



**SAINT HELENA'S**  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Something Beautiful for God*

# **2022 Annual School Community Meeting**

## **Principal's Report**

## **General**

It gives me great pleasure to present the Principal's Report to the St Helena's Catholic Primary School community for this year.

2022 has not ended how it began, that in itself posed us challenges we were not aware existed on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February this year when we welcomed 493 students through our doors. In June, when Lina announced her resignation this came as a shock to many. Our staff (lovingly) embraced a change in principal- although temporary and then endured the process of awaiting a permanent principal appointment for 2023, an uncertain time for staff in any school. Our staff has taken this in their stride, and this is a testament to their agility, and our staff truly being a faith-filled community.

As this year draws to a close, we will close our doors with 512 students, we must reflect on the successes, the challenges, the learning, the relationships, the questions, and the conversations of 2022.

## **Catholic Identity**

At St Helena's, we have provided experiences and opportunities for staff, students, and families that have encouraged and supported us all on our faith journey. This has been achieved through:

- A workshop for staff focussed on 'the person of Jesus' presented by Mario Bugna.
- Building staff members' knowledge and skills by the provision of relevant and professional development through the CEWA Accreditation program.
- Teachers are fully implementing the revised Religious Education program developed by Catholic Education WA and mandated by the Bishops of Western Australia.
- Continuing to strengthen our connection with the Mini Vinnie's program
- Celebrating key liturgical seasons and feasts including St Helena's Day and our faction patrons, Mary MacKillop, Assumption Mass.
- Weekly Gospel reflection in each class.
- Singing praise each week during Liturgical Singing.
- Sharing in our parish-based, family focussed, school-supported sacramental program.
- Raising awareness of various Catholic charitable agencies and contributing \$2972.70 as donations towards Life Link, Caritas, Catholic Missions.

Our school prides itself on reaching out to those in need. Through numerous initiatives throughout the year, we have been able to make a difference to those in need. I thank Mark DiBlasi for coordinating Mini Vinnies in 2022 and Mary Calverley from the Parish community for her hard work.

St Helena's continues to work hard to maintain a strong relationship with the parish. Throughout the year, students were prepared to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation in collaboration with the Parish. I would like to thank each of the class teachers involved in the 2022 Sacramental Program as well as Luke Vine for his work in this area. I also extend thanks to our Parish

Sacramental Co-ordinator, Hannah Wager, for her exceptional coordination of the parish sacramental program.

## Education

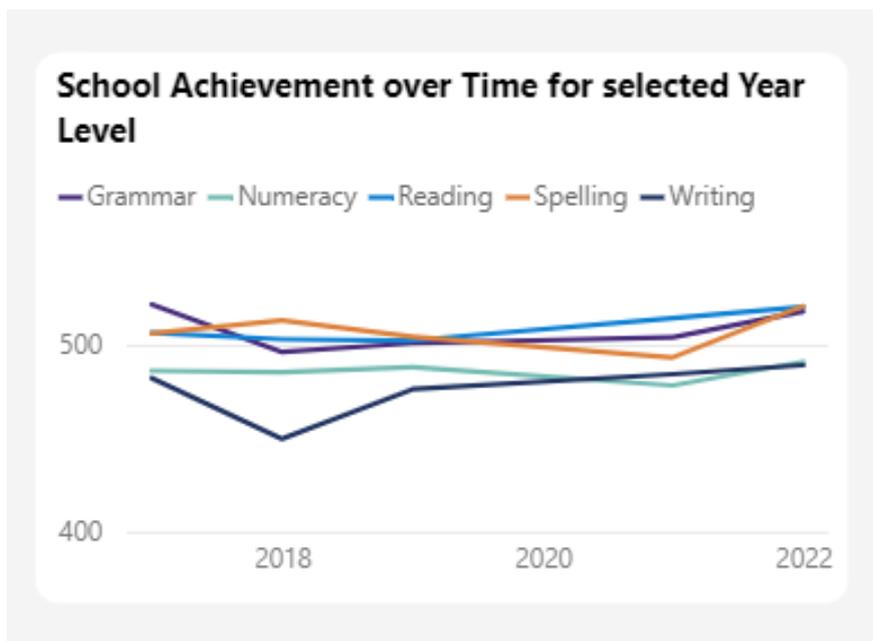
Staff at St Helena's seek to develop teaching and learning programs designed to develop children's spiritual, cognitive, physical, emotional, and social wellbeing.

In 2022, we have provided experiences and opportunities for staff, students, and families that have encouraged and supported us all on our learning journey. This has been achieved through:

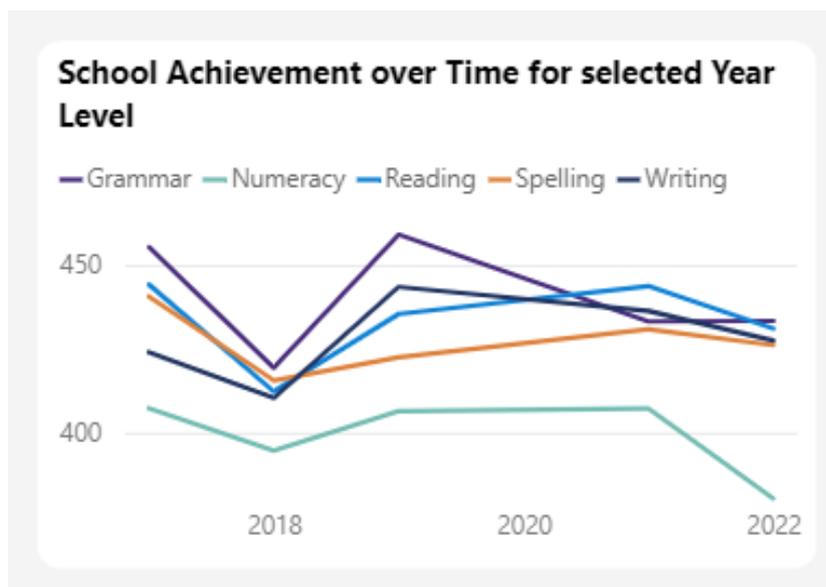
- Continual focus on embedding the school's Vision for Learning
- Development of an Additional Language or Dialect teaching program to support students with diverse linguistic backgrounds to access the SCASA curriculum whilst maintaining the students' own language and culture. This has included the employment of an EAL/D teacher assistant and in 2023 will include a teacher.
- Pedagogical Leader has led the Spiral of Inquiry process across the Year 3 and 4 teachers, to develop a plan based on current NAPLAN data and research of best practice to improve teaching and learning. This process identified Mathematics as a focus. The team is now working collaborative with the CEWA numeracy consultant to enhance instruction in the mathematics space, this will continue in 2023 with coaching (3 &4) and PLC learning for all staff.
- Ongoing focus on implementing National Quality Standards in Pk-2 with a key focus on incorporating children's ideas and interests into the teaching and learning program, ensuring that each child's agency is promoted.
- Staff engagement in professional learning in 2022 included the following;
  1. Trauma practices in Term 1
  2. Faith Day in Term 2 Discovering who Jesus is
  3. Sustainability Day in Term 2 water, recycling, school priorities
  4. Market Day in Term 3 led by our Middle leaders
- Continue to develop staff and student understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community cultures, values, and traditions. Identifying how we can incorporate this learning and understanding in our school community
- Maintaining focus on the effective and responsible use of ICT to enhance learning and hosting a Cyber Safety workshop – Surf Online Safe, for Year 5 and 6 students and parents.
- Establishing the Wellbeing Team and the development of the Wellbeing Strategy of the school. Continuation of Wellbeing Week and professional learning for staff.
- Inclusion of a Sustainability Middle Leader, to develop a sustainability strategy to become a sustainable school. Some of the key initiatives include: The RE-Team, Wrapper Free Wednesdays, the introduction of composting, and the broadening of the collection of specialty recyclables.

NAPLAN assessment results provide valuable information about student achievements in literacy and numeracy. An analysis of these results assists school planning and is used to support teaching and learning programs. The tables below provide an overview of our students' performance over time.

### Year 3



### Year 5



As a staff, we will continue to focus on improving student achievement and teacher practice in areas of concern, with a particular focus on Years 3-4 in 2023.

Accompanying this report are annual reports from our specialist staff – those responsible for Students with Disabilities, Learning Support, Extension, Physical Education, Science, Music, Visual Art and Design Technologies, and Italian. I ask that you please take the time to read these reports and learn about the wonderful work that has taken place in each area during 2022.

## **Community**

St Helena's is a community. We believe that parents are the primary educators of their children and strive to build a culture where parents play an active part in our school community and where school staff and parents view each other as partners on the journey.

We are committed to:

- The actioning of our Code of Conduct for staff, students, and caregivers
- Professional learning & development for staff regarding child safety
- Ongoing review of the effectiveness of child safety practices within the school

At St Helena's, we have provided experiences and opportunities for staff, students, and families that have encouraged and supported us all on our journey as a united community. This has been achieved through:

- Continuing to prioritise CEWA's Child Safe Framework and Child Protection Policy and Procedures.
- Updating all staff members' training in mandatory reporting requirements and procedures annually.
- Authentically listen and respond to the voice of the child in all aspects of school life.
- Establishing and embedding a shared understanding of student wellbeing and positive relationships through professional development
- Providing many extra-curricula programs and activities – Catholic Performing Arts, Gardening Club, Chess Club, Mindfulness, Liturgical Dance, Mini Vinnies, Robotics, Running Club.
- Providing support for Cancer Council, Autism Awareness, and RSPCA.
- Celebration of key events, e.g. Mother's Day, Father's Day, Sorry Day, NAIDOC Week
- Joining with Ellenbrook Public School for various events including ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day, and Christmas Carols.
- Continuing to provide services through our Social Worker, School Psychologist, and Helping Minds to support the mental health and well-being of students.
- Running mental health groups/workshops for students to support the wellbeing of students such as Seedlings for Growth and Friendship Festival.

## **Stewardship**

Living the Catholic social teaching principle of stewardship requires us to care for people, the environment and other resources.

At St Helena's, we have provided experiences and opportunities for staff, students and families that have encouraged and supported us all on our journey as good stewards. This has been achieved through:

- Successful completion of our remarkable new administration building, purpose-built music room and instrumental teaching rooms, storage rooms, specialist offices and toilet block. (Minus some defects)
- Ensuring finances are managed effectively and comprehensively by adhering to policies, procedures, budget requirements, and financial reviews.
- Maintaining all school facilities and resources to the highest standard of safety and upkeep. My thanks to Tracy Papenfus and Robert Van Oosten for the exceptional work they undertake daily to keep our school running and beautiful.
- New visual representation of the core school values around the school – bringing to life what we stand for at St Helena's.
- Ongoing refining of the Middle Leader positions within the school that allow leadership to be dispersed and promote school-wide leadership practice.
- Inclusion of a Sustainability Middle Leader and appointment.

### **Areas for Growth in 2023**

The following areas for growth have been identified from St Helena's current school improvement plan as well as student data and staff feedback.

#### *Catholic Identity*

- Embed the St Helena's motto and values within all aspects of the school community and its life.
- Build staff and student understanding of a 'world envisaged by Jesus' through the integration of faith, life and culture.

#### *Education*

- Embed the Vision for Learning as a driver for improved teacher practice and enhanced student learning with a particular focus on student learning across the school.
- Develop a rich data culture that promotes student learning, enhances teacher capacity, and builds school improvement

#### *Community*

- Take proactive steps to provide for the pastoral needs of our students to enhance student engagement.
- Partner with our parish, parish schools and priests to reflect more authentically an active and engaged faith community.

#### *Stewardship*

- Commit to fulfilling and promoting Christian responsibility for care of the Earth as our common home.
- Continued development and enhancement of Internal and external learning environments that promotes student learning.
- Staff are provided with opportunities for professional learning and development

## Acknowledgements

I wish to thank the families of St Helena's for the warmth and kindness you have shown me in my leadership throughout not only this short time as Principal but the 14 years prior to this. Under the leadership of Santino Giancono, St Helena's will continue to be a place where you can enjoy good support, quality relationships, and multiple opportunities that support your children to thrive and flourish. At interviews I always say to parents "there is something here for every child" and I truly believe this.

I thank each member of our School Advisory Council for the work they have done in fulfilling their function of bringing the voice of the community into the school. My thanks extend especially to Eva Gomes- Sebastio in her last meeting as a member of the SAC. Thank you, Eva. A special acknowledgment must be made to Tara Palm in her role as the SAC Chair in 2022. Tara, thank you for your organisation, your support for our school, and for your counsel, it has been a pleasure working with you.

I extend my thanks and appreciation to St Helena's P & F Executive Kylie, Lindsay, Jacinta, Gabbi and Laura, for their contribution in 2022. One of the most underappreciated roles in any school. Kylie and Lindsay, your contribution to our school over the past few years has been incredible and I wish you both happiness as you step down from your roles as President and Treasurer respectively and 9294enjoy your own children's last year of primary school from the sidelines.

Special thanks are extended to Fr Bona, our Parish Priest. We are supported by your guidance and value greatly your leadership and encouragement.

To the teachers that sit in front of me today, you are some of the best educators around and I feel absolutely blessed to have been able to guide you and work with you. I thank each of you for your unending support and commitment to your children. Teaching is not what it used to be and to be a teacher these days is hard, and we need to nurture our staff and ensure their wellbeing is a priority.

I would like to make special mention of all our Education Assistants- general, SWD, learning support. These ladies are phenomenal and without them nurturing, educating, and supporting our students (and staff) we would not be able to do even one-third of what we can achieve working together.

This year has been challenging for the Leadership Team, Mr Luke Vine began his Assistant Principal position, Ms Bertolini moving on, and then Ms Ann-Marie Conama stepping into the role of Assistant Principal. We together have weathered the storm and I personally thank Luke and Ann-Marie for their support, dedication and for listening to me ramble on about staffing for weeks on end. Thank you both.

There are three exceptional women here that I must thank, without them the last six months would not have been possible, when school life has been difficult. Tracy Papenfus, Rebecca Delauney and Tracy Detata always know exactly what to say and do, you are amazing and such a privilege to work with.

With gratitude, I acknowledge staff members who are leaving St Helena's at the end of this school year

- Julie Glasson
- Georgia Kelly
- Katherine Roussety
- Melissa Siganto
- Katherine Gledhill
- Rachel Benniman
- Renae Mason
- Patrick Harman

I also wish well to Mrs Rebecca Curel and Mr Mark DiBlasi as they take a year of leave. May you all have success in your coming adventures.

### **Closing**

In closing, St Helena's is a wonderful school, and I am beyond proud to handover St Helena's to Santino, knowing that St Helena's has an exceptional school community whereby our school's motto of "Something Beautiful for God" is alive and well- and most importantly, at the heart of who we are.

**Sascha Saulsman**  
**Principal**