



SAINT HELENA'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Something Beautiful for God

2022 Annual School Community Meeting

Specialist Reports

The following reports are provided by our Specialist Teachers and present an overview of their respective programs in 2022.

ExACT from Mrs O'Meara: The students in ExACT, our extension and enrichment program, have spent 2022 applying and developing their critical and creative thinking skills to various learning experiences. As always, the topics offered are driven by students' needs and interests. This year we entered the 2022 STEM MAD National Competition offered by Catholic Education. The students worked through the design thinking model of 'Empathise, Define, Ideate, Prototype & Test' to create or innovate an item that they believe is needed in our world today. We were The STEM theme continued throughout the year with our Year 3 students making their LEGO build books, our Year 4 students creating their 'Mystery Builds', and the Year 5 and 6 students presenting their science experiments to the school during Science Week. The Year 6 students entered 'Cluedunnit' once again this year, with our 'Choose your own Adventure Keynote' submission making it to the top 10 entries in the state. As always, the Year 5 and 6 students end our amazing year together with our annual Scitech excursion, this is a much-anticipated event where our students can shine and explore their interests. In the middle of Term 3 we were lucky enough to be gifted a new room where we can explore our learning in an environment that allows us to wonder, work and create in our small groups. In 2023 ExACT will continue to offer our high potential students different strategies and thinking skills that they can apply to their learning now and in the future.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES from Miss Dwyer: This year saw Grace Dwyer, our newly appointed Students with Disabilities Coordinator, work alongside a team of eight Education Assistants (EAs). We began the year with six full-time EAs. The team grew when a full-time EA was appointed in February and again in July when a part-time (FTE 0.4) EA joined the team. In 2022, our dedicated and hard-working Education Assistants continued to work collaboratively with teachers to provide quality support for students with diverse and additional needs.

Our Practical Applications program continued in 2022. These programs include mindfulness, gardening, cooking, shopping, social skills, and enterprise. The Practical Applications program is targeted for, but not exclusive to, students with disabilities. This year, both verbal and non-verbal students with varying disabilities and social emotional needs from Pre-Primary to Year Six were able to participate. This has provided many students with the opportunity to develop their self-esteem, confidence, social skills, motivation, sense of belonging and real-life world skills.

This year, 57 students who required adjustments, ranging from Quality Differentiated Teaching Practice through to Extensive support, were included in the National Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD). The NCCD is an annual collection of information about Australian school students with disability, diagnosed or imputed. It 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 our teachers and EAs making adjustments to enable our students to be actively involved in school events such as the faction carnival, interschool carnivals, swimming lessons, incursions, and excursions.

VISUAL ARTS/DESIGN TECHNOLOGIES from Mrs Ileri: In Visual Arts, students experimented with a variety of mediums and painting techniques. Our Kinde students enjoyed reading the 'Smallest Turtle' book by Lynley Dodd. They then used watercolours and paint markers to create beautiful artworks inspired by the story. After studying colour theory, Pre-Primary students created artworks to show their understanding of primary colours. Year One students enjoyed learning all about Romero Britto, a renowned Brazilian artist who loves colour and patterns. They created some very colourful artworks inspired by Britto. Year Two and Three students studied the life and art style of Joan Miro a famous Spanish artist. They used their knowledge to design and paint fantastic artworks in his style. Year Four students had a fun time studying and creating artworks in the style of Yayoi Kusama, the queen of polka dots, while Year Five students investigated Laurel Burch and created amazing paintings inspired by her style. Year Six students studied the artistic movement surrealism and looked at the work of Salvador Dali. They expressed their creativity and imagination through artworks inspired by Dali.

All these artworks were showcased in our Annual Art Exhibition which was enjoyed by the whole school community.

In Design and Technologies, our focus was Food and Fibre production. Pre-Primary and Year One students investigated the food production process from the farm to our plates. They learned about the needs of farm animals which give us many food products. Using the design process, students designed and created an animal shelter to demonstrate their understanding of the animal's needs. Year Two students learned about food production and healthy eating. They had the fun task of designing and making a tortilla wrap for their peers which was judged on its taste and creative design. Year Three and Four students investigated food production during the six Noongar seasons. They used this knowledge to design and create a diorama to demonstrate their understanding. Year Five and Six students learned all about product design, packaging and marketing. They used their collaboration skills to design a new product to suit the needs of a target market.

All the students demonstrated great dedication and pride in their work and achievements this year.

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 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:

Group learning and games – The students enjoyed playing a variety of Italian games where they were encouraged to use existing knowledge and apply it to quick thinking game scenarios.

Research and developing cultural understanding – Several year levels completed various research projects. They identified the ways language use can change over time, how the Italian language has influenced other languages as well as interesting interactions and influences between the Australian and Italian cultures.

3D Pasta Creations – Many students from Years 2 to 6 entered this competition where they designed and created various art works from different types of dried pasta. The creativity shown and the quality of the finished work was truly impressive. They included models of Italian buildings, gelato, transportation, and many others. It was a close competition with students congratulating each other on their wonderful pieces of work.

Substantial 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 the improvements they have made during the year.

MUSIC from Ms Panaia: This year, the lower primary students have been exploring elements of music such as beat, rhythm, pitch and tempo. Students engage in singing songs, partner dances, handing clapping choreography and playing non-tuned percussion instruments to discover new musical concepts while also interacting in their environments with each other and on an individual level.

The music programme at St. Helena's is aimed at developing student's intrinsic motivation, prosocial skills, inclusivity amongst classmates and social, emotional, spiritual, and cognitive wellbeing.

In term 1, students focused on developing their musical theory on both the Seesaw application and MusicPlay Online. Students developed their pitch accuracy, music writing and note names in the treble clef. They engage in the content while using the keyboard as a tool to enhance their understanding.

In term 2, students practiced their technique with bucket drumming and djembe drums. Students rehearsed rhythms from Ghana inspired by teacher workshops lead by West African mentor, Kofi. Students also created new rhythms to play which progressed their note value knowledge which encouraged a level of self-determination.

In term 3, junior years developed their technique on the ukulele, learning two chords and playing "Hey Oh!" and "Apple Tree" songs. Students in senior years learnt concepts about chords and chord progressions and learnt how to read guitar tabs.

In Term 4, students rehearsed Christmas songs which involves singing in-tune, kinesthetically and visually reinforcing the concept of pitch, rhythm and beat. Students practice these songs and create choreography to aid memorisation which helps build neural pathways in the brain.

The school choir have been learning about popular music from the 50s and 60s to perform for a Christmas Carols concert for a local retirement home in Aveley. Students studied the importance of harmonies and practiced vocal techniques throughout their rehearsal times.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION from Mrs Hesse: 2022 has been very exciting year at St Helena's. St Helena's competed in many Interschool events such as Cross Country, Athletics, 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.

Term 2, Due to Covid we were unable to compete in a swimming carnival, but we are looking strong for 2023. 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. The students in year 3-6 competed in the Jumps and Throw day, with many successful results. This was then followed by our big Faction carnival day from PP 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. This year, our Kindy students participated in a very special Kindy carnival. It was a great success and enjoyed by all especially the parents and Grand parents.

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, 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 2 and 3. This program was targeted at the Early Years (Kindy to Year 2), 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.

A highlight this year has been our Faction sports on a Thursday. Year 6 students competed in a selected sport over the term. The winning Faction competes against the teachers. Well done to the year 6 students who defeated the teachers for the very first time in soccer term 2.

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 Mrs Mason/Ms Roussety: The four stands of Biological Science, Chemical Science, Physical Science and Earth and Space Science were a focus each term with inquiry skills underpinning each strand.

Having our class pets in Term One and Four, Tadpoles and Monarch Caterpillars, provided an incredible opportunity to witness these life cycles in work. Students of all ages came to visit and were able to see daily changes.

STEM (Science Technology Engineering Maths) also played a role throughout the year, to facilitate and nurture varied learning styles of our students at St Helena's. Students in select year groups were able to apply their understanding of the theory through small STEM projects, such as building catapults in Year Four, phone cups in Year 1 and Mirror Mazes in Year five.

The Science Week STEM Challenge was a success with Staff and Students competing against one another in teams, to successfully build the tallest tower using only newspaper and masking tape. The competition was open to students from years five to six. Teams were given the success criteria, with the student from Year Five Dingoes, taking the win, for thinking 'outside of the box'. The Challenge provided a great avenue for team members, both staff and students, to encourage effective communication, teamwork, and collaboration.