

HOLY ROSARY ANNUAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY MEETING 5PM
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2019

ANNUAL SCHOOL PRIORITIES REPORT - PRINCIPAL

Welcome everyone and thank you for attending tonight's meeting. It is great to see some new faces here! I appreciate the opportunity to report to you on what has been a good year. I have another good one coming, but that's another story!

I want to thank all of the people in our community that have been so supportive. People have given generously of their time and expertise in many ways. Holy Rosary School is what it is because of you.

My report does not focus on statistics as they are available everywhere else. Rather, it provides me with an opportunity to report on some of the things which have taken place this year, and to thank a whole lot of people who made these and many other great times a reality.

I would like to thank Our Lady of the Rosary parish for their support of the children of Holy Rosary in the form of liturgical and sacramental celebrations. The parish-based sacramental model here is an excellent one, and has been particularly successful. It grows and changes every year, for the better. We thank parish administrator Kaye Shervington, as well as our staff involved for their great work and support of our children. Aleana has been very successful in embracing and developing further our relationship with the parish which has been most valuable. Thank you Aleana!

Father Peter and Father Chinh are such an asset to our community. We so enjoy the positive and productive relationship that we have with you. I have worked in a number of schools and parishes, and I am grateful that we are a part of a Dominican parish with a strong charism, led by great priests. To

Father Peter, your commitment to supporting the children in our school is both transparent and invaluable. Thank you indeed.

To people:

- To Claire Wilson we farewell you following a lovely semester in Year Four. The children have so enjoyed your kind, good humoured approach - thankyou! We wish you great things for 2020.
- And to Kelsey Stribbling, thank you for three great terms in Year Five! You have proven yourself to be capable and resilient, and I know that St Mary's in Northampton will be a wonderful experience for you.
- Tess Jacobs moves to a new address in North Beach! Thank you Tess for your work in Year One these two years. We really appreciate your commitment to Holy Rosary.
- Some of our Siena Assistants leave us this year after many years of service, contributing to the well-being of many of our wonderful Siena children. To Ameer Walker, Julie Rispoli and Sheila Hearson, you all leave a lovely legacy here of kindness and compassion, hallmarks of our Centre and for which you will be fondly remembered. Thank you indeed.
- Lydia Della Saul has done an outstanding job of running the Uniform shop. Now that we are going on-line we farewell Lydia, whose matter of fact and very organised approach has been valued by so many. Thank you Lydia!
- Jen Rudyard, after 18 years at Holy Rosary, and currently in her second year at St Joseph's Kununurra, has accepted the position of Assistant Principal Primary at St Mary's in Broome. We congratulate Jen, thank her for her support of our students over many years, and express our admiration for her commitment to what is effectively a whole new world for her.

There are many people to thank for this year, and they include:

- Geordie, Principal of Holy Rosary for 2020, thank you for another great year. And I know you will embrace 2020 with much

enthusiasm, for you are deeply connected to this place. The Capital Development Plan scheduled to commence and be completed in 2020 is a major undertaking and I wish you every success in making this real.

- Aleana, who joined us this year as Assistant Principal, you have been such an asset to our community. This is your kind of place! It has been wonderful working with someone so smart, pastoral, capable, and able to give as good as she gets! It didn't take long for Geordie and I to work that out!
- Leanna who runs our tuckshop like no other, your glass half full take on everything - including moving all the way to the hall next year! Is a major bonus to us all. Thank you Leanna!
- Our admin staff, Laurie, Lisa and Michele have experienced some extraordinary issues this year with the continued transition from cash to accrual accounting, to managing the expectations from Deloitte's auditors, to learning how to use the new Administration of Schools system, to realigning practices and policies, now that Catholic Education Western Australia is going to become an incorporated body - it is no wonder! But testament to your resiliency, optimism and your ability, you have pushed through and we are getting closer to the finish line - all the while looking out for the needs of our children, staff and parents. Thank you very much for everything you have done in this huge year. Lisa I cannot tell you how pleased we are that you have joined our team. You are a gift to us.
- For 2020, Holy Rosary welcomes back Sylvia Ryan who has been on leave for all of 2019. Kaitlin Passmore from Northam, Liz Iacomella from Hong Kong and the UK and Ashleigh Pedler from Geraldton join the Holy Rosary teaching team next year, and are very excited about the prospect of doing so. I know you will make them welcome!

Academically our literacy and numeracy initiatives focus on what makes a difference. We continue with our Brightpath writing journey, our focus on mathematical vocabulary, spelling, and more. Professional Learning Community meetings continue to be a powerful medium through which we build capacity in our team of teachers and assistants. Geordie and Aleana

have embraced their support and enrichment roles, working across all classes. This year, the school's intervention programmes of Fundamental Understanding in Numeracy and Levelled Literacy Intervention have been extended with the involvement of Aleana and Geordie working with class teachers to provide both enrichment and support for their children. This has worked very successfully. I thank them for the creative and engaging ways in which they have embraced these opportunities, and our class teachers for the enthusiasm with which they have embraced this model of support.

The focus on improving communication continues. This year the added level of communication developed by Sue Griffin has really been remarkably successful. It proved invaluable when informing our community about how we were going to keep school normal during the renovations this year, including those to the hall, and for next year with the Capital Development Plan. Thank you Sue!

Technology in society is ubiquitous. The commitment here from all of our staff is to develop in children the responsible use of technology. Devices in our school are seen as tools to assist in the achievement of learning outcomes. This commitment continues. Caroline Mullins plays a central role in our platform being quick and reliable and cost effective. Thank you Caroline.

At a faith level, MJR or Making Jesus Real, gets stronger and stronger, proof positive of a lived faith in the twenty first century. This year also provided the opportunity to present a renewed Faith, Story and Witness programme for all staff, together with time made available in the day to engage in Christian service to our parish, Our Lady of the Rosary. This was a lovely day and it was successful on all counts. I thank all of our staff for the way in which they have supported MJR, our parish, and Faith, Story and Witness in our school.

We have continued to enjoy much success in the sporting arena with a lot to celebrate – Rob Flexman runs an excellent

programme, but Rob would be the first to admit that it would not be what it is without the support of the many staff and parents involved. The programme is much more than a primary school sports programme. Rob has made it his business to seek and secure opportunities for our children to do different, challenging and enjoyable things. Thank you Rob and thank you everyone who has been involved.

Music continues to evolve at Holy Rosary and I thank Michelle Kirwan for continuing to learn to play on her guitar more and more of the songs we sing at mass. Michelle has also continued the 'Drumbeat' programme in Year Five this year. It is an exceptional programme and the feedback has been very positive. Thank you Michelle! Musica Viva and Performing Arts featured in this year's programme, which continues to evolve. Long may it continue - thank you Michelle.

Edudance continued this year, moving in to the music agenda, and again, it was great fun as well as being a major exercise in building the co-ordination and team skills of the children.

The profile of the Science learning area continues to change, and I thank Tanya Skinner for continuing to work on the way in which this great subject is taught. Having a room - albeit for just a short time! - which has been transformed assists in no small measure. I promise you'll get it back!

Holly Butson has truly made the library resource area her own. This year, Holly also embraced the role of Pastoral worker - Student Well-being. Holly I think you were made for these roles. Under your leadership the library is a thriving and friendly space. Your new added role has had a transformative effect, with new programmes replacing some of the old ones and enhancing others. The responses from staff, children and parents have been both admiring and appreciative. We are delighted Holly!

To the Siena team, a great year. The teamwork between Liz and Holly has been exceptional, and again with major benefits for many children. Liz, your commitment, dedication, collaborative approach and sense of humour

make Siena fun! To Liz, Renate, Robyn and to all of our Siena Assistants, I thank each of you very much for your deep commitment to the education and well-being of our Siena children. The children are remarkable, and so are you! The new Siena Centre, slated for completion in 2020 will mean that you finally have a beautiful and welcoming space to work in and enjoy together with the children.

We want our children to have the best education – in all of its facets – that we can give them. That can only become real when our staff are on the same page and understand the what, the why and the how when it comes to change. I thank them for their understanding of the need for change and embracing it.

Our staff and class lists are made available on Friday morning - via See Saw. It is important to note that Friday's information about staffing and classes for 2019 is made public in good faith. Sometimes, due to circumstances beyond our control, things change over the break, but the information which will be shared on Friday reflects the situation as best we know it.

I would like to thank the members of our School Board, led so capably, by Jonathon Woolfrey. Jonathon completes six years of membership of the board and steps down at the end of the year. Our community has been blessed with his leadership of the School Board and he will be missed – although we will still see plenty of him and his wife Carli, as all four children attend school! He has played a central role in encouraging our School Board to develop strategies to secure the future of the school. Jonathon initiated the survey of parents, parish, staff and students to discern what all parties wanted from the school, and how they could contribute to that vision.

The outcome of that process is our Strategic Plan you see today. Unlike the strategic plan of any other school in our system, it clearly and succinctly captures the essence of Holy Rosary and sets clear targets for the community to focus on in the future. This, together with the progress of

the 2020 Capital Development Plan have been major achievements of Jonathon's leadership of the Board. His involvement on the board has been unconditional and he has played a key role in ensuring our school's place in the twenty first century. Catholic Education Western Australia asked Jonathon to present a session at the recent conference for school board leaders on school boards of the future. This is testament to the respect Jonathon has at system level for his insight, clarity of vision and commitment to catholic education.

It has been a very big year for the Board with strategic planning, representation on staff appointment panels, financial decision making and capital development planning for the future of the school. We have been blessed to have people so supportive of the aims of the school who are prepared to serve the community in this way.

The role of the P&F is to build community, to support the school in its initiatives and to empower parents in their role. All these are central to a successful school, and I believe that our P&F gets that and experiences a lot of success accordingly. Mark Nolan steps down this year after two years as P&F President. He has done a great job and has had enthusiastic support from many. He has encouraged our parents to look at and do things differently. The alignment of events with different year groups for example has started well and will continue to grow stronger. It is a response to the changing world we live in. There has been a lot of support for that approach.

Much has been undertaken by the P&F, for which we are very grateful. Every meeting has been an opportunity to discuss matters of real significance, and witness the support that exists for the direction the school is taking.

The alignment between Board and P&F has been both strong, and clear. Unity of purpose makes us a stronger, better school, and I would like to express my appreciation to Jonathon and Mark, our School Board

members and P&F Executive members for what has been an exceptional year.

And overall, our parents have provided terrific support for what we do in the school. There is no way that we could do what we do, without you. From the Pastoral Care, in times of great sadness when families have needed support, to fundraising, class rosters, tuckshop duty, making playdough, assisting on excursions and at sports carnivals, art classes, listening to children read, banking, coaching, building – it is a massive list!

We have a lot to be thankful for. Our school continues to grow and change. Our children have been involved in wonderful spiritual, sporting, cultural and academic pursuits, and have thrived. I believe that we have worked hard on the journey, faithful to our strategic plan, to effectively implement our school priorities. A good Catholic education in these times is really interesting and diverse, with wonderful opportunities made available to children by their dedicated teachers and assistants. Having nice classrooms and learning spaces to engage them in is very important, but in it all, there is no substitute for quality of teaching and learning, and most of all, the quality of relationships. To that end I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the energetic, committed team of teachers and support staff we have at Holy Rosary who have done so much to ensure that the education made available to children is both rich and varied.

The Dominican tradition is about about Truth, Love and Knowledge in the spirit of Making Jesus Real, and I thank everyone at Holy Rosary for embracing that, and making it the place that it is today.

Thank you very much. See you in 2021!
Mark de Kluyver
November 2019