



SAINT HELENA'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Something Beautiful for God

2022 Annual School Community Meeting

School Advisory Council Chair's Report

On behalf of the St Helena's Catholic Primary School Advisory Council, I would like to welcome you to the 2022 Annual Community Meeting. My name is Tara Palm and it's been my privilege to serve the school community this year in the capacity of School Advisory Council Chair.

The Annual Community Meeting is an opportunity for the School Advisory Council to provide a report to both CEWA and the wider school community. Through this we acknowledge and celebrate the key achievements made throughout the year and the many people who have contributed to these successes.

2022 will be remembered as a significant chapter in the St Helena's story. As I reflect on the year, I feel a great sense of gratitude for this season of growth and change and am filled with optimism for the future.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2022

St Helena's Leadership Team

The end of term two saw the departure of our much-loved Principal Ms Lina Bertolini. Lina spent more than 6 years serving our community and our hearts were filled with both sadness over her departure and gratitude for the profound legacy that she has left with us. Lina's leadership, vision and talent as an educator have contributed immensely in shaping the St Helena's identity and developing it into the school that it is.

With Lina's departure, Assistant Principal Mrs Sascha Saulsman stepped into the role of Acting Principal for terms three and four. On behalf of the School Advisory Council and the wider school community, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to Sascha for taking on this responsibility so capably. It has been wonderful working with you and we are very proud of the way you have managed and excelled in this role. We wish you every success in your new appointment as Assistant Principal at Holy Cross College and look forward to your family still being a part of our school community as your girls continue their schooling here.

Thank you also to Assistant Principals' Luke Vine and Anne-Marie Conama who both settled into their roles so well this year. Thank you for sharing your talents with our community and contributing to the effective management of our school.

As Advisory Council Chair, along with our Parish Priest Father Bona and other CEWA delegates, I had the privilege of participating as a panel member for the appointment of a new substantive Principal. Mr Santino Giancono was subsequently appointed to this position and will commence with us at the beginning of 2023. Santino comes to us from Salvado Catholic College and brings a wealth of experience, energy and enthusiasm. I have been impressed by his vision and I have full confidence in his ability to continue lead St Helena's to be the best we can be.

In addition to this, I was also able to participate in the recruitment process to appoint Miss Melissa Myles to the ongoing position of Assistant Principal Pre-Kindergarten to Year 2, also commencing at the beginning of 2023. Melissa comes to us from Infant Jesus School and like Santino, brings warmth, enthusiasm and passion as an experienced educator. I am sure that St Helena's will welcome both Santino and Melissa warmly in the new year and that they will very quickly become much loved members of our school community

St Helena's Build Stage 7B Administration Building & Stage 8 Music Room

Evidently one of the most significant milestones we've celebrated in 2022, was the completion of building projects Stage 7B and Stage 8. These worthwhile investments into the upgrade of the administration building, the music space and the addition of student toilets to our undercover area are outstanding. They are well-planned, purposeful spaces that were very much needed and will provide functional and modern facilities, ultimately benefiting the students of St Helena's well into the future. I would like to extend a sincere thank you and congratulations to the St Helena's Building committee, former Principal Ms Lina Bertolini, former School Advisory Council Chair Mrs Melinda Webb, Mr Wayne Webb and Mr Mitch Lohrentz for their service in overseeing this project over the last couple of years as the vision of these spaces became a reality. An extra special thank you and acknowledgement needs to be extended to our Finance and Facilities Manager Mrs Tracy Papenfus for her dedication and commitment to this project. Tracy, you have been an outstanding support, your time and contributions have been invaluable and we couldn't have done it without you. We look forward to further celebrating this milestone with the official opening of these newly completed buildings scheduled in the new year.

St Helena's Middle Leaders Program

2022 has seen the continuation of the St Helena's Middle Leaders program. This model of distributed leadership forwards opportunities to members of our teaching staff to build further expertise, to engage their passions and share their talents with our school community, ultimately growing leaders within the catholic school system.

We would like to acknowledge and thank Mrs Kerry Krause middle leader for Wellbeing, Mrs Therese Hutchinson middle leader for Aboriginal Perspectives, Miss Jessica Healy middle leader for Digital Technologies, Pedagogical Middle Leader Miss Grace Dwyer and Ms Anne-Marie Conama Middle leader of Literacy their expertise, investment and contributions in their respective areas.

In 2022, we were able to further extend this program through the appointment of Mrs Emma White to the newly created role of Sustainability Middle Leader, aligning with one of our core school values "Care for the earth" and in response to the Pope's encyclical Laudato Si to "Care for the Earth"

Through Emma's work our sustainability journey as a school community has been re-ignited with staff engaging in professional development opportunities and 17 students coming together to form the first St Helena's student sustainability team. Teams of students have contributed to a waste audit of our school resulting in the

establishment of several key initiatives including collecting food scraps, a targeted recycling program for items like cardboard, batteries and bread tags etc. and a staff “buy nothing stall” to consider repurposing unwanted or unused items before purchasing new. Our students have enjoyed participating in “wrapper free Wednesdays”, participating in gardening club with Miss Gabi Panaia and have designed artworks, some of which will be selected for printing on our school bins. This sustainability program has successfully obtained a \$1000 Woolworths Junior Landcare Grant and I am also able to announce this evening that St Helena’s has also successfully obtained a \$2600 grant for new projects within the school next year, which will include trialling re-usable lunch bags at the canteen and much more.

Congratulations to Emma and the Student Sustainability team on their achievements this year. It has been wonderful watching the excitement in the children as they consider the small but simple ways they can make sustainability an ongoing focus in their daily lives. We look forward to embracing further exciting initiatives through the St Helena’s Middle Leaders Program as it continues through 2023.

2023 School Fees

For many families, 2022 has been a year of significant financial pressure as sharp increases in the cost of living begin to impact family budgets.

Taking this into consideration and in collaboration with CEWA, considering also our schools strong enrolment numbers and sound financial position, I am pleased to announce that the St Helena’s School Advisory Council has endorsed a 2023 School Fee structure that will offer fee relief to our families of approximately 5-7% across our Kindergarten to Year 6 tuition fees.

Our Finance and Facilities Manager Mrs Tracy Papenfus will present a breakdown of this shortly.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank the members St Helena’s School Advisory Council, Mrs Barbara Stanley, Mr Mark Sanders, Mrs Eva Gomes-Sebastio and Mr Mitch Lohrentz, Father Bona our Parish Priest, Mrs Hannah Wager our Parish Representative and Mrs Laura Brown our P&F Representative to the School Advisory Council. Our current St Helena’s leadership team and Mrs Tracy Papenfus for their attendance, knowledge and contributions to our meetings. Thank you to all for your time, for your invaluable insights and your dedication to the Council as we collaborated to make decisions ultimately for the benefit our students.

To the St Helena’s P&F executive and all parent volunteers who continually work to organise events, raise funds and provide opportunities to support our school community. Thank you for sharing your time, talents and dedication with us.

Moving into 2023, our school is well positioned for the future and we can look forward to new exciting possibilities, writing new chapters and starting afresh in the new year.