



## AGM: Principal's Report, 2021

It's hard to believe that 2021 is already drawing to a close. It feels like only a few months ago that I commenced my journey here, at St Pius X, and yet a whole year has almost passed. I vividly recall the excitement of the impending first day, only to have Term 1 postponed by a week due to COVID. Fortunately for us, the restrictions that ensued were minimal and relatively short-lived. Although the school year started with a degree of uncertainty, the year that unfolded was incredibly fulfilling, purposeful and eventful. I feel truly blessed to be a part of such a beautiful school community and am grateful for the warm welcome I received.

### School Advisory Council

The School Advisory Council has been instrumental in ensuring the continued growth and improvement of our school. Your assistance in developing our Parent Code of Conduct was a time consuming but valuable task which our whole school community will benefit from. I am appreciative of your wise counsel and investment of time, over the course of the year, and look forward to building upon the fruits of our labour next year.

Thank you to each of our Advisory Council Members: Chet Richardson (Chair), Adam Sofoulis (Treasurer), Deirdre Mulvaney (Secretary), Nick Sertis (P&F representative) Bryan Dennis, Jayne Kingwell, Kim Passmore, Fr Patrick (Parish Priest) and Marie Chaperon (Parish Representative).

To those SAC members who will be retiring at the end of the year, we wish you every blessing and thank you for all your assistance and support during your tenure. To those who will be joining us, welcome onboard and we look forward to working in unison in 2022.

### Parents & Friends

The St Pius X 'Parent and Friends Association' has worked tirelessly over the year to build community and fundraise for our school; you well and truly made up for the restrictions imposed by COVID in 2020.

It has been incredibly heart-warming to watch the way our P&F have collaborated and mobilised our parent body to launch events such as the Parent Sundowner, our School Disco, the Year 4-6 Quiz Night, the PP-Year 3 Movie Night, Parents Breakfast, Book-drive and Slime Fun Run just to name a few. Your efforts have brought so much light, life and laughter into the lives of our students, staff and parents alike. The strong sense of community we enjoy here at St Pius X is by and large due to your diligence and input.

Thank you to Nick Sertis, our P&F President, for the time you invested into securing a \$10 000 government grant to go towards the resurfacing of our Basketball Courts. Thank you to the

P&F for contributing a further \$10 000 towards the scope of works associated with the resurfacing and new basketball rings and backboards.

On behalf of our school community, thank you to our P&F Executive comprised of Nick Sertis, Aleks Waldock, Mia Fulwood, Carly Inferrera, Krystie Dysart, Martina Tribe and Margaret Jenzen. You lot are an absolute powerhouse, and we are eternally grateful for the time, energy and resources you have invested into our community. Thank you also to our general P&F members; without your commitment and support the P&F would not be able to achieve as much as it has.

To our retiring P&F members, thank you for your contributions; they will never be forgotten or taken for granted. To those who may be joining the P&F for the first time, we warmly welcome you to the team and eagerly await working with you.

## Parish

We have a strong connection with our parish and are blessed to have such an energetic, committed, and present parish priest. Father Patrick, you are an integral part of our community, and we are grateful for all your support, your participation in our monthly School Advisory Council meetings, your regular visits, and the way in which you ignite our faith in every encounter you have with us. Our staff thoroughly enjoyed the Professional Development you prepared and facilitated this year. Our students absolutely love the interactive nature of the Masses and Liturgies you celebrate; you bring Christ's teachings alive in every interaction you have with our staff and students. You are an asset to our school and parish community.

Thank you also to Marie Chaperon, our parish representative, for attending each of our School Advisory Council Meetings and joining us for our Strategic Planning Workshop in Term 3. Your support and input is very much appreciated.

The sacramental program here at SPX truly is parish-based, family-focused and school-supported. Our school, parents and parish work in harmony and unison to contribute to the faith formation of our students. That is something we should all be very proud of.

## Staff

The staff at St Pius X, both teaching and non-teaching, are the nucleus of our school. Their dedication to our students, commitment to self-improvement and sense of vocation is evident on a daily basis in both word and action. From the bottom of my heart, I thank each of our staff members for all your efforts, sacrifices and achievements.

I'd like to especially acknowledge Mr Kim Hughes, our Assistant Principal, Miss Clare Thomson and Mr Owen Connolly for their leadership over the year. Miss Thomson, together with Mr Hughes, completed the Pedagogical Leadership Program facilitated by CEWA and has done an incredible job leading PLCs as our Key Teacher Literacy. Mr Connolly also participated in

regular professional development in Digital Technologies over the year and in turn assisted staff in embedding the Digital Technologies curriculum. Mr Hughes launched the Fathering Project last term which has proven to be a wonderful community building initiative.

I'd also like to acknowledge Mrs Sexton and Mrs Kirry for giving up their personal time to run after-school drama classes. We are looking forward to seeing the Drama Club students shine on stage during our end of year concert. In the same vein, thank you to Mr Connolly and Mrs Pitt for running the after-school Robotics Club and to Mrs Matthews & Miss Sexton for all the before-school athletics and swimming training over the year. Your generosity opened up a world of opportunity for our children.

To Margaret and Marni, the two amazing ladies in admin, thank you for your diligence, warmth and humility. Nothing is ever too hard or insurmountable with you two by our side.

## Students

Our students are the heart and soul of our school. We are incredibly proud of each of our students, for the way in which they uphold our SEARCH values, act upon teacher feedback, take responsibility for their own learning and ensure the wellbeing of one another and our school. The very first morning that I met our students, as they walked through the school gates, I knew they were a remarkably special group of individuals. Twelve months on, my opinion has not changed. Instead, my respect and appreciation of them has grown exponentially.

I thoroughly enjoy my class visits and daily interactions with our students, right the way from Pre-Kindy to Year 6. They are incredibly inspiring and bring so much joy into our lives. They are the reason each of our staff, me included, wake up in the morning and bounce into work.

A sincere thank you to each of our students for making each day so rewarding and fulfilling. Best wishes to our Year 6s who will be graduating in just three weeks' time. We hope you will take with you the lessons you have learnt at St Pius X and cherish the wonderful memories you have forged during your time here.

## Parents

A heartfelt thank you to the parents (and grandparents) of St Pius X for your support and contributions over the year. I was truly humbled by the number of parents who took the time to complete our online School Climate Survey. The results of this survey highlighted the strong partnership our parents and staff enjoy; this partnership is of paramount importance to the continued growth of our students and school. Thank you also to those parents who attended our Strategic Planning Workshop, the array of parent information evenings throughout the year and to the dads who have actively participated in our Fathering Project. Your presence and investment of time and talents is valued and appreciated.

## Education

Teaching is becoming an increasingly demanding profession and our staff are continuously challenged to modify and improve their pedagogy to reflect the latest evidence-based research findings.

During the first few months of the school year, our staff analysed the findings of empirical studies to determine the key components of best teaching practice. We also examined CEWA's Vision for Learning which is heavily grounded on the findings of current research. Our teachers then reflected on our school context and our aspirations in the pedagogy space and student outcomes. Collaboratively, we constructed a St Pius X Vision for Learning and are currently in the process of composing the roadmap to achieving our vision for learning. Upon completion, this will be shared with our school community and published on our website.

In addition to the above, our staff analysed our students' reading assessment data and identified specific student strengths and gaps. Given the significance of reading comprehension and critical thinking on all aspects of learning, we have spent a great deal of time examining various approaches to teaching reading. With the assistance of CEWA Literacy Consultants, we will continue to enhance our repertoire of teaching strategies to accommodate the varying needs of students in our classes and promote optimal growth for all our students. Over the course of the year, we purchased a range of new reading books to enhance student engagement and the quality of instruction.

With Digital Technologies being such an important part of society and a mandated part of the Australian Curriculum, our staff spent time, over the past semester, unpacking and familiarising themselves with the curriculum content. With the assistance of Mr Connolly, teachers have carefully planned, delivered, and shared evidence of their engaging Digital Technology lessons. Wherever possible, the DT content has been integrated into other learning areas to enable cross-curricular links and maximise student learning. This year we purchased 12 Lego Spike Prime kits which have been utilised in class, during the after-school robotics club, the Yr 5/6 Interschool Technologies Challenge (held at Sacred Heart in Thornlie) and by our MacKillop Club students who will be participating in the First Lego League robotics competition, run by Curtin University, next week.

In term three, our staff participated in a Wellbeing PD facilitated by Deb Perich from CEWA. This professional development highlighted what we all already know to be true – the importance of living balanced lives in which we feel we are flourishing and positively contributing to the world in which we live. Our staff took away many key learnings for themselves, personally and professionally, and for our students. Strategies for building students' emotional literacy and capacity to manage their emotions, thinking traps and squashing ants – automatic negative thoughts – were unpacked during the PD. So too was the importance of helping our students identify their own character strengths and encouraging them to lean into their strengths to contribute positively to others and help them navigate difficult situations.

Over the year, our students have been blessed with numerous opportunities to excel, develop their God-given talents and develop themselves as Christians. Early in the year, our Year 5-6

students worked with me to determine what behaviours align with and reflect each of our SEARCH Values. They also worked with Mrs Johnson to formulate our Student Code of Conduct. Our SEARCH values and Student Code of Conduct are embedded in all aspects of school life and have been displayed by our students in the classroom, playground, sports carnivals, Spelling Bee Competition, Robotics competitions and clubs, drama club, MacKillop club, instrumental program, sacramental programs and leadership camps.

## NAPLAN

### Literacy

#### Writing

| Year | School | CEWA | State | National |
|------|--------|------|-------|----------|
| 2021 |        |      |       |          |
| Y03  | 461    | 435  | 426   | 425      |
| Y05  | 507    | 493  | 481   | 480      |

More than 10 points above comparator

#### Reading

| Year | School | CEWA | State | National |
|------|--------|------|-------|----------|
| 2021 |        |      |       |          |
| Y03  | 472    | 438  | 426   | 437      |
| Y05  | 523    | 516  | 505   | 512      |

Between 5 and 10 points above comparator (year 5 CEWA)  
More than 10 points above comparator.

#### Grammar

| Year | School | CEWA | State | National |
|------|--------|------|-------|----------|
| 2021 |        |      |       |          |
| Y03  | 477    | 429  | 421   | 433      |
| Y05  | 504    | 507  | 497   | 503      |

Year 3 more than 10 points above comparator  
Year 5 equal to or more than 10 points above comparator

#### Spelling

| Year | School | CEWA | State | National |
|------|--------|------|-------|----------|
| 2021 |        |      |       |          |
| Y03  | 452    | 418  | 410   | 421      |
| Y05  | 498    | 513  | 503   | 505      |

Year 3 more than 10 points above comparator  
Year 5 more than 10 points below comparator

### Numeracy

| Year | School | CEWA | State | National |
|------|--------|------|-------|----------|
| 2021 | 498    |      |       |          |
| Y03  | 427    | 399  | 395   | 403      |
| Y05  | 511    | 494  | 489   | 495      |

More than 10 points above comparator

## Staffing 2022

At the conclusion of this year, we will be farewelling Mr Connolly, Miss Iacopetta and Mrs Kirry. Thank you for your contributions to our school community and we wish you well in the next chapter of your careers and personal lives.

Mrs Stephanie Johnson, our Assistant Principal, has extended her maternity leave. For 2022, Miss Clare Thomson will step into the role of Assistant Principal. Having recently completed her Master's in Education, Miss Thomson is ready and eager to embrace her new position.

In concluding, I'd like to thank our SAC members, our P&F, parents, students, parish and dedicated staff once more. I pray that despite the busyness of the coming weeks you will find the time to breathe and reflect on the gifts and blessings you experienced over the year. I also pray that you all enjoy a blessed, restful Christmas and break. I look forward to the opportunities that 2022 will bring and building upon the fruits of 2021.

God bless,

Melissa Vranjes