

St Michael's Bassendean AGM Principal's Report 2016

It is my privilege to present the 2016 Principal's report to the St Michael's community. Once again the level of involvement and support from our beautiful community has been outstanding. As usual, I have been impressed and very appreciative of the high level of support the P&F and Board members have shown towards St Michael's. There is a very genuine desire to work collaboratively to help make this a better school for everyone here.

Parish relations have continued to be very positive during the past 12 months and Fr Son has done an outstanding job of working with us in partnership to make our community a better place to be. This year we trialled the new parish based sacramental programme for the Year 4 and Year 6 students. As you may know, the Bishops want the sacraments to be more parish based and less school directed. Next year, we will take further steps forward by having all commitment Masses run by the parish. We will also look at making the Reconciliation programme more parish based. With the enrolment ceremonies, the students simply choose a parish Mass on a designated weekend, and then they make their pledges. The parish will organise the music, readings etc. It worked really well this year and we look forward to improving the process even more next year.

There have been a number of significant achievements this year in terms of improving the facilities at St Michael's. In line with our Annual School Improvement Plan, we have completely upgraded our IT resources. Our last lease expired and after more than 12 months of consultation with CEWA staff, our staff and the Board, we have come up with a plan that should cater for our students' needs for the next three years. We have installed brand new servers, 15 PCs mainly in the administration block, 49 MacBook Airs and 132 iPads. This has been a significant improvement and each classroom has at least 24 iPads for the students to use. The Year 4, 5 and 6 students have a bank of 16 MacBook Airs to share and the lab has a further 33. As well as this, the staff have begun a process of deepening their own knowledge and skills in this area with external consultants providing professional development in ICT capabilities and digital pedagogies. Two professional development days of Kagan Cooperative Learning with iPads have also been booked for 2017.

On this year's improvement plan, was the goal of introducing new and contemporary furniture into the Library. We installed new tables on wheels, rocking Hokki stools for those students who love to fidget and conundrum tables which the students can stand around and write directly onto. We have also given Year 4 a makeover with new furniture, carpet and a coat of paint. Next year we will do a similar thing in the multipurpose room and put new furniture into a couple of other classrooms. The facilities in our school are generally modern and in excellent condition, and we aim to continue updating them every year.

This year, we identified Mathematics as an area to focus on in our improvement plan. As a result, myself, Lisa Liebregts and Jacque Fox enrolled into a Maths Pilot Programme which was run through CEWA. This Numeracy Project had a big focus on improving the way we teach mathematics through the use of rich open ended problem solving tasks. We will

continue to improve in this area next year under the guidance of Dr Paul Swan from Edith Cowan University. Two professional development days have been booked with Paul.

One of our goals in last year's improvement plan was to get all NAPLAN data above the National mean in all areas and I'm pleased to say that we did achieve this in 2016. It is the culmination of a lot of work over a long period of time and I would like to acknowledge all staff members for their contributions. I have said this on many occasions, that the teachers at St Michael's are the best ones I have ever worked with.

The educational focus for next year will continue to be the Australian Curriculum, early intervention strategies, extension strategies, Co-operative Learning, 21st Century Fluencies (inquiry based learning) and the integration of technology into the classroom. I am very confident that the staff are delivering the world's best practice to your children. Our goal next year is to become the first Kagan Model school in Australia. It would be a big achievement, but I believe that we are up for it. On top of this, we are going to focus on implementing team builders and class builders on a more regular basis. This will be supported by the coaching and mentoring programme we have implemented in this area.

Our "Living our Mercy Values" document is nearing completion and will be posted onto our website early next year. This will clearly show what we are doing to reconnect to our Mercy tradition and charism. A lot has already been done, especially developing our relationship with Sr Joan Kelleher, and we look forward to keeping the Mercy spirit alive and strong in our community.

Many of the successes already listed in this report have come straight from last year's Annual School Improvement Plan.

I would like to thank the Board members for their support this year. It has been a less intense year, now that our building programmes are completed. The IT upgrade was the main job we undertook this year, and the end result has been outstanding. I also extend my gratitude to any Board and P&F members who are finishing their terms this year as well as those who have elected to stay on for next year. The P&F have again provided valuable resources into all classrooms this year. They had a different focus which looked at lots of smaller resources, rather than the big projects we have undertaken over the past few years. The P&F have done a great job of helping to build strong and positive relationships in our community as well as providing resources which are always greatly appreciated.

I would now like to acknowledge the fantastic staff members at St Michael's. They are all so dedicated and talented and I constantly receive positive feedback from the parents – which is a rare thing in our modern society. They are all a joy to work with and I have certainly appreciated their support this year. To all of you, I say thank you for all of your hard work and dedication.

Sadly, we farewell Jacki Tucker as she has been promoted to the Assistant Principalship at St Lawrence's in Balcatta. Whilst it is a big loss for us, it is a great opportunity for Jacki and I wish her well for a very bright future. In 2017, Dave Caddy will be taking 12 months leave

and we certainly look forward to welcoming him back in 2018. I'm sure Dave will be busy surfing and writing books! Enjoy your time away Dave!

In their places, I'm very happy to welcome Mark Tenney and Laura Marzo into our beautiful community. Mark comes from Mercy College in Mirrabooka and Laura comes from St Peter's in Inglewood. I'm sure you will also make them welcome.

Whilst the whole staff has been outstanding this year, I would like to make special mention of Lisa Liebregts, Jacque Fox, Robyn Imbrosciano and Del Murray. They have done a huge amount of work behind the scenes to make sure this school runs as well as it does. I thank them also for their counsel and openness to implementing strategies to make St Michael's the best place it possibly can be.

Yours sincerely

Laurie Bechelli