

# **St Pius X Catholic Primary School**



## **ANNUAL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT 2017**

**'The world offers you comfort, but you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness.' - Pope Benedict XVI**

2017 has been a very busy year and our many achievements are a result of the ongoing commitment of all members working together, to continue to make St. Pius X a community of 'faith and friendship'.

### **THE SCHOOL BOARD**

The School Board continues to be a great support as we implemented the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of our Strategic Plan and look to develop this further into 2018 and the establishment of a new plan moving forward for 2019. This is at the forefront of all we do and strive to achieve for our children.

The main focus of this year has been the continual development of resources for the staff at St Pius X and the establishment of a new learning suite to take us into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Other developments through the board have included:

- School Compliance Audit.
- National Quality Standards ECE Audit.
- Assistant Principal Appointments.
- Innovation Space.
- Before and After School Care.

The School Board assist us in many ways and has done so this year through the Finance, Uniform and IT sub-committees. In particular, I would like to mention Adam and his support of Margaret and myself regarding the Finances and to Nicole and Nick for coming in every fortnight and meeting with the staff around the IT needs and development of the school. Thank you.

I wish to thank the School Board for their commitment to St Pius X Catholic School. These individuals freely give their time and effort to support the Principal in the running of our wonderful school and have been a pleasure to work with this year. To our retiring members of the Board, Mr Steven Zaninovich and Mr Paul Cartwright, thank you for your support of our school community and I acknowledge the wonderful skills and attributes you have afforded the school - we wish you both all the best.

I would also like to especially acknowledge the School Board Chairperson, Mr. Nick Sertis, for his ongoing support and his dedication to the extra hours that go into the role behind the scenes from the budget and IT meetings to dropping in and checking on us all in the office. Nick is an asset to our school community and always has the students and staff at the centre of his thoughts and actions – thank you Nick and I look forward to working with you again in 2018

### **PARENTS AND FRIENDS**

Led by Mr Navin Bhat, our P&F have once again been able to raise money for the school as well as provide events for the school community to attend. This year the main focus has been consolidation and the transition of the Uniform Shop. I must thank Navin for his support but also and in particular Antonella Zaninovich with her helpers in Elly Nevin and Adele Da Costa. Antonella has been an outstanding servant of St Pius X and has managed the Uniform Shop for many years and in a tribute to her work, was impossible to replace! We have developed a Uniform Committee with P&F Executive member Navin Bhat, Board Member Nicole Ho, Parents Elly Nevin and Adele Da Costa and staff members Miss Breglia and Miss Arnold to drive our uniform into the future. This committee has already met this term and will continue to do so moving forward each term.

I am extremely grateful for the essential role that the P&F have once again played in our school in 2017 and look forward to their contributions again in 2018.

### **PARISH - COMMUNITY**

The St. Pius X Parish and School continue to work together through Father Blasco, Lawrence Pang and the Parish Council. I thank Father Blasco for his spiritual guidance throughout the year and Lawrence and the

Parish Council. A major event for the school and parish this year has been the celebration of Fr Blasco's 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday. It has been very rewarding to see the school and parish collaborate to celebrate this event.

In particular, this year the Parish Council has been extremely supportive in developing and pursuing in conjunction with the School Board the Before and After School Care. This is acknowledged as one of the most requested services in our school community and we thank the parish for their support of this.

The school continues to coordinate and drive the sacraments within the St Pius X Parish. Through the support and extra commitment of the staff they do this for the families at the parish via the parent and student workshops, preparation of celebrations/masses and reflection days. Thank you must also go to the ladies in the parish office who assist us with communication and these events.

## **STAFF**

We are very fortunate at St. Pius X to enjoy a very cohesive, professional and dynamic staff. Our efficient administration team in Mrs Margaret Tatasciore and Mrs Marni Nichol continue to go above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that our school runs smoothly and we are all very grateful for their efforts. I would like to thank Mr. Brett Wilkie and Mrs Stephanie Johnson, for their ongoing support, professionalism to the role and ability to work the many hours required of them outside the normal school day for the benefit of our community. It is with joy but also sadness that I wish Mr Wilkie all the best as he continues onto his new and very much deserved role as principal at St Joseph's in Pemberton. You will be missed however we will warn the new community of your personal traits and joke telling abilities. I wish Mr Wilkie all the best as he moves onto his new role in 2018.

I also would like to acknowledge the wonderful Mrs Freeman who in 2018 takes long service leave and will retire at the end of that year. Mrs Freeman has been an institution and has touched many children's lives as they have progressed through the school over her 40 year teaching career. The aura that is Mrs Freeman will be always missed, however never forgotten. May God bless you always.

Mrs Cassandra Pirozzi has fulfilled her one-year contract as Mrs Soulsby returns to us next year from leave. Cass has been a welcome addition to our school and we wish her all the best as she moves onto her new role at St Jerome's CPS.

This year has seen the staff offer their personal time to volunteer at The Shopfront. Staff have taken turns to give freely of their time to help those less fortunate than ourselves and assist with the Archbishops initiatives in supporting the homeless

We are staffed by some of the most wonderfully talented and caring individuals, who consistently put the needs of their students first. I would like to personally thank the staff for their dedication and ability to get the best out of the students. The support of the school and the extras you do are often not acknowledged by anyone but they are truly appreciated by all. Thank you.

## **STUDENTS**

Throughout the year St Pius X have continued to support a variety of charities including the LifeLink Program run by the Perth Archdiocese, Caritas, Project Compassion, Catholic Missions, Wheelchair for Kids, Get Loud and St Vincent de Paul. These commitments will continue in 2018. Thank you to those who have generously supported these charities and supporting those in need.

I would like to mention of our Graduating Year 6 class, as they take the next step in their schooling. There is no doubt that while many challenges will lie ahead for them, the friendships and values nurtured during their time at St. Pius X will hold them in good stead, no matter where their paths might lead.

The students have also participated in a number of events throughout the year, and while not naming them all a few include, the Catholic Schools Performing Arts, the Interschool sports, Winter Sports, Athletics and Swimming Carnivals, Write a Book in a Day, Chess Tournaments and Cross Country. We once again look forward to a successful 2018 when the school community will continue to be actively involved in a variety of school community events.

## **PARENTS**

An effective school can only succeed in partnership with parents. The children in our school come from such beautiful families, where they are loved unconditionally and assisted in their learning. I would like to personally thank the parents for your support this year. There have been numerous times where parents have put their hands up to assist with classroom rosters, P&F events, carnivals and student activities. Your efforts have not gone un-noticed or unappreciated.

## **EDUCATIONAL**

St. Pius X continues to enjoy excellent results in standardised testing throughout the year. We continue to perform well in literacy and numeracy, not only in comparison to national averages, but also in comparison to 'like schools'. This year, we had a particular focus on the areas of Mental Computation and Paraphrasing. Our assessment results indicate gains in these key areas.

In Year 3 and 5 our NAPLAN Testing indicated that we are Above the National Average compared to All Australian School averages. Even though still above average an area to focus on will be vocabulary in oral language and within writing, also continuing our focus on the development of mental maths strategies.

In 2017, we implemented the student wellbeing program called Highway Hero's – which has had a strong impact on the students where the language and concepts are openly talked about in the classroom and playground by the children. As this develops more into the school, we can see it having a greater impact. This program has also been supported by Claire Orange and the presentations at school that many have found not only informative but also rewarding.

This year has also seen the development of our 3-Year-Old Program and its implementation for 2017. This is an exciting initiative that continues in 2018 and we look forward to welcoming the families next year to St Pius X. We continue to look at other options that will continue to draw families to St Pius and how we can assist these families with the pressures associated with working parents.

Our Newsletter went digital with analytic feedback coming into the school after each addition. This has allowed feedback to be received and adjustments made from an administration point of view. The Twitter account as developed and #SEARCHing was also launched and linked to our school website so community members can see what our students are doing on a consistent basis.

As a staff we have had a major focus on the work from Dr Simon Breakspear – Agile Schools and developing Learning Sprints within our class processes. This is a collaborative program where all staff interact with the needs of each classroom to best cater for individuals learning across the board. The engagement and results from the staff has been very strong and we now work very closely with Agile Schools in developing these concepts across Western Australia.

We also undertook our School and NQS Audit this year with the staff from CEWA with very pleasing results. The NQS identified areas that we can develop further such as classroom environments and 21<sup>st</sup> century styles – the innovation space being one way we can cater for this instantaneously.

In 2018, our key focus areas will be Numeracy; and in particular, mental mathematics strategies and in Literacy the development of oral language vocabulary and in writing. We also look to develop more fully our IT/Innovation Program across the school.

## **School Improvement Plan 2017**

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Correlation to LEAD &amp; QCS</b>	<b>Focus Area</b>	<b>Why</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Service</b>	Engagement and Learning - LEAD  <b>402</b> - Pastoral Care of Students  <b>101</b> - Systematic Evangelisation Planning	Re-develop the Year 6 Leadership committee model with greater student involvement in documenting their leadership development.  To increase the knowledge of staff and students about	To increase the effectiveness and the level of responsibility in our student leaders to include self-reflection and discovery.  Bringing the message of the Gospel more at the forefront of our community.	Students are documenting their leadership journey and events attended. The redevelopment of this model stills needs further investigation.  Staff have volunteered at The Shopfront during the year with a positive response and continue to do

		current social justice issues to inform judgement and action.		so.
<b>Excellence</b>	Learning and Accountability - LEAD  303 - A Culture that Promotes Learning	Implementation of Curriculum Focus for 2017 – writing formations with paragraphing and numeracy with mental computation.  To have a consistent approach to our core teaching skills. Targeted support is provided for Students at Educational Risk in English and Mathematics.	Increase student achievement through a greater focus on Numeracy and Literacy, as indicated through data analysis.  Align programs across the school to ensure consistency.  Revisit screening and assessment tools across the early years to ensure they are developmentally appropriate.	Staff have engaged with Learning Sprints as a more specific short-term goal process with students learning. This will continue in 2018.
<b>Authenticity</b>	Discipleship and Accountability - LEAD  305 - An Expert Teaching Team	Continued use of 'St. Pius X Way' document.  Develop the non-negotiables of classroom practice.	Assist staff in developing professional goals.  Develop and implement 'Our Classroom' and the expectations of what these look like in each room.	SEARCH Goals implemented with each staff member – driving staffs own learning and accountability to self.
<b>Relationship</b>	Engagement and Discipleship - LEAD  101 - Systematic Evangelisation Planning	Increase the connection between the parish, school and community to enhance faith development.  Continue a strong sense of community and belonging.	Assist the Parish in engaging with families, support them in this process.  Provide educational engagement opportunities such as workshops/presentations for parents to attend.	This is ongoing. School continues to do all elements of sacraments and preparation.
<b>Courage</b>	Learning and Discipleship - LEAD  402 - Pastoral Care of Students	Revisit the Early Years Statement, with our practices to be accountable to this.  Students are supported to ensure their emotional and physical well-being.	Ensure early years' learners experience the best possible base for learning.  Assist students and parents to manage anxiety and social skills through the implementation of Highway Heroes.	National Quality Standards – audit. Need to focus on contemporary learning environment as a focus moving forward in 2018.  Implementation of Highway Hero's and continuation of Social Worker.
<b>Hope</b>	Accountability – LEAD  101 - Systematic Evangelisation Planning	Redesign the Maintenance Program to cater for new improvements.  To ensure the Evangelisation Plan is known and understood by all staff.	Maintain facilities that allow for growth in learning.  Publish our Evangelisation Plan to the community.	Recalibration of Maintenance Plan.  Evangelisation Plan revisited and released to website.

## School Improvement Plan 2018

Priority	Correlation to LEAD & QCS	Focus Area	Why	Outcome
<b>SEARCH</b>	LEAD - Engagement and Learning.  402 - Pastoral Care of Students	Re-develop the Year 6 Leadership committee model with greater student involvement in documenting their leadership development.	To increase the effectiveness and the level of responsibility in our student leaders to include self-reflection and discovery.	
<b>SEARCH</b>	LEAD - Engagement, Discipleship and Learning.  402 - Pastoral Care of Students  101 - Systematic Evangelisation Planning	To make students more aware of current social justice issues to inform judgement and action.	Bringing the message of the Gospel to the forefront of our community in real life situations.	
<b>SEARCH</b>	LEAD - Engagement, Learning and Accountability.  202 - Wider Community Partnerships  303 - A Culture That Promotes Learning	Develop professional networks, inside and outside of the local area.	To increase our awareness of what current best practice is and to create opportunities for the exchange of ideas.	

<b>SEARCH</b>	LEAD - Engagement and Learning. <b>308</b> – Effective Pedagogical Practices	Develop a culture of innovation, with a move towards a future-focused learning pedagogy.	To develop the ability of students to think critically and creatively, better equipping them for our rapidly changing society.	
<b>SEARCH</b>	LEAD - Accountability and Discipleship. <b>101</b> - Systematic Evangelisation Planning	To ensure the Evangelisation Plan is known and understood by all staff.	Publish our Evangelisation Plan to the community.	
<b>SEARCH</b>	Engagement and Learning-LEAD <b>308</b> – Effective Pedagogical Practices	To understand the meaning of words and develop and extend a wider vocabulary.  To continue to explicitly teach mental computation skills.	Enhance writing, oral language and help support comprehension.  To enhance fluency in Mathematics.	

I wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their involvement in ensuring that 2017 was a wonderful year for St Pius X Catholic School. We are truly blessed to be involved in such an authentically faith driven community.

Best wishes and may God bless you in all you do.

Kindest regards

Mr Daine Burnett  
Principal 2017