



# *Good Shepherd Catholic School*

— Lockridge —

215 Morley Drive, Lockridge, W.A. 6054

Phone: (08) 6278 9500 • Fax: (08) 6278 9540 • Email: [admin@gsl.wa.edu.au](mailto:admin@gsl.wa.edu.au)

Website: [www.gsl.wa.edu.au](http://www.gsl.wa.edu.au) • ABN 86 853 294 544

---

## **AGM – Principals Report 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

In my fourth year as Principal of Good Shepherd School I would like to start my report with a huge vote of thanks to all members of the school community for their ongoing support and encouragement throughout the school year. This being the second of my new five year contract it has been a year of not only consolidating what we started three years ago but to also look ahead and introduce a number of new initiatives and changes to our school that will hopefully help improve student outcomes in all areas of their school life. It has been as always a very busy and exciting school year with numerous highlights and successes along with the many challenges that schools present.

### **HIGHLIGHTS OFF THE YEAR**

- The School's Cyclic Review and its positive outcome
- The completion and opening of the new Uniform Shop
- The Junior Primary Nature Playground
- The coaching and support of our teachers in Explicit Instruction with Dr Lorraine Hammond
- The appointment of Mrs Lisa Deans to the role of full time Assistant Principal
- Roll out of 1 to 1 iPads in Pre Primary and Year 6 classes
- The boys in Years 3 – 6 winning their section of the Interschool Athletics for first time in 10 years
- The extension of the Music Program to develop and sustain a school band
- Excellent results in NAPLAN and other standardised tests especially in Numeracy

### **SCHOOL ENROLLMENTS**

Our school enrolments continue to flourish with another full Kindy cohort for 2018 and full classrooms from Pre Primary to Year 6 with waiting lists in many year groups. This will continue to place the school in a very healthy position for the future.

### **NEW STAFF APPOINTED FOR 2017**

Oliver Blatchford	Sports / P.E. Specialist
Elesia Ranauro	Kindy
Helen Millard	Special Needs Nurse
Lorena Comito	Year 3
Lisa Deans	Assistant Principal
Connie Mezzatesta	Year 1 Educational Assistant

## **CATHOLIC IDENTITY**

The current Bishops Mandate for Catholic Schools states that:

Catholic Schools are an important means of fulfilling our responsibilities as Bishops. We continue to mandate them for several important reasons.

- 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 through education, particularly to their formation in Christian conscience and virtue. To be Catholic schools, they need to be good schools.

In 2017 we continued to work very closely with both our parish Priest Father Al and his assistant Father CJ in developing positive ongoing working relationship between our school and the parish. This was supported by the following activities and initiatives during 2017:

- Celebration of Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.
- Regular classroom visits by Father CJ
- Whole School Mass celebrated every third week
- Wonderful attendance from staff at our weekly staff pray on Wednesdays
- School's support of Archbishop's Lifelink Appeal
- Whole school Mission Week Mini-Fete

## **CURRICULUM**

The main focus for our teachers in Kindy to Year 6 in 2017 was to implement Explicit Direct Instruction teaching strategy to improve student outcomes and achievement. Selected staff would be coached as leaders to support others.

The school also restructured key support programs in Literacy and Numeracy to improve student achievement. This was supported by:

- Spelling Mastery in Years 2 and 3
- Cars and Stars reading comprehension in Years PP – 6
- School's participation in Principals and Numeracy Leaders Program
- Reading Mastery and JEMMS Numeracy as Third Wave Support Programs
- Extensive P.D. sessions for teachers with Leadership Team from Dianella Heights Primary School
- NAPLAN and other Standardised Test results showed the school had made very good progress in most areas of literacy with a need to focus on our Writing Program in 2018. Numeracy has been a school focus for the past 2 years and school achieved excellent results in NAPLAN and other standard tests.

## **SCHOOL CYCLIC REVIEW**

The school Cyclic Review focuses on the effectiveness of a school's engagement with self-review, the impact of self-review on school improvement and the future of student outcomes that the school has identified. A panel of four comprising two Catholic School Principals and two representatives from the Catholic Education Office spent two days conducting the review and meeting with various members of the school community.

*"It is obvious to the Panel that this school has improvement at the forefront of its planning. Exploring pedagogy to improve student achievement is paramount. To meet this end the school has embarked on a process of school improvement through the implement action of Explicit Instruction Teaching strategy."*

## **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 Kylie Debono 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:

- The completion of the Nature Playground at the start of the school year
- Upgrade of WiFi access to all classrooms in line with increase in number of iPads and new interactive TV screens in all classrooms.
- The completion of the new Uniform Shop
- Plans to improve the playground facilities on the school oval for Years 3 – 6
- Capital Development Plan - Upgrade of roof and all interior features of Senior Block classrooms. Works to commence after 8 December 2017
- Covered walkway connecting the Admin block to the ECE Centre
- Upgrade of the kitchen facilities in Pre Primary classes

A very special thank you to all Board members for the time and energy they have dedicated to our Board meetings and other activities related to finances and school buildings and resources. In particular I would like to thank our Chairperson Nathan Barns for the outstanding contribution he has made to the school this year.

## **CONCLUSION**

As Principal of Good Shepherd School I am very pleased to see that a number of initiatives and changes are starting to become embedded in our school's teaching and learning program and general school processes. The ongoing support from staff, parents and students continues to encourage me and this was further evidenced by the report and response from the school's Cyclic Review Panel earlier this year. I look forward to the further challenges that lay ahead us in the coming years. I would like to pay a very sincere and special thank you to our amazing and dedicated staff who always have the interest and well-being of our children at the forefront of all discussions and decisions made during the school year. This has been often quoted by Mrs Lisa Deans our new Assistant Principal in her short time here at Good Shepherd. I would also like to thank Romina Chapman and Renae Butler for the wonderful support and advice they gave to Lisa Deans during her transition time in semester one.

Congratulations to our Year 6 graduates and I thank them for all their wonderful efforts as student teacher role models during 2017. I wish them every success and happiness in the next phase of their educational journey.

Love and best wishes to you over the Christmas and New Year festive season. I look forward to working with you all again in 2018