue Beros – EA Special Needs

Catholic Identity:

The Bishops Mandate 2009 – 2015 states that:

Catholic schools are important means through which the Church proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ, or evangelises, in the world of today. They are privileged places of evangelisation where the young learn 'the good news of salvation' – and what it means to live as 'new creatures in Christ through Baptism' and 'knowingly as children of God'

Schools need to provide opportunities for young people to reflect deeply upon the meaning of their lives, particularly in the light of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is particularly important for the new evangelisation of students whose families 'are far from the faith'

Catholic schools contribute to the development of our young thorough education particularly to their formation in Christian conscience and virtue. To be Catholic schools, they need to be good schools.

We have been very fortunate in the appointment of our new Parish Priest Fr Al Leoung to the Good Shepherd Parish. We look forward to working closely with Fr Al and develop a positive working partnership between the school and the Parish. Highlights of the school year included:

- Celebration of the Sacraments of Penance, First Holy Communion and Confirmation within the framework of the Bishop's Strategy of Parish based Family focus and School supported programs
- School Prayer and House Names have been embedded in the school's culture
- Whole school mass celebrated fortnightly
- Excellent attendance from staff at our weekly staff prayer on Wednesdays
- Lifelink launch at Good Shepherd School
- Mission Week Mini fete

Curriculum and Education:

The main focus for our staff in 2015 was the 'alignment of staff' with respect to teaching practices educational content and programming in key areas of literacy and numeracy. This was supported by the following:

- Introduction of Explicit Direct Instruction in Kindy to Year 2
- Implementation of a spelling scope and sequence for Kindy to Year 6
- Sound Waves spelling implemented in Years 1 – 6
- Introduction of a Numeracy Coordinator and an increased focus on numeracy strategies and activities.
- Extension of Literacy Coordinator role across the full week
- Major increase in Literacy resources for all year levels
- Bishop's Religious Education Assessment in Years 3 and 5 provided excellent results with student average score of 60% compared to 'all schools' average of 55%
- NAPLAN –The school NAPLAN results for 2015 once again showed Good Shepherd did extremely well, scoring above average against Australian schools on all five areas in Year 3 and above average in both the spelling and writing components for Year 5. The Year 5 cohort of children showed significant growth compared to their results in Year 3 which is what we aim to strive for
- PIPS – The end of year PIPS results in Pre Primary showed both classes making significant improvement in both literacy and numeracy and were well above the 'all schools' scores
- Introduced PAT testing in both reading and numeracy in Years 1 – 6

Community:

A major focus for the school this year was to continue building our home / school partnerships and to acknowledge and celebrate the wonderful multicultural diversity at

our school. We have endeavoured to create a 'welcoming' environment for all parents this year as part of our focus to have more parental involvement in our school. This was highlighted by:

- Parent – Teacher meetings at the start of the year, end of Term 1 and selected meetings at the end of Terms 2, 3 and 4
- Have embedded the new and improved drop off and pick up process before and after school
- Weekly whole school Assemblies with the addition of the Person of the Week Award
- Celebration of Universal Children's Day with a 'multicultural' dress day
- Celebration of World Teacher's Day at a whole school assembly
- P&F Association – The wonderful work done by our P&F Association and their support of the school
- Many thanks to all our parents who have supported the school in any way this year and helped build our home / school partnership. In particular a very special thank you to those parents who have attended our P&F meetings and supported their many activities throughout the year. A special thank you to Nadia Lake, Melissa Rechichi, Dom Swalski and Marija Muccilli as members of the P&F Executives this year

Stewardship:

We are very fortunate to have such a professional and dedicated School Board who meet every month to ensure the school's financial position remains very healthy and plan for future financial stability to support all of the school's needs in the coming years. Highlights of the year included:

- Improvements made to school ground and building buildings including the ECE playgrounds, classroom doors, upgrade of all power boards around the school and the refurbishment of the Administration building
- Introduction of an I.C.T Levy has enabled the school to move forward until its I.C.T plan for the next three years
- I would like to sincerely thank all school board members in particular our board chair Nathan Barns for all their time and energy in support of our school and its Leadership Team. It has been most appreciated. A special thank you to our two retiring members Gui Pierre and Karolina Swalski for their efforts over the past two years

Conclusion:

I would like to again thank all members of the school community for their support and encouragement that enabled me to be reappointed as principal for the next five years. The past two years have been quite amazing and I often have to remind myself how blessed I have been to be given the initial opportunity at Good Shepherd School. I would like to pay a special thank you to our fantastic staff who are hardworking and dedicated with the interest of our children always at the forefront of all decisions and discussions made during the year. In particular I would like to thank and acknowledge our two Assistant Principals Renae Butler and Tracey Hill who do everything possible to make my role as principal so much easier. We are certainly blessed to have such talented young leaders at Good Shepherd School. My very best wishes to Renae as she takes maternity leave next year and we welcome Romina Chapman to the Leadership Team for 2016.

Congratulations to our Year 6 graduates and I wish them every success and happiness in their respective high schools in their quest of their hopes and dreams. They have been excellent role models and leaders throughout 2015.

Thanks and best wishes to you all and I look forward with much eagerness and anticipation to the 2016 school year.

God Bless

Jim DiCarlo