



## 2022 ANNUAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY MEETING

8<sup>th</sup> February 2023

### Principal's Report

Dear Staff, Parents, Carers and Community Members,

It is with pleasure that I present my annual report for the 2022 school year at St Bernard's Catholic Primary School. This report highlights the structures that were in place in 2022 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. Before addressing each of these areas, however, I would like to make mention of the COVID-19 restrictions which were in place at the start of the year, and thank our staff in 2022 for supporting our students and families through these restrictions with the least amount of disruption.

### STEWARDSHIP

St Bernard's began the 2022 year as a member of CEWA's cohort of Low Fee Initiative (LFI) schools, part of the Affordable Schools Project. With fees capped at \$300 per student, plus a \$90 building levy per family, the LFI made our school a viable option for all local families and I would like to commend the school's Catholic School Advisory Council members for making the decision to adopt the initiative and the CECWA Board and CEWA staff for providing this opportunity for our school and community.

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.

At the end of 2022 we farewelled Miss Cristie Lock, who is moving to Boddington; Mr David and Mrs Lee Bell, who are returning to Perth; Mrs Sandy Jackson, who has elected to retire after a year on leave; and Miss Olivia Sugg, who is moving to Brisbane. Mrs Tracey Cant resigned from her administration position at the end of Term 3.

I was on Long Service Leave for the duration of Term 3, and we welcomed Mrs Susan Scanlon as Principal for that term. I would like to thank Susan for taking over the reigns for the duration of my Long Service Leave and allowing me to truly step away and enjoy my time off.

Staffing arrangements for 2023 see Mrs Teresa Donaldson take on the role of K/PP teacher; Mrs Denise Bowen share the Year 1/2 classroom with Mrs Sharon Venables, as well as taking on the Mathematics Curriculum Co-ordinator and EAL/D Co-ordinator roles; and Mrs Sophie Macri join our administration team. Our Library teacher, Mrs Di Gardner, will take Long Service Leave in Terms 2, 3 and 4, with her replacement still to be arranged. Due to Long Service Leave already booked, Mrs Bowen will not start at St Bernard's until Term 2, with Mrs Venables working full-time in Term 1.

School grounds and buildings continued to be maintained throughout the year by our team of Mrs Annette Sawyer (cleaning) and Ms Karin Praetz (grounds and maintenance). I would like to make special mention of Karin who began work as our groundsperson with no previous experience and has done an amazing job, with our gardens and grounds receiving many comments from visitors.

Catholic School Advisory Council members for 2022 were Mr James Eyres (chairperson), Mrs Kate Clayton (secretary), Mrs Courtney Robinson (Treasurer), Mr Michael Rose (P&F representative), Mr Joel Treeby, Mr Raymond Noonan and Mr Jayden Webb. New Advisory Council member induction was

undertaken online, due to COVID-19 restrictions. I would like to extend my thanks to all members of the CSAC, and especially James, who completed his sixth and final year on the council in 2022.

Our school P&F was active once again in supporting our school, and the wider community. The P&F was led by Mrs Libby Rose as chairperson, Mrs Marju Rutherford as vice-chairperson, Mrs Kelly Perry as secretary and Mrs Mon Eyres as Treasurer, along with a consistent contingent of supportive parents. Planning began during the year for the biennial Goods and Services auction fundraiser, which will be held on March 17<sup>th</sup> 2023 at Kodja Place. Again, I would like to extend my thanks to all members of the P&F for their wonderful support of our school

Major projects completed in 2022 included the construction of two Stilla sheds in the nature playground and Bush School Area to assist with storage of learning and play materials. A shed frame has also been ordered for the chess pad at the rear of the Rainbow Room to provide more storage for our Early Years classrooms. We also began the process of replacing the shade sails and poles in all playgrounds, with the playground near the eastern oval replaced in December. The western oval playground shade sails and poles will be replaced in 2023.

The Master Plan which formed the basis of the school's submission to the Capital Development Program (CDP) was completed and submitted in August 2022. The final submission was costed at \$5 million and is a three-stage project including a purpose-built multi-purpose room to replace the Rainbow Room, an upgrade and extension to the existing library building to allow it to be a dual-purpose library and Early Years space; an upgrade to the Year 1/2 classroom; extension of the existing undercover area; and an extension and upgrade of the administration building. Although such a project would not be affordable on a small school budget, such as ours, CEWA's debt-servicing provisions mean we are able to budget for the loan repayments, should we be successful for the 2024 round of the CDP which will be announced in March 2023.

A major achievement for St Bernard's was the announcement of our school as the primary school winner in the stewardship category of the CEWA Quality Catholic Education awards for our Bush School and Jnr. Stars initiatives. The Stewardship category acknowledges outstanding initiatives and projects that have or continue to provide an accessible, affordable educational choice for those families that seek a Catholic education, as well as initiatives and projects that demonstrate initiative and commitment to supporting the needs of students, staff and community. The judges noted that the creation of Bush School was an innovative solution to the problem of finding a space for our 3-year-old Kindy class with the school only having one Early Years classroom, allowing parents to engage with St Bernard's at the start of their children's educational journey and hopefully encouraging new enrolments.

## **EDUCATION**

In 2022 staff continued to engage with school improvement through the tools of Quality Catholic Schooling and the National Quality Standards (NQS), as well as the School Improvement Plan (SIP), incorporating the Early Years Learning Plan, Evangelisation Plan and Aboriginal Education Plan.

In line with our SIP, staff continued to focus on deepening their use of learning centres during the Literacy and Numeracy Dedicated Time blocks; as well as using data from assessments to best support students' learning. This work was supported by our Literacy Curriculum Co-ordinator, Sharon Venables, and Mathematics Curriculum Co-ordinator, Jayne Thorn. Support was also provided by CEWA Mathematics Consultant, Ben Saulsman, and learning at the Great Southern Network Early Years meetings.

Extending our practice in indoor-outdoor learning opportunities 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. Although this was an Early Years focus, indoor-outdoor learning is an important focus across all years at St Bernard's, as evidenced by our commitment to two Outdoor Classroom days – one in winter and one in summer – in 2022. In 2023 this focus will be extended with a whole school Loose Parts Play incursion, designed to enrich students' play opportunities at St Bernard's, and an identified Bush School focus in each classroom.

The Great Southern Network for Years 3 and 4 continued to focus on STEM, with meetings each term and culminating in a STEM Challenge Showcase in Term 3. Once again, St Bernard's Year 3/4 students enjoyed the STEM focus and each group was rewarded with an award either at the network STEM Challenge Showcase or at the National STEM Challenge finals.

CEWA Aboriginal Education Consultant, Leon Ridgeway, visited St Bernard's in Term 4 to conduct a professional learning session for staff on the Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country and Place Based Education in schools. Our school was also fortunate to be granted a bonus grant of \$15 000 from CEWA's Aboriginal Services Team to be spent in 2023 on Place Based Education initiatives. The money was granted based on our recognised commitment to implementing Place Based Education at St Bernard's.

Literacy development for students at St Bernard's continued to be supported by our commitment to the Literacy Dedicated Time block; the PLD spelling program; Accelerated Reader and STAR reading programs; and data collected via Running Records and Informal Prose Inventories. Students' writing continued to be supported by the use of Brightpath to moderate and support students' individual development in the different writing genres. Kindy students took part in the Kindergarten Oral Language Program (KOLP) offered through the Great Southern Health system. The On-Entry program and Observation Survey provided valuable start of year data about student's literacy abilities to help plan for classroom learning programs. 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.

Numeracy support continued with the use of Maths Assessment Interview (MAI) and Brightpath for data collection, and investigation of inquiry-based Maths approaches in the Early Years, via the Great Southern Early Years Network.

Our 2022 Enrichment class was led by Miss Casey Hewitt, 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, competing well and gaining much from their experience. Congratulations to our Enrichment team, and Miss Hewitt, for representing our school so well and with such pride.

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), Japanese in Years 3-6 (Mrs Thorn) and Physical Education (Mrs Peta Marinoni). Mrs Marinoni also taught the Keeping Safe program to students across the school. 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 20. Little Stars teacher, Mrs Melissa Matthews, continued as our Jnr. Stars 3 year old Pre-Kindy class teacher on Tuesdays, finishing with 24 enrolments at the end of the year. The Pre-Primary class spent the day in Bush School with Mrs Sue Sumner. The Year 1/2 class also spent Thursday afternoons in Bush School.

Professional learning for staff included the Early Years and Year 3/4 STEM Great Southern Network meetings; regular Professional Learning Community meetings and moderating sessions; professional learning sessions with School Support Consultant, Mrs Jan Flemming, and with consultant, Mr Brendan Spillane, who also worked with the CSAC members. Miss Lock and myself completed the CEWA Early Years Leadership course, offered in an online and face-to-face format at various times throughout the year.

Education Assistants attended an EA professional learning day at the start of the year run by CEWA staff and held on site at St Bernard's for schools in the Great Southern network, with digital learning theme.

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 at the start, and 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, and Progressive Achievement Testing (PAT) was completed in Mathematics and Reading at the end of the year.

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

In 2022 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 commitment to 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 2022 P&F executive members were: Libby Rose (chairperson), Marju Rutherford (vice-chairperson), Kelly Perry (secretary), Mon Eyres (treasurer), all supported by a consistent cohort of willing helpers at meetings and events. The P&F supported our whole school pancake day on Shrove Tuesday at the start of the year, followed by the Easter raffle which this year supported families in need and residents of Springhaven, as well as giving our students a chance to win some extra chocolate treats. 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. Special thanks to our Uniform Shop co-ordinator, Aleigha Dixon-Barclay, who co-ordinated the uniform shop from her home with great efficiency, but also care and concern. Thank you to the Renew op-shop, which provided the option of second hand uniforms for our families.

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, and wowed us with their performance at the Graduation and Awards night. The choir also performed for Springhaven residents and at the Kojonup Community Christmas Carols.

Once COVID restrictions eased, the school's social calendar resumed with events such as the Mother's and Father's Day whole school celebrations, the multicultural evening, St Bernard's Got Talent Show, Dancesport concert, Book Fair and Storytime 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. St Bernard's hosted (and won) the Interschool Athletics Carnival in Term 3, with all competing schools praising our facilities, organisation and parent support.

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. Little Stars is now a well-established part of the playgroup circuit in Kojonup and, in just our second year, Jnr. Stars finished with 24 students, requiring extra EA support in accordance with staffing guidelines.

## **CATHOLIC IDENTITY**

In 2022, Fr Marlon Rey joined us 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 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. Unfortunately, COVID-19 restrictions once again meant these celebrations could not be held in the church.

The promotion of Make Jesus Real (MJR) continued to be a focus in 2022.

## **SCHOOL GOALS & PRIORITIES 2022**

### **Education**

- To develop a shared understanding of Numeracy Dedicated Time and provide consistency of delivery of instruction in Mathematics across the school.

### **Stewardship**

- Promotion of St Bernard's involvement in the CEWA Affordable Schools Project through the Low Fee Initiative

### **Catholic Identity**

- Updating of the St Bernard's Prayer Book
- Continued development of our Make Jesus Real (MJR) focus across the school community

### **Community**

- Continue to develop and strengthen ties with St Bernard's culturally diverse families

## **LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023**

School began for our students on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 and we welcomed 13 initial enrolments in Jnr. Stars, 11 new Kindy students, and new students in Years 2, 3, 4 and 6, bringing our start of year numbers to 76. We welcome 10 new families to the St Bernard's community and hope that they enjoy their time at our beautiful school.

Class and Learning Area teachers for 2023 are as follows:

Little Stars Playgroup	Mrs Melissa Matthews, Mrs Kaylene Smart (EA)
Jnr. Stars	Mrs Melissa Matthews, Mrs Margie Davies (EA)
K/PP	Mrs Teresa Donaldson, Mrs Sue Sumner (Bush School Tuesdays) Mrs Margie Davies (EA Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays)
Y1/2	Mrs Sharon Venables and Mrs Denise Bowen (from Term 2)

Y3/4	Miss Casey Hewitt
Y5/6	Mr Ben Myers
Learning Support EAs	Mrs Kaylene Smart (Mondays-Thursdays), Mrs Kath Wharton (Mondays and Tuesdays) Miss Lara Norrish (Monday to Friday)
Library	Mrs Di Gardner (Tuesdays)
Physical Education	Mrs Peta Marinoni (Fridays)
Auslan	Mrs Peta Marinoni (Wednesdays)
Numeracy Support	Mrs Denise Bowen (from Term 2)
Visual Arts (S1) & Science (S2)	Mrs Sophie Atkinson (Wednesdays)
Science (S1) & Drama (S2)	Mrs Jayne Thorn (Thursdays)
Literacy Support	Mrs Sharon Venables
Enrichment	TBC
EAL/D	Mrs Marino (Term 1), Mrs Bowen (from Term 2)

We welcome new staff members Mrs Teresa Donaldson, Mrs Sophie Macri and Mrs Denise Bowen 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 2023.

God Bless,

Mrs Sharon Marino  
Principal