

St Joseph's School Southern Cross

2019 Annual General Meeting

Principal's Report

21st November 2019

Welcome everyone and thank you so much for taking the time to come along to our Annual General Meeting this evening.

I want to thank the parent community for entrusting your child/children into our care. Your continued positive reflection and comments about our school – staff, students and parents continue to hold our school in high regard throughout the wider community.

The parent body is a vital part of our school. The contribution that the P&F make in supporting initiatives, resourcing the classrooms and in building community is to commendable. I would like to personally thank Donna and Rebecca for their contributions over the years as a P&F Executive member. The ladies have worked tirelessly to raise a significant amount of funds for our school community.

The School Board is the advisory group to the Principal and Finance Officer. Each person comes to the Board with a genuine wish to support the school and to be the public face and voice within our community. Thank you very much to all Board Members. Your service, commitment to the good of all our children and staff, is highly valued and greatly appreciated. A special mention and thank you to Mr Fuyana who needs to resign from the board due to family commitments.

St Joseph's and Our Lady of Monserrat Parish is unified because of Jesus and is at the centre of who we are, why we are here, and what we do. I want to acknowledge the support of Fr Brennan as our Parish Priest and especially Father Matthew, who celebrates most of our masses and liturgies. Also thanks to Father Renald and Father Jeffrey.

To all my staff: My greatest appreciation this year has been working with a staff that is committed to unity. The staff is committed to the St Joseph's community and works endlessly in looking for ways to improve their practice. They also support each other daily and show their appreciation for one another throughout each day of their careers. I appreciate all those extra things; those extra hours you work to ensure learning and to help our students to be successful.

It is at this time of the year in schools that we report on the progress of the annual focus areas of the curriculum and school improvement planning. This report provides an opportunity to reflect proudly on our achievements in an educational and resource sense for the year.

It is a CEO mandated requirement that schools articulate their progress across specific areas within the Annual School Improvement Planning process: The curriculum focus, the Quality Improvement Plan, Quality Catholic Schooling components, the results of Australian wide assessment – in this case, NAPLAN and our Evangelisation Planning are all part of supporting documents that help the SIP achieve its hoped-for outcomes. This year saw staff and Board members becoming more comfortable with the evolving Strategic and Annual School Improvement Planning.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

In 2019, we continued to reflect on our Evangelisation Plan. We are always discussing ways in which we can provide service to others and building on the strong relationships within the school, parish and wider community.

Mass/Feast Days/Sacraments

This year the school celebrated Mass and Liturgies on a Monday. Masses were celebrated at the beginning and end of term and also on special feast days such as Ash Wednesday, St Joseph's Day, NAIDOC Week, Mary MacKillop Feast Day.

This year we celebrated Bronte, Xavier and Logan's sacrament of Eucharist. It was a beautiful occasion with staff, family and friends of the children attending. Angelo Guerini celebrated the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time which was also attended by his peers, family and friends. Thank you to Father Matthew and Lauren McGoldrick.

We have acknowledged the traditional owners of this land through our Sorry Day and NAIDOC Week celebrations individually as a school and also as a community at Southern Cross District High School with Moorine Rock Primary School.

STEWARDSHIP

Enrolments have continued to grow over the last three years.

- In 2017 the year commenced with (PK-6 = 25) (K-6 = 21) (PP-6 = 17).
- 2018 (PK-6 = 24) (K-6 = 21) (PP-6 = 18).
- 2019 (PK-6 = 30) (K-6 = 27) (PP-6 = 22)
- and Projected Enrolments for 2020 is (PK-6 = 37) (K-6 = 33) (PP-6 = 27)

Our School Fee structure has certainly attributed to these numbers; however, the overall contribution of staff and parents in ensuring that we provide the first choice of schooling in Southern Cross by our care, actions, involvement and desire to provide quality Catholic Education is what truly has made a difference.

The school has purchased various new pieces of furniture to support the growth in numbers and also provide opportunities for differential learning.

Next week you will be able to experience the fabulous new lighting that has been installed especially for our Christmas concert and any future evening events we may have.

Staff have regularly undertaken face to face and online PDs – Dyslexia online, School visits – Trauma-Informed, IT, Early Years, Early Careers, Brightpath lead marker training, APPA Conference, TeamTeach, Finance, Literacy Collective

I want to thank everyone who participated in my Principal Review this year. It was a very rewarding experience, and I have set myself some goals to focus on for 2020.

The school focus for 2019 of 'The National Quality Standards (NQS)' was to develop a stronger connection and awareness of each student's culture. I believe that we have been successful in this

aspect, however, the further embedding of each child's current knowledge, strengths, ideas, culture, abilities and interests will continue to be the foundation of the program.

COMMUNITY

I believe we have continued to develop a positive and strong St Joseph's community and work extremely hard at promoting positive partnerships within the Yilgarn community through the various activities the school runs and offers and of course the outstanding effort and support of the P&F and Board.

I am excited that we are on track with the Memorial Garden and Commemorative Pavers. Currently, we have about 30 orders from previous families or staff. Our St Joseph statue is still on route from Italy and Rebecca and Lorrae have generously given their time helping the students create their mosaics. There will be more help required next year before the opening and blessing of the garden, and I am sure I can count on all of our families to help out. Thank you all ready to those that have already contributed, especially, Bec of course, Kyle, Lorrae, Matt Woodhouse and the generous donations of various businesses around town.

EDUCATION

Curriculum

Our involvement in the Literacy Collective program has seen us collectively as staff work together to collect and analyse data to reflect and improve student learning and outcomes. We have "Put Faces on the Data", implemented extra reading support, provided Reading Recovery and held Case Management Meetings.

WHAT LIES AHEAD IN 2020?

School Improvement Plan

- Chaplaincy Program – You Can Do It
- Literacy Collective
- Brightpath

Additional EA – Lorrae Carlson 0.5

Additional 0.2 Teacher – Elisha Criddle who will work on a Wednesday running our Sport and Drama program.

The School Board has approved works for 2020.

1. Refurbishment of Toilet Block
2. Grass area

Completion of Memorial Garden and Commemorative Pavers

Further engagement with SXDHS and Moorine Rock Primary schools – Combined Literacy, Numeracy, STEM, NAIDOC, Sporting Events, Incursions.

A commitment to supporting the Elderly in our Community.

THANK YOU

May God bless you all and keep you safe over the holidays. We look forward with pleasure to your continued support and involvement next year and wish you a peace-filled Christmas where we all keep Christ at the cornerstone of our celebrations.

Rika Andres

PRINCIPAL 2019