



SAINT HELENA'S
Catholic Primary School
Something Beautiful for God

Annual Community Meeting

Thursday 27 November 2025

Principal's Report

6:00pm

Venue: St Helena's Catholic Primary School – Library
A: 55 Fortescue Place, Ellenbrook E: admin@sthelenas.wa.edu.au T: 92970 7500

Good evening Fr Bona, the Catholic School Advisory Council, Staff, Parents and Caregivers. As we gather tonight, we reflect on a year of growth, learning, and community at St Helena's Catholic Primary School. Guided by our school values in 2025 we have continued to work together to create an environment where every child feels supported and inspired. Mr Santino Giancono is unable to join us this evening, so I'll be presenting the Principal's Report in his absence. I'm pleased to share the many highlights and celebrations of 2025.



**Christ Centred
Catholic Identity**

At St Helena's, we value the visible expression of our Catholic identity and actively give witness to the values of the Gospel.

2025 has been a year of faith and hope as we embraced the Jubilee Year of Hope, continuing to place Christ at the centre of all we do. Our Catholic identity has been visible and vibrant through liturgies and Masses celebrated across the year, including Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, and Feast Days for our faction saints and St Helena. Sacramental programs were a highlight, with students receiving their First Eucharist, Reconciliation, and Confirmation which are important milestones in their faith journey. The Sacramental program, lead by Hannah Wager, is only possible thanks to her dedicated commitment to our parish, and the support of our staff and the student's families.

In Term Three, during our Feast Day celebrations, we focused on our value of Care for the Earth, reminding us of our responsibility as stewards of creation. Students and staff have unpacked what it means to look after our world, just as Pope Francis called for us to do in his encyclical, Laudato Si.

The St Helena's community continues to demonstrate the value of community through the support of various social justice initiatives. Project Compassion, LifeLink Day, Feast Day stalls and Socktober have engaged our students in meaningful action, raising awareness and funds for those in need. From running sustainable stalls, collecting cat food cans, bringing in gold coins and organising the soccer shoot outs, these experiences helped our students live out Gospel values in practical and impactful ways.

In 2025, Our staff have also worked hard to unpack our school values with each other and students, ensuring they are understood and lived out in daily life. This is a focus we will continue into 2026.



Collaboration

Community

At St Helena's, we value staff, students, parents, caregivers, parish and the wider community working together to support each person to become the person God intended them to be.

Community spirit has been a feature of this year. Events such as Grandparents' Day, Mother's Day Breakfast and Liturgy, and the ANZAC and Remembrance Day Services brought families, parish, and staff together in celebration and reflection. Our Learning Journey was a wonderful opportunity to showcase student achievements and strengthen the partnership between home and school.

The Parents and Friends Committee played an active role in building community through raffles, the Welcome BBQ and the school disco. Thank you to Jessica Murphy, Jessica Nancarrow and Jessica Peacock for the time they volunteer to ensure St Helena's Catholic Primary School has a Parents and Friends' Association. We encouraged all families to join in when they can. We thank all parents and caregivers who volunteered their time in classrooms, the library, and at school events. Enrolments for 2026 and 2027 have continued to grow, reflecting the trust families place in our school.

This year we have embraced the incredible cultural diversity within our school community, celebrating the richness of traditions and practices that make St Helena's so unique. With families representing over 40 languages, we have taken intentional steps to learn more about the stories and heritage that shape our students' lives. This year, our staff engaged in workshops with parents to hear about their family's migration journeys and cultural customs, and we invited families into classrooms to share their traditions with students. We partnered with the Sikh Association to deepen staff understanding and ensure we provide meaningful support for our Sikh students. In addition, we worked closely with families to make school communication accessible, offering small-group English support sessions to parents which have also helped strengthen connections. New books purchased for the library have also been carefully selected to represent the children in our school so that our students see themselves and their friends in what they read and play with.

We have also proudly recognised and acknowledged our First Nations culture and students. Some of our students' artwork has been showcased throughout the school, creating vibrant spaces that reflect the beauty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditions. First Nations parents have generously shared their culture with all of our students, helping them learn and appreciate the deep history and wisdom of our land. When we celebrate each other's differences, we help our children live out our school value of Equality, fostering respect, understanding, and unity within our community.



Voice & Engagement

Education

At St Helena's, we value evidence-based teaching and learning practices that are respectful and responsive to the diverse needs of all learners in an ever-changing world.

Providing our students with a strong education that is respectful and responsive to the diverse needs of all learners in our ever-changing world continues to be a focus and in 2025 our staff worked hard to achieve this.

Staff continued to focus on teaching and learning that meets the needs of all students. Staff worked closely with CEWA consultants to enrich their teaching practises and used NAPLAN, Early Years, Religious Literacy and PAT data to guide strategies and celebrate growth.

Religious Education remained our first learning area, with staff participating in Godly Play incursions as well as accreditation modules and professional learning opportunities.

St Helena's continued to be a part of the Early Years Numeracy Project which has seen our Kindy to Year 2 staff attend termly professional learning sessions focusing on best practise in Mathematics. Our teachers have opened their classrooms up to CEWA Numeracy consultant, Jenny Jongste, for coaching and additional mathematical resources have been purchased to support our students in developing their mathematical understanding and reasoning skills. A Year Three/Four before school Mathematic intervention groups has also assisted our students to build on their mathematical understanding of key concepts.

Our teachers have also worked on the implementation of the new English curriculum, with classroom coaching being provided by Mrs Mary Tierney Dusenberg on writing. Staff have continued to enhance their teaching of reading with novel studies and fluency reads being implemented across the school. Our phonics program has been refined to ensure students in our junior years are being met with phonics instruction at their point of need. Our EAL/D support program has also been transformed with whole class and small group support focusing on vocabulary and comprehension.


Our library has continued to be a vibrant hub of learning and creativity this year. We added over 550 new books to our collection, giving students access to a wide range of engaging and high-quality literature. The enthusiasm for reading is clear, with students borrowing more than 13,000 books throughout the year. This is a wonderful reflection of their love for the library. Open every day at lunchtime, the library provides a welcoming space where children can read, play board games, or enjoy craft activities. Thank you to Mrs Christine Rocca for her passion and dedication in making the library such an inviting and inspiring place for our students to visit.

Extra-curricular activities have continued to enrich student life and support holistic development at St Helena's. Chess Club, Gardening Club, and Mindfulness sessions have provided opportunities for students to explore interests beyond the classroom. Led by Mr Hector Navarro, our Choir proudly performed at One Big Voice and the Catholic Performing Arts Festival, showcasing their talent and teamwork. In sport, Mr Mark McCormack has coached swimming, cross country, and athletics, with teams representing our school at Interschool events. A major highlight was our entry into the 2025 Wakakirri Dance Storytelling Festival, led by Mrs Joanna Bukara and supported by dedicated staff - Mrs Bec Millar, Mrs Marilia DeCarvalho, Mrs Wanda Thompson, Mrs Natalie Cheverall, and Mrs Karen Andrews - who worked tirelessly after school and even during school holidays. With the help of parent volunteers, students were given the incredible opportunity to perform on stage at His Majesty's Theatre which is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Thank you to everyone who made this possible!

Staff professional learning has continued to be a strong focus this year, ensuring our teachers and educators are equipped with the latest strategies to enhance engagement, wellbeing, and academic success. We continued our work with the Berry Street Education Model, embedding trauma-informed practices and routines that help students feel safe, regulated, and ready to learn. Our Early Years team engaged in Mathematics development, working alongside CEWA consultants to strengthen numeracy foundations and create rich, hands-on learning experiences. Early Years educators also explored Outdoor Learning and Nature Play to promote creativity and wellbeing, as well as further development in Pedagogical Documentation strengthened staff's ability to capture and reflect on student learning.

In addition, staff undertook a wide range of specialised courses to meet the diverse needs of our students. Sounds-Write training supported the delivery of evidence-based phonics instruction, while Autism training and Developmental Language Disorder workshops provided practical strategies for inclusion and communication. Professional learning in the new 2026 Western Australian HASS, Science and Mathematics Curriculum will ensure our programs remain aligned with the WA Curriculum. Some staff participated in Leadership courses which has assisted in building capacity within our team for future growth. Team Teach training has equipped staff with positive behaviour support strategies and staff also participated in Behaviour Framework professional learning. The Keeping Safe Child Protection Curriculum training courses reinforced our commitment to student safety.

These opportunities have enriched our teaching practices and strengthened our ability to provide a safe, inclusive, and engaging learning environment for every child.



Safety & Respect
Stewardship

At St Helena's, we value each individual and act with concern for the physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of all members of our community.

The wellbeing of our students and staff remained a priority in 2025 as our staff and students. This year, our teachers completed the final days of training for the Berry Street Education Model and the approach is consistently being used in classrooms from Pre-Kindy to Year Six with students now reminding relief teachers of Berry Street routines! The Kimochi program was also introduced this year as part of our commitment to supporting student wellbeing and emotional literacy. It provides children with tools to identify, express, and manage their feelings in positive ways, helping them build resilience and strengthen relationships. We implemented Kimochis to create a safe and supportive environment where students can develop social-emotional skills that are essential for learning and for living out our school values of respect and equality. Initially implemented in our Early Years, we saw the need for teaching of emotional literacy with our older students too and the enthusiasm for the Kimochis in our older grades sometimes rivals the younger ones! Thank you to the P&F for their support with this program and enabling us to purchase the resources.

The reintroduction of Seasons for Growth this year has supported children through life's changes. Run by Mrs Elise Johnson after school over 8 weeks, children were able discuss and process changes in their lives. Elise has also introduced Social Explorers this year, small groups sessions that help students refine, reflect on and develop social skills in a safe environment.

St Helena's has proudly lived out our value of Care for the Earth in 2026 through a range of initiatives that promote sustainability and environmental stewardship. Led by Mrs Emma White, our students have actively engaged in projects such as maintaining the school's gardens, participating in recycling programs, and learning about sustainable practices in the classroom. We have reduced waste by introducing better recycling systems and encouraging the use of reusable containers, and our gardening club has helped students understand the importance of growing and caring for plants. The addition of the communal herb garden has seen the creation of a place where families can help themselves to fresh herbs each day. During our Feast Day celebrations, we placed a special focus on Care for the Earth, reminding our community of the responsibility we share to protect creation. In addition, we have implemented Sustainability Guidelines across the school to ensure that our practices, such as energy use, waste management, and resource conservation, reflect our commitment to caring for the environment. Thank you to the P&F for supporting the guidelines in every event you have hosted this year! A highlight of the year was hosting the CEWA Earthcare Network in Term One, providing an opportunity for schools across the system to collaborate and share ideas on sustainability. These efforts have not only improved our school environment but have also empowered students to become advocates for sustainability, ensuring that Care for the Earth is more than a value but a lived practice at St Helena's. Thank you Emma for everything you do in this space!

Thank you to our Catholic School Advisory Council for your support in 2025. We are very grateful for the additional time you put into our school community, often behind the scenes and unknown to many. A special mention to Tara Palm who will be finishing up on the CSAC after 7 years. Tara we are all very grateful for your contribution and commitment to St Helena's and know we will continue to see you helping out at St Helena's in 2026!

This year our infrastructure upgrades have significantly improved the safety and comfort of our students. Shade sails were installed outside the library, creating a cool and sun-safe communal space that has quickly become a favourite gathering spot. Children have enjoyed outdoor learning in this area, as well as countless handball tournaments and lunchtime chats. The addition of a water bottle filler has been extremely popular and we thank the P&F for this addition, as it ensures our students have access to cool, filtered water with convenient drink bottle filling stations. Our PA system was upgraded to guarantee that announcements can be heard clearly across the school, an important improvement for communication and safety in the event of an emergency. We also updated furniture in our Year 2, 3, and 4 classrooms, giving teachers the flexibility to plan collaborative activities and allowing students to work at different heights, promoting incidental movement and engagement throughout the school day. Planning for future developments are continuing, including basketball court resurfacing, more shade sails and some verandah installations in 2026.

In Term Three we farewelled Mr Luke Vine, thanking him for his commitment, dedication, and passion as Assistant Principal. We wish him every success at Liwara Catholic Primary School, where we know he will do Something Beautiful for God. At the conclusion of this year, we also farewell Miss Rhiannon Watson, Miss Ali Doogan, Miss Rheannon Bellman, Mr Hector Navarro, and Miss Brianna Alsop. We thank them all for making St Helena's such a special place to be. We also extend a very special thank you to Mrs Joanna Bukara for her 13 years of service. Joanna has made St Helena's unique with her passion for Performing Arts and her dedication in the classroom. There are many students who would never have stepped upon a stage if it wasn't for Joanna's encouragement and passion for performance. Thank you, Joanna!

Looking ahead to 2026, we are excited to welcome Mrs Kym Hawthorne, Miss Rose Carter, Miss Aoife Grealley, Miss Meadh O'Connor, Miss Mikala Thomas, and Miss Lauren Thompson as classroom teachers, Charlotte Lock as our Music teacher, and Mrs Brooke Allen as our new Assistant Principal. We also welcome Miss Cat Russell back from leave. We look forward to all of them doing Something Beautiful for God at St Helena's in 2026.

2025 has been a year of faith-filled learning, strong partnerships, and continuous improvement. St Helena's Catholic Primary School has truly lived Pope Francis call to "Be pilgrims of hope and builders of peace" during this jubilee year.

Thank you to our students, families, staff, and parish for your dedication and support. Together, we have created a community where every child feels valued and encouraged to reach their potential.

A huge thank you to our staff, who every day come to school to support, nurture and encourage our students. Despite the varied roles you all undertake, you all make a difference in the lives of the children and families in our community and your commitment to St Helena's is to be admired.

As we look ahead to 2026, we give thanks for the blessings of this year and remain committed to our school motto: "Something Beautiful for God."

Wishing you all a safe and joyful Christmas and a wonderful start to the new year.

Miss Melissa Myles
Acting Principal