



**SAINT HELENA'S**  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Something Beautiful for God*

# **2021 Annual School Community Meeting**

## **Specialist Reports**

The following reports are provided by our Specialist Teachers and present an overview of their respective programs in 2021.

**ExACT from Mrs O'Meara:** The students in ExACT, our extension and enrichment program, have spent 2021 using their critical and creative thinking skills in various situations and applying them to numerous problems. As always, the topics offered are driven by students' needs and interests, in particular their self-developed 'Passion Projects' which were completed over the year. The Year 5 and 6 students enjoyed presenting their work to the school at the annual 'Science Week Expo'. The ExACT program covers numerous ways of critical and creative thinking with particular focus on giving students the opportunity to use the '6 Thinking Hats' strategy, Blooms Taxonomy and Multiple Intelligences. This year, each year level had opportunities to develop their STEM skills via various units of work. The LEGO build challenges in Year 3, Mystery Builds in Year 4, the STEM Video Game Challenge – where our Year 5 group coded their own computer game, and the Year 6 'free build' using the Engineering Design Process were a highlight for all. The Year 6 students entered 'Cluedunnit' once again this year, with the 'Puppet Show' group making it to the top 10 entries in the state. As always, we end our amazing year together with our annual Scitech excursion with the Year 5 and 6 students, this is a much-anticipated event where our students can shine and explore their interests. In 2022, ExACT will continue to offer students different strategies and thinking skills that they can apply to their learning in all environments.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES from Mrs Quayle:** 2021 saw the resignation of Kyrya Quayle, our Students with Disabilities Coordinator, at the end of Semester One. This led to the appointment of Annette Bolton, one of the school's long term Education Assistants, to the Coordinator position until the end of 2021. The team of seven Education Assistants continue to work with teachers and outside agencies to provide quality support for all our students.

Our Practical Applications program continued in 2021, focusing on self-esteem, confidence, social skills, motivation, sense of belonging and real-world life skills. These programs include Mindfulness, Cooking, Shopping, Robotics, Social Skills, Enterprise and Gardening. The program is targeted for, but not exclusive to, students with disabilities. The program has participants from Pre-Primary through to Year 6, those that are verbal and nonverbal, with varying physical abilities and social emotional needs.

This year, the number of students included in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) remained relatively consistent with 114 students requiring support adjustments ranging from Quality Differentiated Teaching Practice through to Extensive Support. The NCCD is an annual collection of information about Australian school students with disability, diagnosed or imputed. The NCCD enables schools, education authorities and governments to better understand the needs of students with disability and how they can be best supported at school.

St Helena's continues to have a strong focus on inclusion, with students actively involved in events such as the faction carnival, interschool carnivals, swimming lessons, incursions and excursions.

Our reputation for outstanding work in the area of students with disabilities remains very high within the wider Ellenbrook community.

**VISUAL ARTS/DESIGN TECHNOLOGIES from Mrs Ileri:** This year, students were immersed in the study of the UN Sustainable Development Goal 11- Sustainable Cities and Communities. Students researched some of the most sustainable cities in the world based on the UN sustainability criteria. They also investigated the problems facing some unsustainable cities in different parts of the world.

In Visual Arts, students experimented with a variety of acrylic painting techniques. Pre-Primary to Year Three students created artworks to show the importance of heritage places such as old castles in the city and Uluru. Year Four to Year Six students created an artwork to show the importance of green spaces in cities, such as parks and gardens as well as lakes and ponds. All students showed their unique creativity and imagination through their amazing paintings.

This year, we will inaugurate an Annual Art Exhibition. All students from Pre-Primary to Year 6 will have their artworks exhibited. This is a great opportunity to celebrate the creative talent of our students with the whole school community.

In Design Technologies, students were introduced to sustainability in the urban context. Using the design process, students worked collaboratively to create sustainable solutions for cities and communities. They described their vision for a sustainable city and identified the challenges facing cities. Sustainable cities are much more than places where humans and nature coexist productively-they are cities in which all people, regardless of their race, gender, income and so on have equal access to a healthy environment in which they can flourish. Students planned, designed and created 3-D models of a sustainable city that incorporated sustainable solutions such as transport, renewable energy, food production, nature and waste management.

All the students demonstrated great dedication and enthusiasm in their work and took pride in supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

**ITALIAN from Mrs McCulloch:** It has been another great year for Italian at St Helena's where the students enjoyed participating in many fun activities and adventures. They have shown tremendous creativity and artistic flair along the way, while at the same time learning the fundamentals of the Italian language, culture and values. They have also been very successful in using and incorporating information technology to enhance and improve their work and learning. Here are some of the highlights from the year which demonstrate this:

**3D Pasta Creations** – Many students from Years 3 to 6 entered this competition where they designed and created various masterpieces from different types of dried pasta. The creativity shown and the quality of the finished work was truly impressive. This included models of people, cars, buildings and many others. It was a very close competition overall, with first prize going to a fantastic 3D representation of The Colosseum.

**Pasta Making** – We had some expert pasta makers including Mrs Bratovich and Filaz come to the school to teach the Years 4 to 6 classes how to make fresh homemade pasta. We had a lot of fun and the kids were able to take their pasta home to cook and eat with their families.

**Italian Towns** – This activity with the Year 5s integrated STEM with Italian where the aim was to design and create their own Italian towns. Working in teams, the students showed great talent and flair and came up with many wonderful creations.

Great progress has been made this year across all the year levels, where students have shown an increased level of confidence when speaking Italian in class and in using the

Seesaw technology platform. They should be very proud of their efforts and the progress they have made.

**MUSIC from Ms Panaia:** The focus for music classes this year has been to deepen students' understanding of musical theory and students have shown an eagerness to continue this learning.

During the year, the lower primary students were introduced to reading musical rhythms including 'Ti-Ti', 'Ta', 'Ti-Ka Ti-ka' and 'Za' language. Students use the theory to represent their musical ideas with the use of manipulative materials such as popsticks, counters, flashcards and Lego blocks.

The Year 2 students have begun to use musical terminology of crotchet, quavers, semi-quavers and rests to create rhythms to read and play with classroom instruments such as tapping sticks, bells and boom whackers.

The Year 3 students worked extremely hard preparing a musical production of 'The Three Little Pigs' for the Catholic Performing Arts Festival. Students learnt to dance to their own choreography, sing solos, stage act and create stage props. They received an Award of Excellence for their efforts.

The Year 4 students specialised in learning to play the Ukulele. Students learnt how to read ukulele chords and transition their fingers on the fretboard as a song progresses. The songs in the class' repertoire are 'Hey, Oh', 'Stand By Me' and 'Tu Scendi Dalle Stelle'.

The Year 5 and 6 students rocked out on the Spanish Acoustic Guitar, learning the 4 basic chords to create chord progressions, and learnt how to read TAB music. Students played classic rock riffs such as 'You Really Got Me' by The Kinks and 'Smoke on the Water' by Deep Purple.

A highlight: students had the pleasure of learning Noongar language in song form from the composers, Gina Williams and Guy Ghouse. The musicians shared their culture in such a special way that it captivated the school community and inspired a school music video of the song 'Wanjoo (The Welcome Song)'.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION from Mrs Hesse:** 2021 has been a very exciting year at St Helena's. St Helena's competed in many Interschool events such as Swimming, Cross Country, Athletics and Summer and Winter Carnivals; our students worked extremely hard in their sports lessons and developed some life-long skills and an understanding of strategies and tactics in games and activities. We have been impressed at how well and fairly our students have competed against each other. They are to be commended on a great sporting attitude and competitive spirit.

In Term 2, St Helena's took 35 strong swimmers to our interschool swimming event. This was our first year, and we filled every race. Our team competed so strongly that we placed 5<sup>th</sup> overall, our highest placing ever for St Helena's. The swimmers are to be commended on their talents and hard work. The Year 6 students participated in the Winter Carnival competing in Soccer, Netball and Football. We had a very successful day, winning many games.

Term 3 was an exciting term as we continued with our Athletics Carnival. We had changed the orientation of the track which proved to be very successful on the day. The students in Years 3-6 competed in the Jumps and Throw day, with many successful results and several school records being broken in the throwing events. This was then followed by our big Faction Carnival day from Kindy to Year 6 competing in team and individual events. Congratulations to all students and teachers for their hard work leading up to the carnival day. All students are

to be commended on competing at a high standard and successfully employing the skills they were taught during the year in their Sports lessons.

In Term 4, all students in Years 1-6 participated in our school swimming program, enhancing their sense of water safety. Year 5 competed in the Year 5 Summer Carnival, representing our school in Tennis, Ultimate Frisbee and Cricket. Another strong highlight was our Interschool Athletics Team, who competed extremely well and had a very successful day on the track, placing 2<sup>nd</sup> overall. The team trained for several weeks leading up to the event. Congratulations to all athletes.

St Helena's applied for Sporting Schools funding to assist with the financial cost of bringing a gymnastics program to the school in Term 1. This program was targeted at the Early Years (Kindy to Year 1), focusing on several fundamental movement skills such as balance, safe landings and core strength. This program is essential for the students at St Helena's to continue for future years. Years 3-6 also participated in a two-week hockey program through Sporting Schools funding to bring in a hockey coach to assist with exposing students to the game of hockey.

A special thank you to all parent volunteers who assisted with sporting activities during the school year. Without our parent volunteers, our sporting programs would not be able to run. Thank you, too, to all students for working hard and participating well in this learning area. Our progress individually and collectively has been impressive. Well done!!

**SCIENCE from Ms Roussety:** The four stands of Biological Science, Chemical Science, Earth & Space Science and Physical Science were a focus each term. Inquiry skills underpinned each strand.

To continue from 2020, STEM (Science Technology Engineering & Maths) played a role throughout the year. Students in selected year groups were able to apply their understanding of the theory through small STEM projects, with the highlight being the bicarbonate soda powered boats, with the Year Six Chemical Science unit and solar ovens with the Year Threes in the Physical Science unit.

To facilitate and nurture varied learning styles, STEM projects provide a great avenue for students to learn through hands on activities, while also developing higher order thinking to solve real world problems.

The Science Week STEM Challenge was a success with staff and students competing against one another in teams to build a cup pyramid. The competition was open to students from Years four to six. Teams were given limited materials, and the aim was to create a tool to help them build their cup pyramid. Teams were not allowed to touch the cups with their hands. Each team had four members to encourage effective communication, teamwork and collaboration.