



2022 Annual Community Meeting Principal's Report

Good evening parents, staff and community members. I welcome you all to the Our Lady of Fatima School Annual Community Meeting for 2022, held in conjunction with the P&F and School Advisory Council.

What a year 2022 has been! As we began the year, I had been reflecting on our school motto of peace. As I wrote in the first newsletter of the year, I shared that this motto goes way back to the story of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal in 1916-1917. When the Angel first appeared to the 3 children (Francisco, Jacinta and Lucia), Lucia recalled that he said to them 'Do not be afraid. I am the Angel of Peace. Pray with me'. When the children saw Mary for the first time, she emphasised the importance of praying the Rosary to facilitate peace in the world, which we can understand considering the fact that the First World War was going on at this time. Global events this year, including the Ukraine/ Russian war and the impact that COVID has had on our state since we opened our borders, have really created quite a tumultuous year. This simple school motto has often been my mantra as we have navigated all that 2022 has brought with it.

In reflecting on everything that has occurred this year, it feels like we have all lived several lives! However, I am incredibly proud of the way the students, staff and community have embraced these challenges. Before I speak to the many accomplishments of 2022, I would like to make special mention of all of the staff for the way that they supported students and families in responding to the COVID restrictions, particularly in Term 1 and early Term 2. Staff went above and beyond to ensure continuity of learning for students, whether they were in class or working remotely.

In 2021, we revamped our school vision- “nurturing lifelong learners, who live out Jesus’ message of love and peace”, as well as our school mission. Using feedback from our whole community, we also developed our 2022-2024 *Strategic Intent*s, which outline our key aims for this period, connected to the Quality Catholic Education pillars of Catholic Identity, Education, Community and Stewardship. These goals are narrowed into achievable yearly focuses, which I will talk to in this next section of this report. As I reflect back over 2022, I believe we have made excellent progress towards these goals, with the support of the staff, parents, School Advisory Council and P&F.

At Our Lady of Fatima School, we aim to provide a holistic Catholic education where the teachings of Christ are lived, valued and promoted. There are many ways that this has been experienced across the year. Students in Years 3, 4 and 6 celebrated the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation respectively, with the support of Father Francis, Mrs Lorraine Szefczyk, parents and teachers. Under the leadership of our Year 6 Ministry Leaders, our school has supported Project Compassion, LifeLink, Wheelchair for Kids and the Vinnie’s Christmas Appeal. Each class in Pre-Primary to Year 6 have attended a parish Mass once per term, which has delighted many of the parishioners. We have also joined together for whole school prayer services and liturgies across the year.

In 2022, we have begun to focus on exploring the school’s religious history and traditions through creating visual representations of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima. Currently, our Year 6 students are working on their farewell gift to the school, in which they are transforming the grotto outside the old uniform shop. A big thank you to Mrs Amanda Bennetts, Mrs Jane Ahern, Ray and the students for all of their work on this project. Another project that is in its beginning stages and also is being led by Mrs Bennetts, will involve all students in 2023 creating a piece of a mosaic cross to be displayed on the wall adjacent to the courts. I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the P&F for providing financial support for this project. In 2023, the school and parish will be celebrating 100 years within the Palmyra area. Many celebrations are being planned to commemorate this remarkable achievement and a joint parish/school group has been established to begin the planning.

Under the pillar of Education, our school strives for excellence and through contemporary pedagogies, supports the resilience, curiosity, creativity and social and emotional wellbeing of each child. In 2022, the school introduced visual arts and STEM, in addition to Italian, Physical Education, Science and Performing Arts, as specialist learning areas for students in Pre-Primary to Year 6. These learning areas have been experienced positively by the students and help to ensure that we provide a holistic education to our Fatima students. The Sounds Write literacy support program, led by Mrs Lisa McCarthy for students in Years 1 to 4, has continued to produce pleasing results. Mrs Denise Plain has provided an enrichment program for students in Years 1 to 6, which included some of our Year 5 and 6 students being involved in the Creative Edge problem solving challenge at Curtin university. Some other highlights of our year include Fatima's Got Talent and the public speaking competition, both of which provide opportunities for our students to demonstrate their diverse gifts. Some of our middle and upper primary students have represented our school in interschool sporting competitions across the year, including cricket, cross country, athletics, netball, football, soccer, handball, modcross and league tag, with the interschool swimming carnival this Friday. They have done a fantastic job and we thank Mr Oz Celenza for his coordination of these events.

This year, under the leadership of Mrs Sandra Leavy, the school created an articulation of the early years' philosophy, a statement of beliefs about the approach to early childhood education at Fatima. This is displayed outside of the Kindergarten to Year 2 classrooms. In 2022, we have begun to work towards developing whole-school educational approaches that cater for learner diversity and fosters creativity, engagement and achievement in the area of spelling. In 2023, the school will implement the PLD synthetic phonics program for students in Kindy to Year 6 after a significant amount of research and professional learning in the area of spelling. Another focus in 2022 has been to critically reflect on student data about learning and development to inform the learning and teaching program. Under the leadership of Mrs Katie Closey, staff have implemented the Brightpath assessment program to support teacher judgements and have also engaged in analysing NAPLAN data and moderating student work

samples. Staff have used this information to differentiate and target the learning program for students in their classes. In 2023, Mrs Alison Romagnolo will be coordinating MacLit as a literacy support program into the upper years and Mrs Closey will be running a small Mathematics support program for students in Years 1 and 2. We will also continue to develop our whole-school literacy approaches.

As I speak with families seeking to enrol their students in the school, the most common answer I receive when I ask 'why Fatima' is due to the community. We are blessed with strong and meaningful relationships between students, parents, staff, parish and the wider community. Our P&F have worked tirelessly across the year and also impacted significantly by COVID restrictions, to continue to foster this community through events such as Mothers' Day, Fathers' Day, the parent mingle night, as well as supporting school events such as the Open Afternoon and sports carnivals. In 2022, our school focus has been to establish a shared understanding of wellbeing within the school community. Several initiatives have occurred in this space this year, including the development of a student Code of Conduct, which all students from Kindy to Year 6 provided input into, as well as staff professional learning about wellbeing, wellbeing as the theme for the Year 6 leadership day, the review of our behaviour engagement procedures and communication about wellbeing through the newsletter. I thank Miss Kiera More for her work in this area in 2022. This year, we have implemented the Fatima Way. In order to promote a positive school environment, we want to honour our students who live out the school vision. Our students might live this out by displaying our school values (respect, forgiveness, compassion and gratitude) or by demonstrating behaviour that exemplifies the student code of conduct (safe, included, supported, engaged, peaceful). When this is witnessed, students are presented with a small certificate that describes why they have been acknowledged and this may be shared with parents via Seesaw. In 2023, Mr Michael Ferguson will be joining our staff as a part-time student counsellor, to continue to support the wellbeing needs of our students here at Fatima.

In the area of Stewardship, Fatima is working towards maintaining an innovative learning environment, embracing sustainable practices. We have been so blessed to have the support of the P&F and the community, whose huge fundraising efforts have allowed for upgrades to the Pre-Primary playground and the purchase of contemporary classroom furniture for Years 3 to 6. We hope by the start of 2023, all items would have arrived and be available to support student learning and we will continue to work with the P&F in 2023 to continue these upgrades. In 2022, we have upgraded the basketball backboards and nets, replaced shade sails, replaced classroom sliding doors across the school and upgraded a significant amount of IT infrastructure. This year, as one of our school improvement goals, we have created and implemented staff development procedures. It also has been wonderful working with Luisa, Adam and Marta, as representatives of the School Advisory Council and P&F, to developing a marketing action plan for 2023.

Our Lady of Fatima School completed the Non-Government School Registration Standards Audit this year. This was a comprehensive task, in which all Catholic and Independent schools are required to complete once every 5 years. There were 15 registration standards that the school had to meet in order to be compliant and the school submitted written evidence and met with auditors on 1 September. I am pleased to announce that the school was deemed compliant with all standards, and I thank Rob Haddrill and the School Advisory Council, as well as all staff, for their work in achieving this outcome.

As I conclude this report, I would like to express my gratitude:

- To our parents, grandparents and all within our Fatima Community- it is truly an honour that you choose our school, and we are so grateful for all you contribute to making this such a special community.
- While we have officially thanked Sharon and Mel already for all of their work towards the uniform shop, again I thank them for everything they did during their years volunteering and also for their support with the transition to Spartan.
- To the P&F Executive, all class representatives and members of the P&F- after effectively losing at least a term to COVID restrictions, what a year they have had. The time, effort and generosity shown has

been extraordinary and the school has benefitted enormously from their work. A sincere thank you to our outgoing President Zanda and Treasurer Clare, for everything they have contributed to the P&F over the years. Clare could unfortunately not be here tonight, but can I invite Zanda forward to receive a small token of our appreciation.

- To the School Advisory Council- it has been wonderful working with you this year to revamp the school uniform and transition to Spartan's online uniform shop. Rob, thank you for your counsel, wisdom and the gentle leadership you have shown in your first year as School Advisory Council chair. I have also greatly appreciated the support of Lyndelle and John, who have been instrumental in working with the architect and Catholic Education WA, with the aim of the school being assessed for capital funding for remedial works to the roof and upgrade of student toilets. I am grateful to Lucy for her years of work supporting Amy, Paul Hansen and myself with all things finance. As Lucy, John and Lyndelle conclude their time on the School Advisory Council, I ask them to come forward to accept a small token of our appreciation.
- To Father Francis and the parish- we love working in partnership with you and we are grateful for your pastoral leadership. We look forward to celebrating the centenary of the school and parish in 2023.
- To the teachers and assistants- thank you for all you do to nurture and educate the beautiful young people in our community. I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to Katrina Abreu, Sabrina Reardon, Skye Cannon, Ria Fernando, Katrina Phelan, and Jacinta Vasile, who have completed their time at our school this year. We wish them every success in their future endeavours. This year, Rob La Roche was appointed as Principal of St Brigid's School in Collie. While we have officially farewelled him mid year, I would like to note in this report his significant contribution over his 9 years of service to the Fatima Community.
- To Gaynor and Amy, our administration team, as well as Mary and Jenny who have assisted in Amy's absence this year- your patience, hard work and support for all members of our community is greatly appreciated.

- To Alison, our Assistant Principal- I have loved working with you over the past 6 months and I thank you for your enthusiasm, leadership, and support of students and staff.

Finally, I wish the whole community a joyous and holy festive season, and we look forward to seeing everyone happy and healthy in 2023.