

Principal's Report: Mr Andrew Colley

It is my pleasure to present the 2016 Principals Report to outline the operations of the school for the year.

System Perspective

The Catholic Education System in Western Australia (CEWA), has continued its development and work towards its strategic direction under the title with supporting pillars defined in the acronym LEAD - Learning, Engagement, Accountability and Discipleship. The system and indeed our schools are setting ourselves up for transformation into new models of learning centres that cater for the needs of our children in an ever changing world.

CEWA has named this transformation "LEADing Lights" and promises to improve outcomes for students, families, schools and systems through digital transformation.

LEADing Lights is the creation of a single digital ecosystem for all CEWA schools and early years centres, as well as central and regional offices.

This landmark digital transformation initiative is designed to help every student achieve their full potential, every teacher deliver inspiring learning and every school become a flourishing happy school where students love to learn. It will also equip every principal with personal insights that enable informed decisions about the running of their school.

The impetus for this change is well described in the video, *Redesigning Learning and Teaching: A Case for Change* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9eh1QSw_ljw

Learning

Student Performance Data

2016 marks 2 years straight of positive growth across all areas of Spelling, Reading, Writing, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy in Years 3 and 5 based on 2014 and 2015 levels. Academic performance continues to be a priority for the school particularly in the areas of reading and numeracy and is an identified area for development in our strategic planning. Within the school we have developed an Action team of staff, comprising leaders, teachers and assistants to focus on developing and implementing strategies to improve the outcomes for students in literacy and numeracy. The work of this team directly impacts the goals set in our Annual School Improvement Plan and aligns with the school's strategic direction. Teaching staff have engaged in professional development days unpacking the student data to identify further areas for improvement across our school.

Walker Learning Approach

The school has continued to explore and refine the pedagogy in the Early Years classrooms. In supporting a curriculum that encourages creativity, collaboration and engagement in learning, the school has continued to embed the Walker Learning Approach. The school has successfully supported two new teachers in the early years' team in implementing Walker Learning in the classroom.

Contemporary Classrooms

Months in the research based planning, the classroom environment was designed by teachers in collaboration with the students to provide a learning environment optimised for student learning and engagement. These environments facilitate a change in teaching and learning with a move from a factory model to one that supports the goals set out by LEADing lights. I sincerely thank the board, P&F and staff for their support in enabling us to move forward.

Support

Good Shepherd has continued provide programmes that cater for the needs of all our students. Support ranges in differentiating the curriculum for our students requiring extra support for learning difficulties and those at the extension end of the classroom through programmes such as Optiminds. Teachers continue to implement Individual Education Programmes and Curriculum Adjustment Plans for those required with assistance from literacy teacher Mrs Greaves and education assistants in classrooms. Each child's reading level is monitored school wide on a monthly basis until achieving an independent reading level.

Engagement

Community Involvement

In 2016, Good Shepherd has continued to be involved in various broader community endeavours. Such as:

- Student visits to the elderly at the River Gardens Nursing Home
- Combined mass celebrations with the parish
- Christmas concerts and celebrations
- Optiminds challenge program
- Participation in the Performing Arts Festival
- Interschool Sporting events

Newsletter

This year we have upgraded our school newsletter format which provides an easy to read format for mobile devices, interactivity options for video and an ability to track readership and newsletter reach in the community.

Parent Involvement

The Good Shepherd Parents and Friends Association (P&F) completed its first year since reformation in 2016. I congratulate the Executive: President, Catherine Schaefer; Vice-President, Marie Hofmann; Treasurer, Rebecca Law and Secretary, Louise Archibald for their outstanding work this year. The P&F, have made an excellent friend-raising and fundraising contribution to the school including amongst other things, funding our contemporary classroom furniture in Years 3-6, supported projects in the school such as buses for Music performance, and preparing social events such as the well-attended Movie night get together, Disco and Bogan Bingo.

The executive has been well supported by the community, particularly those parents that took up roles of Class Representative this year. I appreciate the time and energy required to participate at meetings throughout the year, communicate the key messages and lead fundraising and other activities within your classes. Thank you for your feedback at the Captain's Table about your challenges and successes this year and I will communicate this to the Executive for 2017.

I sincerely thank the P&F for my nomination for the PFFWA school award this year.

Accountability

Staffing

Throughout the year I get but a few opportunities to acknowledge the tremendous dedication of all staff at Good Shepherd who generously fulfil their numerous vocational roles.

This year was marked with a number of changes to the leadership following the secondment of Assistant Principal, David Tunchon to St Lawrence's Bluff Point and his success in applying for the substantive position last term. I congratulate David and sincerely thank him for his many years of

service to the Good Shepherd Catholic School Community in his capacity as Assistant and Acting Principal. Due to commitments in his current role, David is unable to be with us for our end of year functions.

I wish to particularly thank to our Acting Assistant Principals Nicola Burns and Diana Newman (Semester 1) and Assistant Principal Darlene Min (Semester 2). I have truly appreciated their support and leadership of the staff. They have been instrumental in providing support and advice for myself and other staff, ensuring the day to day running of the school is maintained.

To our dedicated teachers; Laura Oorschott, Hollie Summers, Jessica Klessens, Brittany Hopkins, Nicola Burns, Alex Glasson, Barbara Stone, Renee Guazzelli, Brent Johnson, Kristy Maher, Alison Romagnolo, Phyl Greaves, Liz Allan and Diana Newman. I congratulate them on their commitment to your children, our school and community and support for the vision for Catholic Education. They generously take on many roles at one time or another and work together to make sure that the very best opportunity is given to our children.

For our teacher assistants and technicians Yvette Hargreaves, Libby Bradder, Carrie Archibald, Heather Parsons, Gail Player, Jennifer Marion-Clark and Laura Oorschot, thanks for your work and dedication in supporting our students and Teachers in the classroom.

To support staff Wendy and Linda, thank you for the service provided through our canteen and uniform shop respectively and our Groundsman Mr George Csohany for maintaining our grounds and buildings.

To Mrs Rose Bridges, our school Administration Officer and Ms Sally Northeast our Bursar, I sincerely thank you for the administration work that is crucial in enabling the school to function effectively. I am grateful for the support you have both shown to the board, families, staff and myself over the year.

At the end of this year we will farewell Mrs Alison Romagnolo (Leave replacement), and Tania Maraffa (Year 5 Admin release). I sincerely thank each of them for their contribution to our school in their time here. It has been a pleasure to work alongside each of them and wish them well in their careers. Mrs Nicola Burns, will be taking Maternity Leave. We wish Nicola and husband Chris all the very best in this exciting time of their lives.

Board

The work of the School Board is a vital aspect of the school's management and operation and all members are to be congratulated for their voluntary work many for whom this is their first year. Thanks to the Board executive in their roles this year; Chair, Mr Michael Kelly, our treasurer Mr Scott Grant and secretary Mrs Fiona Blakely. Thanks also to Peter Nelson, Jason McDonnell and Sarah Pasznicki in supporting the school in meeting to contribute to decisions for the benefit of the school and community. Many of the board members have completed their first year on the Board and I look forward to seeing them grow in the role.

Discipleship

Sacraments/Religious Education/Liturgy

Good Shepherd continued to provide the religious education curriculum and catechesis opportunities throughout 2016. The Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation were celebrated with students from our school community in the Good Shepherd Parish. I wish to thank Mrs Diana Newman and the teachers who assisted the parish in preparing the students for these sacraments. Class Masses, reconciliation services and prayer services were celebrated in each class during the year.

Whole school Masses also took place each term, including our Feast day and All Saints Day celebrations. I would like to thank our Priests, Fr Pavol and Fr Crispin for their guidance and influence on the spiritual and pastoral life of our school and their work with me in building ties between the school and parish.

Staff participated in the Catholic Staff Commissioning Mass in the Diocese at the beginning of the year and continued their study towards Accreditation by participating in orientation courses facilitated by CEWA. Staff will participate in developing the Faith Story and Witness program at the end of the term which explores our school and parish history and builds upon how we can continue to be witness to our faith. This is a particularly noted opportunity as we enter 2017, our 40-year anniversary.

Missions

Good Shepherd Catholic School continued to support various missions and charities in 2016. These included: Caritas, Project Compassion, Lifelink, Kaartdijin Week, and St Vincent De Paul Christmas appeal. The work of supporting the missions particularly resonated with our students this year with great support for our Kaartdijin Week activities and a number of student initiated fundraising and awareness campaigns such as support for Telethon.

Well-being

Throughout 2017, the school has made significant inroads in providing services and practices that support the wellbeing of our students and extending out to our community. Initiatives that have been undertaken are:

- Formation of an Action Learning team of staff to look at improving the outcomes for student well-being.
- Undertaking a commitment to adopt the Kidsmatter framework a 4-year process for improving mental health and wellbeing.
- Engagement of Parkerville Children and Youth Care organisation for taking on the important pastoral role with links to wrap around services.
- Creation of a Social / Emotional Wellbeing coordinator in the school
- Formalised lessons in developing social emotional skills in the classrooms
- Training for staff around Trauma
- Seasons for Growth program for assisting those student experiencing significant change or loss.

The school is well placed with improving academic results and indicators in our cultural data. Our Strategic Plan guides our planning and we are making inroads in achieving those outcomes after our first year.

I wish to thank all in the community who have supported me, the school and the staff in providing for our students and families in striving to achieve the school's mission. Thank you for your attendance at our community meeting tonight, I appreciate the efforts that families go through to be present at this important event.

God Bless
Andrew Colley
Principal