



## 2021 ANNUAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY MEETING

10 February 2022

### Principal's Report

Dear Staff, Parents, Carers and Community Members,

It is with pleasure that I present my annual report for the 2021 school year at St Bernard's Catholic Primary School. This report highlights the structures that were in place in 2021 as well as some of the more significant events, activities and outcomes of the year. It does so by addressing each of the four domains of Catholic Education WA: Stewardship, Education, Community and Catholic Identity.

#### STEWARDSHIP

Staff at St Bernard's play a critical role in ensuring students receive the best possible standard of care and education while they are at our school and this involves commitment from all our staff members including cleaning and grounds staff, administration staff, teaching staff (teachers and education assistants) and leadership. We are blessed to have such a committed staff working each day to ensure the best outcomes for all students.

In 2020 we farewelled Miss Sarah Wright who resigned as Kindy/PP EA in Term 2; Miss Rachel Batten who resigned as Kindy/PP teacher early in Term 3; and at the end of the year: Miss Tanya Pavlovic (Year 1/2 teacher), who returned to family and friends in Perth and a new job at St Damien's Primary School in Dawesville, Mrs Melissa Shepherd (Technologies teacher) who left as a result of gaining more employment at TAFE, Mrs Jacinta Sibley (Administration) who relocated to Perth with her family, and Mrs Nadine Bilney (Finance) who is wishing to spend more time working on the family farm. Mrs Sandy Jackson (Japanese and Maths support) elected to take leave in 2022 and Mrs Margie Davies (EA) is on leave in Term 1, 2022.

My thanks to Mrs Melissa Matthews and Mrs Sue Sumner who very ably took on the Kindy/PP classroom at short notice; Miss Lara Norrish who joined Kindy/PP as an EA; and at the end of the year: Miss Cristie Lock (K/PP teacher), Mr Ben Myers (Year 5/6 teacher), Mrs Lisa Cavanagh (Administration) and Mrs Kendra Grace (Finance). In the first term of the 2022 school year, we also welcome Ms Nichole Reinke who is replacing Mrs Margie Davies as upper school EA while she is on leave.

Catholic School Advisory Council members were James Eyres (chairperson), Kate Clayton (secretary), Peter Trethowan (P&F representative and Treasurer), Tamesha Gardner, Lachie Thorn, Vincent Macri and Matt Atkinson. New Advisory Council member induction was undertaken in March, 2021 under the direction of our School Improvement Advisor, Mrs Kerrie Merritt.

Our school P&F was very active in 2021, hosting the biannual auction in March, raising over \$30 000 to be used to benefit our students and school. The P&F was led by Mrs Leonie Smith as president, Mrs Ebony Macri as secretary and Mrs Mon Eyres as Treasurer.

Major projects completed in 2021 included the installation of solar panels, the grotto walls replacement and a new retaining wall around the Area 3 playground. A Master Plan project to determine future improvements and possible new builds was embarked upon with CEWA, in conjunction with Matthews and Scavalli Architects. This project remains ongoing in 2022.

St Bernard's was invited to take part in CEWA's Affordable Schools Project Low Fee Initiative in 2021, based on the school's low Direct Measure of Income (DMI) rating. This means all school fees from 2022

will be capped at \$300 per student, plus a \$90 building levy, with no further expense to parents. CEWA will subsidise St Bernard's to the amount of 2021 school fees and will continue doing this until enrolments pass the 2021 enrolment number of 74. Sibling discounts will still apply, but the Health Care Card rebate no longer applies as fees are capped at the HCC level.

School grounds and buildings continued to be maintained throughout the year by our team of Mrs Annette Sawyer (cleaning) and Mr Robert Brown (grounds and maintenance) on a voluntary basis, until the position of groundskeeper was taken up by Mrs Karin Praetz in April.

In 2021 staff continued to engage with school improvement through the National Quality Standards (NQS), as well as the School Improvement Plan (SIP), including the Curriculum Plan, Evangelisation Plan and Aboriginal Education Plan.

In line with our SIP and Curriculum Plan, staff focused on deepening their use of learning centres during the Literacy and Numeracy Dedicated Time blocks in order to best support students' learning. This work was supported by our Literacy specialist teacher, Mrs Sharon Venables, Maths specialist teacher, Mrs Sandy Jackson, and regular visits by CEWA Literacy Consultant, Mrs Liz Harper.

Exploring our understanding and facilitating the implementation of play-based, inquiry focused learning in the Early Years was the focus identified in our Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) as part of our commitment to implementing the NQS in Kindy-Year 2. This work was supported by the involvement of early years staff in the Great Southern Network meetings conducted each semester with staff from St Joseph's Albany, St Matthew's Narrogin and St Patrick's Katanning, with the support of CEWA early years consultants.

The focus of the Great Southern Network shifted in 2021 to a STEM focus in Years 3 and 4, with meetings each term culminating in a STEM Challenge Showcase in Term 4. St Bernard's Year 3/4 class enjoyed the STEM focus and we were thrilled to have both a group represented in the National STEM Challenge finals and a group winner of the Community category at the STEM Challenge Showcase locally.

CEWA Aboriginal Education Consultant, Mr Leon Ridgeway, continued to work with staff on implementing our Aboriginal Education Plan with the goal of linking Noongar language to classroom oral language activities.

## **EDUCATION**

As already noted, teachers focused on deepening their use of learning centres during the Literacy and Numeracy Dedicated Time blocks in order to best support students' learning. Classroom reading programs were supported by professional learning in the Accelerated Reader and STAR reading programs; the PLD Spelling program continued to be implemented in all classrooms and teachers further explored the use of Brightpath to support students' development in writing and Maths. Kindy students took part in the Kindergarten Oral Language Program (KOLP) offered through the Great Southern Health system.

We continued to offer the MultiLit suite of support programs in Literacy, with the MiniLit program for Years 1-3, taught by Mrs Kaylene Smart, and the MaqLit program for Years 3-6, taught by Mrs Margie Davies. Students taking part in both programs enjoyed their new learning spaces in the refurbished Snake Room.

Literacy and Numeracy support for students and teachers continued in 2021 with the expertise of Mrs Sharon Venables and Mrs Sandy Jackson. Specialist teachers continued to provide St Bernard's students with a well-rounded primary school education in the areas of Art (Mrs Sophie Atkinson),

Drama (Mrs Jayne Thorn), Science (Mrs Atkinson/Mrs Thorn), Technologies (Mrs Melissa Shepherd), Japanese in Years 3-6 (Mrs Jackson) and Physical Education (Mrs Peta Marinoni). The Little Stars playgroup for children aged 0-5 years old, and their parents, continued on Monday mornings with numbers of children attending consistently sitting between 12 and 18. Little Stars teacher, Mrs Melissa Matthews, was also responsible for overseeing the inaugural year of our Jnr. Stars 3 year old Pre-Kindy class on Tuesdays in the Early Years Centre. This program was a great success in 2021, starting with five enrolments and progressing to 17 by the end of the year. On Tuesdays, our Pre-Primary class spent the day in Bush School with their base being the Rainbow Room. Bush School learning was also taken up by our Year 1/2 and 5/6 classes. EAL/D students at St Bernard's were supported by our EAL/D support teacher, Mrs Atkinson, who worked with classroom teachers to develop individual EAL/D learning plans.

St Bernard's early childhood (K-2) staff attended Great Southern Network meetings each semester in 2021, allowing teachers from St Bernard's, St Joseph's Albany, St Matthew's Narrogin and St Patrick's Katanning to meet and work collaboratively, share ideas and extend their understanding of NQS standards. Year 3 and 4 teachers became the focus of meetings each term with the STEM focus, as outlined in the previous section. Enrichment was supported in 2021 by Miss Tanya Pavlovic who worked with a team of eight competitively selected students from Years 4-6. The team took part in the Optiminds program throughout the year, culminating in the Optiminds Challenge day at Curtin University in Perth in August. Professional learning in enrichment and challenge activities was provided to all staff.

Education Assistants attended an EA professional learning day run by CEWA staff and held on site at St Bernard's for schools in the Great Southern network. This day covered a range of topics including teaching and learning (in particular, Mathematics), special needs and EAL/D support, pastoral care, behaviour management and staff wellbeing. At the same time, teachers undertook professional learning in Mathematics and EAL/D support.

On the ground support was provided throughout the year by CEWA consultants and learning area experts, as well as school support personnel including our School Improvement Advisor, School Support Consultant, Students with Disabilities consultant, and visiting school psychologist.

## **Assessment**

A range of assessments continued to be taken throughout the school year to inform teaching and track student progress. Diagnostic assessments at the start and/or end of the year included the On Entry assessment for PP students, the Observation Survey suite of testing in Literacy, the Mathematics Assessment Interview, the Ballard Westwood mental maths assessment, Brightpath writing, PLD spelling and the Informal Prose Inventory and STAR assessments for reading. System-level assessments included NAPLAN and the Bishops' Religious Literacy Assessment, both for students in Years 3 and 5.

Reporting to parents included formal reports each semester, learning portfolios, parent-teacher interviews, Individual Education Plans, EAL/D learning plans and informal meetings.

In 2021 a number of PLC meetings were dedicated to the analysis of student data in Literacy and Numeracy, enabling teaching staff to observe trends and patterns, inform planning and to develop and explore questions in relation to student progress. In our commitment to exploring student data and focusing on our teaching and its impact on student learning we reinforce our belief in helping each student to achieve to their highest potential.

## **COMMUNITY**

St Bernard's is blessed to have an active body of parent, grandparent and community members who help our school in many ways. The Parents and Friends Association is a major supporter of all students and staff at our school and is always active within our school and the wider community. In 2021 P&F executive members were: Leonie Smith (president), Ebony Macri (secretary) and Mon Eyres (treasurer), all supported by a number of willing helpers at meetings and events. The first event of the year was the biannual Goods and Services Auction fundraiser. This event was a major success with over \$30 000 raised on the night. Throughout the year the P&F also supported sporting carnivals, classroom 'wishlist' purchases, the Year 5/6 and 3/4 camps, Year 6 leavers' shirts, Athletics subscriptions, the Dancesport week in Term 4, and the purchase of Literacy and Numeracy resources. Our uniform shop continued to be operated by Mrs Kerrie Leusciatti and Ms Carolyn Macri.

The St Bernard's Choir was again made possible with the support of Mrs Kate Clayton and Mrs Carolyn Mathwin, along with Drama teacher, Mrs Jayne Thorn.

A highlight of the school social calendar was the celebration of the Philippines Independence Day. This was attended by the Filipino communities of both Kojonup and Katanning, as well as most of our school community and it provided a great opportunity to learn more about the culture, history and geography of the Philippines, as well as enjoying delicious food and learning the national anthem. Thanks to Mrs Sophie Atkinson (EAL/D support teacher) and Mrs Marilou Vioria for organising the night. The school community also came together in Term 4 for the Dancesport evening, the Book Fair and Storytelling night and the Christmas and Nativity Concert. These are all great opportunities to share and celebrate our students' learning and achievements, as well as to connect with other parents and families.

We continued to build links with the local Kojonup community through events and activities such as providing regular articles in the Kojonup News, participation in the Kojonup Show, community and school-based ANZAC Day services, sporting events and carnivals.

Kindy orientation sessions were held in Term 4 and our Little Stars playgroup and Jnr. Stars 3 year old Pre-Kindy finished the year with excellent numbers attending.

## **CATHOLIC IDENTITY**

In 2021, Fr Gerome Dalipe continued as St Bernard's Parish priest. Religious Education continued to be first and foremost learning area with instruction in the Religious Education units of work, and catechesis, being a priority throughout the year. Two students in each of the relevant year levels undertook the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. These sacramental events included Parent/Student workshops and a retreat for students in the sacramental classes.

Our school community once again participated in the Rosary Rally in October which was led by the St. Bernard's Parish. It was once again a lovely, multi-cultural celebration.

We marked major events in the Church Liturgical calendar with whole school masses and liturgies and we also supported the Catholic Missions and Project Compassion with our fundraising efforts.

The promotion of Make Jesus Real (MJR) continued to be a focus in 2021.

## **SCHOOL GOALS & PRIORITIES 2019**

### **Learning**

- Embedding the Literacy Dedicated Time model in all classrooms
- Deepening teacher understanding and student engagement in learning centres in the classroom
- Exploration of play-based, inquiry focused learning opportunities for early years students, K-2
- Engagement with nature based play pedagogies, particularly through our Bush School classrooms

- Embedding the Numeracy Dedicated Time model in all classrooms

### **Accountability**

- Review all school policies in line with CEWA’s Policy Suite

### **Discipleship & Engagement**

- Further explore integrated units of work in Religious Education
- Consider a scope and sequence, aligning MJR focuses to learning in RE and Health

## **LOOKING AHEAD TO 2022**

School began for our students on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 and we welcomed eight initial enrolments in Jnr. Stars, seven new Kindy students (all graduating from Jnr. Stars), three new students in Year Two and one new student Year Three, bringing our total number of students (PP-6) to 68. We welcome seven new families to the St Bernard’s community (including current Jnr. Stars enrolments) and hope that their time at St Bernard’s is both fruitful and enjoyable.

Class and Learning Area teachers for 2022 are as follows:

Little Stars Playgroup	Mrs Melissa Matthews, Mrs Kaylene Smart (EA)
Jnr. Stars	Mrs Melissa Matthews, Miss Lara Norrish (EA)
K/PP	Miss Cristie Lock, Mrs Sue Sumner (Bush School Tuesdays) Miss Lara Norrish (EA Mon, Wed, Thurs)
Y1/2	Mrs Sharon Venables and Mrs Lee Bell, Miss Olivia Sugg (EA Mon-Fri)
Y3/4	Miss Casey Hewitt
Y5/6	Ms Nikki Reinke (EA – Mon to Wed and alternate Thurs and Fri, Term 1) Mr Ben Myers, Mrs Kath Wharton (EA Mon and Wed)
Learning Support EAs	Mrs Kaylene Smart (Mon-Thurs), Mrs Margie Davies (from Term 2, Mon–Fri)
Library	Mrs Di Gardner (Tues)
Physical Education	Mrs Peta Marinoni (Fri)
Keeping Safe Curriculum	Mrs Peta Marinoni (Wed)
Japanese & Numeracy Support	Mrs Jayne Thorn (Mon)
Visual Arts & EALD support (Science S2)	Mrs Sophie Atkinson (Mon & Wed)
Science (S1) & Drama (S2)	Mrs Jayne Thorn (Thurs)
Literacy Support Teacher	Mrs Sharon Venables (Thurs)
Enrichment	Miss Casey Hewitt

We welcome new staff members Miss Cristie Lock, Mr Ben Myers, Mrs Kendra Grace, Mrs Lisa Cavanagh and Ms Nikki Reinke and wish them well in their time at St Bernard’s.

I look forward to working with all members of our school community as we work together to achieve the best outcomes for all our students. My best wishes to the St. Bernard’s School and Parish communities for a successful, rewarding and peace-filled year in 2022.

God Bless,

Mrs Sharon Marino  
Principal