

2022 AGM Principal Report

Although I have only been at Good Shepherd for 6 months I have felt so welcomed that it feels like home. I would like to thank staff and families for their ongoing support to make our school the great place it is. One of the amazing things I have loved about Good Shepherd is that we cater to the “many gifts” our students have by offering a diverse program. It is interesting to note that feedback I receive from families is that there is such a positive and energetic feeling within our community. It is not only regarding the conduct of our students but also the great educational program we offer. I believe that through our diverse program we endeavour for each child to achieve their academic potential while ensuring that we place high priority on developing their spiritual, social and emotional well-being.

New staff appointed in 2022

Sarah Andrew	Carmel Guerriero (Bova)
Bec Morrell	Krystle Neal
Simone Jones	Nic Gaglia

Catholic Identity

Fr Al and Fr Paul are key contributors to the spiritual development of our students, staff and parents. I would like to thank them for their continued support to connect the school and parish. A highlight of our school year is always our Sacramental Program. This year we were very fortunate to have the Auxiliary Bishop The Most Reverend Donald Sproston co-celebrate Confirmation with Fr Al. It is wonderful that Sacraments are celebrated with the parish catechism class children as well as our retreats which are conducted together. A special thank you to the parish coordinator Mrs Liz Balm and thank you to staff and parents for the support and witness they give to the children.

Religious Education continues to be the first learning area for all year levels and aims to prepare children to live lives full of faith, hope and love no matter the challenges they face. Religious Education is reinforced in our school which aims to nurture and enrich the spiritual development of students through prayer, celebration of the liturgy, faith formation and our evangelisation projects. Throughout 2022 students have participated in events such as the Archbishop’s Lifelink appeal, Project Compassion and One Million Children Praying the Rosary. Staff were very fortunate to have our former principal Mark Powell run professional development on the topic of “Catholic world View”. Staff investigated the major differences between the secular view and the Catholic Worldview. Each week staff meet for prayer, this is a simple way for staff to reflect on their own faith and share in the spiritual journey of others.

Community

Over the past few years COVID has hindered our ability to connect with community. The P&F have worked tirelessly throughout the year with a focus on building community. This year the P&F have outdone themselves and parent involvement has exceeded expectations in these very strange times. A thank you to the P&F Executive and Committee members who tirelessly work to ensure that our students attend a great place. Events this year have included the Mother’s Day morning tea, the Father’s Day donut afternoon, the amazing bookfair and who could forget the Colour Run. These events enable us to provide resources and equipment for the students and I would like to thank them for their fundraising efforts over the past few years which raised funds towards the new and exciting playgrounds

Stewardship

I thank and acknowledge the Advisory Council for their ongoing diligence in the management of our school. It is through the support of the Advisory Council that we can maintain the financial stability of our school, while ensuring we continually seek to improve facilities and create excellent learning environments for all students. A few improvements that have occurred over 2022 have included replacement of all photocopiers, upgrade of internet services to the NBN, contribution to playground works, installation of Salto Electronic Locks on all doors to enhance security, introduction of online canteen and the addition of our amazing hall screen. Discussions continue regarding the construction of a new Early Childhood Education Centre.

Education

The academic focus for the school year has been to continue to improve outcomes for all students with a focus on Mathematics and English. Our support programs of Reading Recovery, Earobics, Sensory, Cooking Club, Lego Club, Homework Club, have been very beneficial in improving students learning. The Enrichment Program has assisted gifted and talented students by providing academic extension through the application of creative and critical thinking skills. Teachers have used the West Australian Curriculum to plan and assess and have collected a variety of standardised data and continually collect formative and summative data to evaluate the children's work in order guide instruction and planning. The 2022 NAPLAN results should be celebrated as the data emphasizes the outstanding improvement of student learning across all assessed learning areas. This is a great affirmation of the excellent teaching and learning experiences teachers are creating for students.

Staff have engaged in a variety of professional learning experiences throughout 2022. These involved First Aid including Anaphylaxis and Asthma, an in depth look at the Catholic Education WA Wellbeing Framework, Maths number talks, new literacy program called PLD and the development of a school Vision for learning. While staff engaged in many activities the students have had the opportunity to be involved in activities such as R U OK day, the Performing Arts Festival, Kiddo , Auskick, the Premier's Reading Challenge, the World's Greatest Shave, Year 6 Leadership Day, Music night, NAIDOC week, Interschool sports, Science week, Indigenous Round AFL, swimming lesson and Book Week

As a principal I am proud to be a part of Good Shepherd and to have such outstanding staff who through their continued excellent practice make Good Shepherd a high quality place for children to learn. Each individual staff member adds something to our school in their own special way. They not only make this a great place to learn but an inspirational place for a child to grow as an individual. It is through their continued professionalism and desire to improve the lives of our children that they can make such a difference. To our wonderful staff in the office Adelina, Siobhan, Jenny and Angela I would like to thank them for the way in which they make all individuals feel so welcome and valued and for the wonderful assistance they give me on a daily basis. I would like to thank Renae, Lisa and Katie our Assistant Principals, for their continued support and enthusiasm to always strive for each individual to achieve excellence. They tirelessly work with students, staff and parents to ensure that students receive the best care and education possible. A special mention to Lisa for her wonderful work as principal during the first half of the year. Covid made Lisa's job even more difficult, however she rose to the occasion and ensured the school ran smoothly. To belong to such an amazing school is a privilege I cherish. I hope everyone realises that we have a unique and high quality school.