



St Lawrence's Primary School Bluff Point

2018 Principal's Report

2018 has seen many and varied experiences for us all. I'd like to mention just a few major initiatives that have occurred at St Lawrence's which I believe have had a significant impact on the learning and development of our children.

Major developments in Aboriginal Education saw many new initiatives introduced to St Lawrence's throughout the year. We established a dance group for aboriginal students to perform both at school and in the community mentored by a local aboriginal young man. Some of our other events included the painting of our Yarning Circle, (previously known as 'the pyramid) by students, staff, Yamatji Art Gallery assistant Nicole Dickerson and parents, all guided by the expertise and gentle guidance of local aboriginal artist Margaret Whitehouse from Yamatji Art. This was made possible through a PALS grant from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

This painting of our new Yarning Circle has been a wonderful addition to our playground and enhanced our teaching/learning opportunities throughout the school. Using Acknowledgement of Country at our gatherings by students and staff, along with



the placement of welcome plaques throughout the school is helping to develop an even more mindful approach to our teaching and learning about our first nation's culture. A team of staff attended a 5 day 'Stronger Smarter' course to enrich our understanding of our first nation's history, spirituality and us all living stronger and smarter together.

For those children requiring some short term support we've introduced Spelling Mastery, Multilit and a variety of targeted teaching strategies and resources for children requiring literacy support. We have employed a qualified teacher has been employed to coordinate this area and has ensured that each child is tracked, parents are involved and consistent strategies are employed.

For those children who excel in creative thinking, show academic, musical and/or athletic prowess, we took numerous opportunities to compete in local and state competitions where we performed extremely well.

Our Enrichment classes have had great successes and fabulous learning this year. Competitions have been a focus for the Enrichment Programme during 2018 and our students excelled in a number of areas. In Term Two, the Year Six Enrichment students were named joint winners in the Cluedunnit Kids competition. This statewide competition run by the Law Society of Western Australia required students to solve a crime and present their solution and evidence in a creative format. The students received a beautiful trophy and a \$350 gift voucher for the school donated by Westbooks.

Eight Enrichment students competed in the individual events of the Midwest Spelling Bee on Friday 3rd August. Two students achieved first place in their year divisions, while another was announced runner-up.

Three teams of Year Five and Six students participated in the AFG Interschool Numero Competition winning first, second and fifth place in Heat Two of the competition. Team Fast and Curious competed in the State Final on Thursday 9th November achieving fifth place.

Twenty four students in Year Five and Six were selected to participate in the APSMO Maths Olympiad Competition. The team finished in the top 25% and were awarded a certificate of high team achievement. Four students finished in the top 10% and another four students completed the Olympiads in the top 20%.

For the Solving Mathematical Olympiad competition this year, approximately thirty five thousand students from across the Pacific region competed in five Olympiads from May to September. The Saint Lawrence's Team were awarded a certificate of high achievement, placing in the top 25%. There were also several outstanding individual achievements too. Holly W, Teagan B, James G and Winnie B finished in the top 10%. Chloe B, Hayley D, Travis K and Tiani T completed the Olympiads in the top 20%. Finally, Angus K won the Encouragement Award.

In the Arts we've had children singing at our Fete and at Christmas on the Green, class assemblies, school Masses and at the Geraldton Music Festival. Our music students have recently undergone a selection process to be a part of a performance with WA Opera for 2019. We introduced a Performing Arts Extension Program with some fabulous results in all



areas. Visual Arts extension students have worked to produce some amazing work as you can see opposite and our Dance students have also taken a number of opportunities to share with us their learning and excitement for dance and performing. Our PAXP students are now preparing for their first musical to be held in 2019.

Our BRLA (Bishops' Religious Literacy Assessment) results for Yr 5's 2018 showed St Lawrence's average as 514.6 and CEWA's overall average at 484.9. Clearly our children are working well above expected levels in their knowledge around Religious Education.

The MGM Education survey to help gauge school culture completed by families and staff this year, showed Parent Satisfaction with the school at 82%; Staff satisfaction 89%; and Student's 78%. These are very high levels that we can all be very proud of.

In the sporting arena we've also competed well with some terrific outcomes. We won the regional schools' basketball competition and so took the team to Perth for the next level of competition where we competed well and learnt a lot about teamwork. We also had school-wide swimming lessons, our school swimming carnival, the inter-school swimming carnival, our own school athletics carnival and the inter-school carnival, school and interschool cross country, Eagles Cup for football afterschool and various lightning carnivals. Students were also involved in basketball and cricket clinics presented by the various groups in town.

STLPS has a wonderful supportive community in the form of its parents who, again this year, have generously given up their time to assist in so many ways around the school. I hope that you realize how deeply we, as a staff, appreciate your contributions and please, if you haven't been able to help out this year, make an effort to be involved in 2019, as it can be so personally rewarding, as well as being of direct benefit to your children.

My special thanks also to our P&F, under the leadership of Mrs Gemma Moore and our School Board, under the chairmanship of Ms Clare Venturini for the outstanding support they have given all who have stepped up to help the staff and the children in 2018. Our school is blessed to have such hardworking and dedicated groups of parents looking after our present, whilst planning for our future.

Our parish priest, Father Gerard has been a great supporter of our school. He has worked harmoniously with our Assistant Principal RE, Mrs Donna Kempton, and other staff members to create unique and meaningful religious experiences for the children. Fr Gerard has been very encouraging to staff and students alike in promoting the school as a place of Catholic values and practices whilst doing our core work in the Church of teaching and learning. Thank you Fr Gerard and St Lawrence's Parish for your support and collaboration. Our Sacramental celebrations are always prayerful and child focused.

The collaboration between the School Board, the Parents and Friends, the Staff, and every parent and child in the school reflects the unified approach to all that we do at St Lawrence's. Our staff and parent bodies work hard to provide the best in all areas for our children. Each and every staff member, Board member, P&F member and parent should feel

proud of what has been achieved in 2018. Together we have ensured that all of our excellent and up to date facilities, resources, teaching and learning are child-centred. There is a genuine commitment to working for every child. So, I thank each and every one for their commitment to our school.

Our Year 6's have made a number of positive contributions to school life this year and over their time at the school. They have been fantastic role models for the younger students and each other. I'm sure that the Year 6 students in 2018 will be able to model their leadership style, manner and behaviour on this year's group. We wish them our best wishes for whatever you do in the future. I feel very confident that their cheerful and friendly manner as well as their commitment to St Lawrence's values and motto 'Love and Serve the Lord' will make each of them successful in whatever they choose to do in the future.

The Pre-Primary playground refurbishment included redesigning the whole playground to reflect more opportunities for children to learn and play co-operatively in more natural surroundings.

In introducing a Three Year Old program this year we have shown that many parents are very keen to give their children a one day session to support their child's transition into Kindergarten. Two groups of 20 students have been a part of the program this year.

Stage 17 of our Building Program which included the Administration area refurbishment which also included an Assistant Principal's' Office, a meeting room and readjustment of the front office information desk, is

complete and all documents finalised. This stage included the staff workroom, staff lounge, two new classrooms, three flagpoles, new signage and the carpark were also in that stage of planning. Special thanks to Office Manager, Sharon MacDonald for her eye for detail, following up of everything and attention to deadlines.

In almost closing I would like to wish all departing families the very best and thank you all for your contributions over the years. Many of our departing families have been heavily involved in St Lawrence's and I'm sure that they will take with them many fond memories of their involvement in the forming and living out the traditions and values of our school.

I wish all staff, visitors and families the very best for a Happy and Holy Christmas, safe traveling over the holiday break, and I look forward to seeing all returning families in 2019.

Finally, I am truly amazed by the wonderful relationships and behaviour I witness on a daily basis from the children. They are the true ambassadors of the school, and a reflection of how well our school is going. Generally we have very few negative experiences and there is an air of positive support in the way the children interact with one another, staff and parents. I thank you too each and every one of them for their behaviour this year, and I wish all a joyful and happy Christmas break.

God Bless

Therese Asplin

19th February 2019