



2021 Annual Community Meeting Principal's Report

Good evening everyone.

It is truly an honour to be speaking with you this evening as Principal of Our Lady of Fatima School. It is important to occasionally pause and look over what has been achieved- an Annual Community Meeting provides such an opportunity for a school community.

I have previously written about the joy that I have felt in joining the Fatima community in July. I can see that belonging to this community is pervaded by a sense of kindness and welcome, something that I have experienced firsthand and am extremely grateful for. However, for us all, it has been also a year of change. School priorities have shifted with the change in leadership and through feedback that we have sought from the students, parents and staff of the Fatima community.

There have been many accomplishments this year. One of the most significant was the re-articulation of the school's vision and mission. Our vision statement "nurturing lifelong learners, who live out Jesus' message of love and peace" is designed to be aspirational, to capture what we hope all students at Our Lady of Fatima will be at the conclusion of their primary schooling. We strive to meet this vision through our mission statement, which states that we at Fatima:

- Provide a holistic Catholic education where the teachings of Christ are lived, valued and promoted;
- Strive for excellence and through contemporary pedagogies, support the resilience, curiosity, creativity and social and emotional wellbeing of each child;

- Foster a sense of community through meaningful relationships with students, staff, parents, parish and wider community; and
- Maintain an innovative learning environment, embracing sustainable practices.

Each of these statements connects with a wider system focus called Quality Catholic Education, organised under the four pillars of Catholic Identity, Education, Community and Stewardship. We also have identified key values that we want to focus on as a school community, connected with the motto of peace: respect, compassion, gratitude and forgiveness. We will explore these values more in 2022 through a wider focus on wellbeing.

I truly believe in being intentional, that is, purposefully implementing approaches and practices that are inherently connected with our vision and mission. Staff and parent data was used to create our strategic intents for 2022-2024, which outline our key aims for the next three years, again connected to the Quality Catholic Education pillars as outlined previously. These goals will be drilled down into achievable yearly focuses, which I will talk to in this next section of the report.

The Catholic Identity of Our Lady of Fatima School is clearly visible, reminding us that Jesus is central to all we do in a Catholic school. Students are involved in regular prayer experiences throughout the day and each morning our Year 6 students lead our school in saying the school prayer, which was developed this year. While there have been some disruption due to the pandemic, we have had opportunities for students to engage in liturgies and masses. As part of the parish, students have celebrated the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation, coordinated by Mrs Szefczyk. In 2021, Fatima has actively supported the following charities- Caritas through Project Compassion, Telethon and the Vinnie's Christmas appeal. In preparation for the celebration of the 100 years of Our Lady of Fatima School in 2023, next year we will be working with the students to understand the namesake of our school and create visual representations of the story of Our Lady of Fatima around the school grounds.

There have been many achievements under the Education pillar in 2021. Religious Education (RE) is considered the first learning area in a Catholic

school and students have daily RE lessons. This year, the Year 3's and 5's have completed the Bishops' Religious Literacy Assessment, which assesses the students' knowledge in the area of RE. At Fatima this year, there has been an emphasis on increasing cultural awareness of Aboriginal perspectives, specifically the Noongar culture, across all learning areas. This focus culminated in the NAIDOC celebrations earlier this year. In 2022, we will continue to develop this understanding by focusing specifically on incorporating Aboriginal perspectives in the area of Religious Education.

A focus in our early years in 2021 has been on using children's interests and learning to reflect on practice. Staff in the early years have engaged in these self-reflections, working towards the National Quality Standards. As a teaching staff, we have been privileged to work with Carma de Groot from Catholic Education WA in creating a shared Fatima vision for learning. We have focused on the elements of place, space and technology and have begun exploring best practice in the area of student engagement. This will continue to be a priority area next year. Also in 2022, all staff will be continuing to focus on constructing a shared approach to literacy teaching and learning, with specific emphasis on the area of spelling. We will also continue to critically reflect on student data to inform the teaching and learning program. In exciting news for next year, we will be revamping our specialist learning areas offered at Fatima to consist of Visual arts, performing arts, Science, STEM, Italian and Physical Education for all students from Pre-Primary to Year 6.

Community is often mentioned as the greatest strength of Our Lady of Fatima School. There have been wonderful community events this year with the easing of COVID restrictions, such as our Open Afternoon, sports carnivals and P&F events. One key emphasis in 2021 has been on the importance of student voice. There are several ways that this has been explored, including through a student suggestion box, our Year 6 leaders and through Picnic with the Principal, which involves groups of six to eight students meeting with me once a week to share their thoughts about the school. Our key emphasis for this pillar in 2022 is to develop a shared whole-school understanding of wellbeing. As part of this will be an

ongoing focus on mindfulness, Christian meditation, Protective Behaviours and social and emotional learning.

It is certainly no secret that our school has been impacted by several significant maintenance issues this year, primarily due to the large amounts of rain experienced. The school, supported by School Advisory Council, are working with Catholic Education WA to create a plan for addressing these issues. We have also been working closely with Catholic Education WA to begin the process of upgrading our technology infrastructure. In 2022, with the support of the P&F, we will be aiming to resource our indoor and outdoor spaces to reflect contemporary approaches to teaching and learning. We will also be striving to support all staff in their professional growth through the implementation of evidence-based performance management.

I conclude my report this evening by expressing my gratitude:

To everyone in the Fatima parent community – thank you for the trust you place in us in sending your children to Our Lady of Fatima School. We value your commitment to the school and appreciate your support and enthusiasm for all initiatives.

To the wonderful ladies who volunteer in the uniform shop, Natasha, Melissa and Sharon – we are grateful for the amount of time and patience you have for us all. We have a small token of our appreciation to present to you now if you would like to come forward.

To Zanda, Emma, Anita, Clare, Lauryn and all members of the P&F - I sincerely thank you for all you have contributed to the school over the past year. There are so many school events such as the P&F disco, Father's Day breakfast, colour run, mulch drive and so many more that are designed to bring our community together, which have been run by committed parents. Since arriving, I have felt a strong partnership with the P&F and we are so deeply appreciative of everything you have done for the good of our school community. Anita will not be continuing in the P&F Executive next year, so we would like to thank her for all that she has contributed. I invite her forward to receive a small token of our appreciation.

To the School Advisory Council - I offer my heartfelt thanks for all you do for the Fatima community. You have been highly supportive of the school through the change in leadership, oversight of the financial situation and looking towards the future. As David, Natasha and Sharon depart the School Advisory Council this year, I wish to particularly thank each of them for their dedication and passion that they have shown to all things Fatima. We have a small gift to present to each of them now to express our gratitude and I invite them forward to receive these now.

To Father Francis – you are the heart of the Fatima community and the prime reason for the wonderful partnership between parish and school. We are so appreciative of your kindness, your support of school masses and sacraments and your presence within our community. You are a true model of Jesus to all of us through your leadership.

To the staff – your dedication to Our Lady of Fatima School is greatly appreciated and I am looking forward to working with you in coming years to work towards our vision and mission. I would like to extend my appreciation and thanks to Kath Pratley and Daniela Walker, who will be completing their time at our school this year. We wish them every success in their future endeavours.

To Gaynor and Amy, our administration team- I cannot thank you enough for all that you do for the good of our students, parents and staff. Thank you sincerely for all of your assistance in particular in supporting me in my first six months as Principal.

To Rob and Renae, our Assistant Principals – your passion and commitment to Our Lady of Fatima is to be commended. You are wonderful colleagues in leadership and your hard work is appreciated by all. Renae, we wish you every success in your yearlong secondment to Aranmore Catholic Primary School in 2022.

Finally, I wish the whole community a joyous and holy Christmas, and every best wish for the new year.