



Good Shepherd Catholic School

— Lockridge —

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Annual General Meeting Principals Report 26 November 2019

This is my final Principal's report after six wonderful and inspiring years here at Good Shepherd School. What started out as a two-year contract as part of a possible school change to a K-12 grew into something much more.

I have been very blessed in my career in Catholic Education and this school has been the perfect place for me to end my 40 years as a Catholic School teacher and Principal.

2019 has been another very busy, exciting and successful school year with a number of highlights that help showcase the great work done by staff and parent body of our school.

HIGHLIGHTS FO THE YEAR

- The construction of the Ninja Playground Circuit
- The boys in Years 3-6 winning their section of the Interschool Swimming Carnival for the second year in a row
- The inaugural Indigenous round of Sacred Saints Interschool Sports
- The change of the DOTT room to a new Science/STEM room and the creation of three separate group learning areas in the library
- Wonderful results in the Year 3 and 5 NAPLAN along with all other Standard Test results in other year groups; which highlight the impact of Explicit Instruction and associated programs
- New School Master Plan and appointment of new architect
- LEAD Awards for Good Shepherd School in the Accountability Sector for its Sensory Motor Program
- Performing Arts Festival and Concert performances by School Choir, Band and individual participants
- Sustainability Program and the efforts of Vanessa Reedman
- Appointment of new substantive Principal Mark Powell
- Approval for the next stage of the school Master Plan to refurbish the Junior block in the same manner as the Senior Block.

SCHOOL ENROLMENT

School enrolments continue to flourish with another full Kindy cohort for 2020 and close to full classrooms from Pre Primary to Year 6. We continue to attract enrolments from Caversham, Dayton and Brabham which will place the school in a very healthy position for the future.

NEW STAFF APPOINTED FOR 2019

- Laura Saelens – Year 1, Teacher Exchange from Canada
- Katrina Dalzel – EA in Pre Primary
- Tara Guerriero – Nurs, Special Needs
- Jasmine Ziino – Year 4

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

In 2019 the school continued to work very closely with both our parish Priest Father Al and his assistant Father Tim in developing positive ongoing working relationship between our school and the parish. This was supported by the following activities and initiatives during 2019:

- Celebration of Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.
- Whole School Mass celebrated every third week
- Wonderful attendance from staff at our weekly staff prayer on Wednesday mornings
- School's support of Archbishop's Lifelink Appeal
- Whole school Mission Week Mini-Fete
- The implementation of the Making Jesus Real program and the promotion of the ongoing 'Spirit of Jesus' belonging in all our hearts at G.S.L

CURRICULUM

The main focus for all teachers in Kindy to Year 6 in 2019 was to continue to implement the Explicit Instruction teaching strategy to improve student outcomes and achievement. The school also restructured key support programs in Literacy and Numeracy to improve student achievement. These were supported by the following initiatives:

- Letters and Sounds in Kindy – Year 2
- JEMMS Numeracy in Years 3 – 5
- The trialling of MATIFIC online Numeracy program as a substitute for Mathletics in 2020
- Regular PLC's in clusters of K – 2 and 3 – 6 on a fortnightly basis
- The excellent work of our curriculum Coordinators in Literacy, Numeracy, Explicit Instruction, Early Childhood and Information Technology

COMMUNITY

The main focus again this year was around the System Strategic Outcome of Engagement and the enhancement of parental involvement in their child's learning and faith formation. We aim to do this by:

- Providing opportunities for parents to develop their role in their children's education
- To engage parents, particularly of multicultural backgrounds and encourage their involvement in the school's teaching and learning programs
- Parent-Teacher meetings at the start of the school year, end of term 1 and selected meetings at the end of terms 2, 3 and 4.
- Whole School Assemblies two out of every three weeks
- Celebration of Harmony Day, Mothers' Day, Fathers' day and World Teachers Day
- The wonderful work of the P & F Association and their support of the school

Many thanks to all our parents who have helped and supported the school in any way this year and help build our home-school partnership. In particular, a thank you to all those parents who attended our P & F Meetings and supported their many activities. A special thanks to Cassandra Lembo, Rebecca D'Andrea Silvia Scriva and Nicole Sadler the members of the Executive this year.

STEWARDSHIP

We are very fortunate to have such a professional and dedicated School Board who meet monthly to ensure the school's current and future financial position and all school buildings remain healthy and well maintained. The School Board budgets carefully and

prudently for the future financial stability to support all school needs in the coming years. This has been supported by:

- Introduction of Solar Panels to help reduce energy costs
- Construction of the Ninja Circuit Playground equipment on the school oval
- Repairs and maintenance of the Shade Sails around the school
- Upgrade of ITC equipment in the School Hall, Meeting Room and Administration
- Increase in school security with the addition of further CCTV cameras covering the Junior block and ECE block.
- School master Plan – The refurbishment of the Junior block
- The establishment of a new Science/STEM room

SPECIAL VOTE OF THANKS

Before concluding my final report, I would like to make special mention of the following members of our school community:

- All the Assistant Principals who have helped and supported me over the 6 years: Ray Rose, Renae Butler, Tracey Hill, Romina Chapman and Lisa Deans
- Adelina Kusabs, Amy Ricciardi, Jenny Lazzaroni and staff who have supported the office staff
- Nathan Barns for his wonderful leadership of the School Board for the past 6 years and all other Board members
- Nadia Lake and Cassandra Lembo as Presidents of the P&F and all other Executive members of the P&F
- All members of the Extended Team over the 6 years: Helene Lornie, Iolanda Jennings, Janis Blake, Chloe Velliari, Kristen Pesce, Katrina Jenkins, Bianca Cuticone, Jessica Farano, Luisa Panaia, Rachel Cairney and Lisa Manifold
- Olly Blatchford for all the various activities before and after school he has introduced to improve children's physical health and wellbeing
- Lisa Manifold and all members of her team for the amazing work they all do for our special needs children
- Ann Cutler for the positive difference she has made in the life of so many children, staff and parents

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for the difference GSL has made to my life. I have been able to be challenged to grow and to reinvigorate myself and my career over the past 6 years as Principal at GSL

I would like to wish Mark Powell and all the staff for 2020 all the very best for next and beyond.

My congratulations to all the Year 6 graduates and all other future graduates from GSL in the year to come.

I look forward to my retirement and plan to keep busy with many new opportunities and challenges.

Love and God Bless Everyone,
Jim Di Carlo