



Annual Community Meeting 2022 Principal Report

Preface – impossible to cover every aspect or achievement of our wonderful school or mention every person that impacts who we are and what we do in this special place.

I wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on, the Whadjuk (Perth region) people. I wish to acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

I would also like to acknowledge our previous school Principal, Mr Richard Win Pe who passed away earlier this year. We remember his time in our community through his years of service. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

Welcome to the Santa Clara School Annual Community Meeting for 2022.



The 2022 school year has once again been a time of excitement at Santa Clara School, St James. There is no doubt that the words of Saint Clare, our patroness, continue to set the foundation for who we are as a community. It is in this spirit of acting with love that shapes who we will become, and, the love that exists in this community is abundant. We achieve what we achieve through the many blessings we have received throughout the school year.

This thinking of Saint Clare enables us to find our connection and grounding in this community. It is through our love for others that we find our purpose and living a life of humility. With this, we all bare the responsibility in this place to be a witness to our faith in all we do, in all we say and in all we believe.

In reflecting upon 2022, I continue to be grateful for the opportunities that are created by committed members of our community who work together to create a place of belonging. This sense of belonging is what I hear mentioned often when speaking with parents and staff. There is something about the spirit of St Clare that permeates our existence here at SC which makes us who we are as a community.

I wish to thank Father Chris, our Parish, our Catholic School Advisory Council and our Santa Clara P&F for their continued support throughout 2022. Father Chris continues to bring a gentleness and kindness to our community. With the support of Ruth Noonan, our Chairperson, all our CSAC members, we have once again worked together for the wellbeing of all in our community here at

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Santa Clara. This group of people are outstanding in their commitment to the operations of our school and the people who walk through the gates each day. Under CEWA's Governance structure, they provide valuable insight into the community and I am looking forward to further cementing this in the year ahead. It is with complete gratitude that I thank Matthew Keane for his commitment to our CSAC in the role of Chairperson and council member. Matthew and his family leave our Santa Clara community with many fond memories. We know that Matthew will forever be a Santa Clara person. Matthew has been an important piece to my puzzle both as a person and Principal. Matthew, I hope our paths cross once again and I wish your family many blessings in your new adventure ahead.

I would like to acknowledge the work of Michelle Kinsman our P&F President, who has led this group of wonderful parents known as our P&F. Our parents have worked quietly in the background to continue to build community spirit within the school. As a group they have been quite remarkable in how smoothly they have worked with our families in continuing many of the past traditions and establishing new ones. The team of parents have done this with one focus, and that has been on the wanting to do it for our children. We thank you all sincerely for the time and commitment to the people within our school and the fundraising events throughout the year that have resulted in the upgrading of many resources across the school, all of which benefit our students. A fabulous year of working tirelessly for our school and its people. In moving forward, under CEWA's new Governance structure, our P&F will work as a committee at the school under a Terms of Reference that is the same across all Catholic schools. Their goal will continue to be building community and raising funds for our students and projects at the school. Our hope is this will continue to strengthen the school and P&F relationship and create transparency in our decision making and finances.

To all our parents of Santa Clara School and those of you here tonight, I wish to thank you for your support and encouragement. Strong parent/school relationships assist in shaping the culture of our school environment. We continue to be encouraged by the support of our parents in what we are focused on at SC. Our goal is to continue to meet the needs of our children and assist them in their development as confident young people who are excited by their learning. I urge you to consider joining either our CSAC or P&F and if you are interested please see either myself, Ruth or Michelle before you leave tonight.

We are fortunate at Santa Clara School to have committed staff members who enjoy working together to ensure students' educational needs are met. When I think about our staff, there are two words that come to mind. The first is gratitude. I am grateful that I have this group of people walking the journey with me. Their support for each other is something that creates strong bonds and unity. Thank you for your high standards and professionalism. It is about 'one-in, all-in attitude' to what we are establishing in our support for each other as a professional organisation, but also one strongly focused on positive relationships. I wish to thank all our staff for their contributions to making the students the number one focus and for the unwavering commitment to providing the very best education for the students in your care. To all our staff, thank you for what you bring to the life of our school community. The second word is blessing, that each and every day we get the privilege to impact 207 students and play a massive part in who they become. Never waiver from the reason you chose to become an educator, especially in those moments that challenge us in our role. Our students need you all and the care you all demonstrate is most important.

I would also like to acknowledge the service of Mrs Mim Ellis to our Santa Clara School community and Catholic education in Western Australia. This year Mim was recognized for 30 years of service, a tremendous accomplishment. You have played a part in so many lives here at Santa

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Clara and in the other schools you have worked in and we thank you for what you continue to do.

I would especially like to thank my Leadership Team, Denise Grech and Fiona Messer. The support you have given me this year is very much appreciated all while juggling the demands of teaching and learning and varied demands due to unexpected changes and challenges. Your dedication to our school improvement journey and focus on our students is the driver for all that we do here. I look forward to another successful year in 2023.

At the end of 2022, Mrs Yvette Mistry will be finishing her time with us as a valued staff member as she recommences her role as a CEWA consultant. Yvette is committed to inclusive education for students with special needs requiring extra support. Your expertise in this area has assisted our staff in this area and I am grateful for the insights you have given as part of our extended Leadership Team. We look forward to continuing working with you as our consultant and hope that one day you might once again join our staff.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of Renae Armstrong as our Pedagogical Practice Coach, Lia Partington as our EAL/D Key Teacher and Alyssa Adams as our Talk for Writing Key Teacher. You all have had a massive impact on what happens in our classrooms and your dedication to our students and the programs we promote exemplifies your commitment to Santa Clara. I look forward to you once again being members of our extended Leadership Team in 2023.

Finally, to Mrs Sue Hawkins who will be leaving us at the end of the year for 6 months of well deserved Long Service Leave. Sue loves the kids, simple as that. A passion for wellbeing and bringing out the best in her students is what drives Sue. During her time off, Sue will be focusing on her own wellbeing. Sue, we will miss you and wish you all the joy and goodness during your time away and look forward to seeing you back in Semester Two...hopefully!

Inspiring Christ-centred Leaders

Religious Education and Evangelisation are the primary purpose of Catholic schools. In partnership with all parents, the school and parish work together to assist the children to develop knowledge of their Catholic faith. The explicit teaching of Catholic practices and knowledge, through the Religious Education Units of Work, is an integral part of our mission as a school. It is mandated by the Bishops of Western Australia and the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia.

Throughout the year, our Santa Clara students have supported a number of charities including Project Compassion and Catholic Missions. During our St Clare Feast Day celebrations, we were able to raise \$1264.85 for the Archbishop's Lifelink Appeal. Our calling to serve has ensured we have once again improved the lives of those vulnerable in our community. I thank the students for impacting the lives of others.

Again, in 2022, our Sacramental Program of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation were celebrated with our Parish family. The workshops and celebrations were meaningful and connected our children to Jesus and the broader community. We thank all staff and parents for their engagement in creating Liturgies that were celebrations of joy.

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This year our Year 3 and 5 students participated in the Bishop's Literacy Assessment, our results were as follows:

Year Level	SC Mean	CEWA Mean	Perth Mean
Year 3	461	402	409
Year 5	465	460	467

Review of 2022 Priorities

- The history and charisms of Santa Clara School are reinvigorated through developing an awareness of significant figures in the school (eg. Significant people that the factions are named after) **ACHIEVED**
- The background and history of Santa Clara school are uncovered and aligned with the Dominican Charism which will be embedded into school life **ACHIEVED**

2023 Priorities

- For staff to develop a deeper understanding of our Dominican Charisms in line with their calling to serve as a way of living out their personal faith.
- Improve the standard of Masses at the school to help staff deepen their personal connection to their faith.

Catholic Schools of Excellence

We have very experienced and passionate staff members at Santa Clara School, who go about ensuring high standards of teaching and learning for our students. The ongoing focus of Literacy, in particular our Writing has seen growth across the school. The focus on Writing through our Talk for Writing Program and coaching from our Pedagogical Practice Coach, has positively impacted our confidence in teachers and the standards of our students across all year levels. Our goal is to continue these trends into 2023 and beyond. Further analysis of our school data, and the use of this data drives our continual school improvement processes.

Review of 2022 Priorities

- Early Years: To investigate and implement an effective vocabulary program across Kindy to Year 2 that enriches all our students, in particular our EAL/D students **ACHIEVED**
- For teachers to develop their own professional judgement in discerning how and when to apply the five teacher practices to enact our Santa Clara School Vision for Learning **ACHIEVED/ONGOING**

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NAPLAN

NAPLAN is a test held nationally assessing Numeracy and Literacy in Year 3 and 5. These are one-off tests that give a snapshot of how our school is tracking in these areas. As with all standardized assessments, they are one-off in nature. The results are looked at in the context of all we do at the school to improve teacher practice and student results. This includes the everyday teaching and learning programs, plus all the assessments the students do throughout the year.

I wish to commend our students for their efforts during the NAPLAN testing and the positive approach from our parent body during the weeklong tests. In the table shown, performance against the national average is provided. As staff, we will continue to focus on engaging our students in their learning and creating excitement around being the best they can be within our classrooms. I would also like to acknowledge the work of our staff in supporting our students in their learning and development as well-rounded young people.

Our 2022 results indicate some encouraging gains across all assessment strands in both year levels. Numeracy will become a focus for us in 2023 within our teaching and learning programs while maintaining our 2022 areas of focus.

	Year 3			Year 5		
	School Av	State Av	National Av	School Av	State Av	National Av
Reading	478	428	439	539	505	510
Writing	459	419	423	501	480	485
Spelling	466	414	418	542	505	505
Grammar	472	424	433	518	496	499
Numeracy	436	395	400	516	487	489

As well as these positive NAPLAN results, I would like to acknowledge the achievements of our school in the LOTE and STEM Learning Areas. In 2022, Santa Clara School received a Certificate of Merit from CEWA's Quality Catholic Education Awards for our work with Infant Jesus School, Morley with our Christmas Bardip Digital Book retelling the birth of Christ in Noongar and English. In addition to this, our SCiTEAM students participated in the STEM Game Changer Awards where the Year 5/6 students received the Best Overall Project Award for their Renewable Energy work. Congratulations to Miss Smith and Mrs Daniels for their dedication to their assigned Learning Areas.

2023 Priorities

- Early Years: To investigate and implement an effective functional language support program across Kindy to Year 2 that caters for EAL/D students working on Progress Maps 1-3.
- For teachers to develop their own professional judgment in discerning how and when to apply the five teacher practices in the area of Numeracy.

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Catholic Pastoral Communities

Santa Clara School is built on community. It always has been and will continue to be in the years ahead. Our people continue to be our heart in the way we are unified and the care we show each other. It is our calling to serve others and this is where we find our greatest joy.

Mary MacKillop, Australia's first Saint once said "Never see a need without doing something about it". This encompasses all we do here. Our pastoral care is about being there for others when they need it. This is where our staff and students shine. Their commitment to others is central to our Dominican Charisms of Preach, Prayer and Blessing.

We continue to be centred on what is in the best interest of our students. I know all our community members understand this commitment, and because of this, we see our children growing into resilient young people. Our OSHC is a place where staff and children, along with parents, create a sense of home and belonging. Under the leadership of Tahlya Perez, our staff and children flourish in making all feel welcome.

As part of CEWA's Transforming Lives Strategy, 2022 saw Ms Karen Morich joining our staff. Karen has brought to life our experiences through a connection to our Aboriginal community. Our system is in good hands with people like Karen leading the way.

Review of 2022 Priorities

- Aboriginal Education: To raise the profile of Aboriginal perspectives within the curriculum and the local and wider community of St James **ONGOING**
- To enhance communication with our culturally diverse community **ONGOING**

2023 Priorities

- Aboriginal Education: To raise the profile of Aboriginal perspectives within the curriculum and the local and wider community of St James
- For staff and students to recognise the 24 character strengths in themselves and others

Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable System of Schools

There are many elements within a Catholic school and administration processes that are undertaken to ensure the school runs effectively. At Santa Clara, we have a very dedicated team that work together in our Admin Office. I would like to thank Mrs Suzanne Walker and Mrs Jac Wilson for their continued support and willingness to put in extra hours for our community. During 2022, they have worked tirelessly in the areas of enrolments and finances.

Again, I wish to acknowledge the professionalism of our all the staff that work at Santa Clara. We are so fortunate to have such a committed staff, that enjoy working together, ensuring students meet their educational and personal goals. I especially would like to thank my Leadership Team, Denise Grech and Fiona Messer, for their support and leadership within our community. Both of them are to be commended for their dedication to our school.

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Enrolments at our school have continued to increase this year. Strong enrolment trends are associated with our reputation in the local and surrounding areas. This connection with our community is ever present and is a result of the work of our staff, students and their families. This positive feel in the community is driven by the stories of our families and the quality of our teaching and learning programs embedded at the school. To ensure this trend continues, we must ensure we provide the best for our students and remain open to opportunities of growth. This is the heart of our Bishop's Mandate; A Catholic school must be a good school. For us here at Santa Clara School our call to be a good school was affirmed this year through our successful Quality Catholic Education School Review. All panel members highlighted the commitment of our staff and community to making this place all about our students.

At Santa Clara School we are committed to the education we offer being accessible and affordable for our families. With that in mind, I am proud to announce, that due to our strong enrolments, we have been able to reduce our Tuition and Amenities on our annual School Fees by 12.5%. Our hope is that this reduction will assist our families in our local area. As well as this, the school will continue to support our community through the number of initiatives we have implemented over the past three years including free Speech and OT Screens for all Kindy students, our support program, our Aboriginal Bursaries, our Health Care Card Discounts and employment of extra staff to work with our students.

Review of 2022 Priorities

- To provide our staff with opportunities for feedback, professional learning and development that is targeted at their personal level of need **ONGOING**

2023 Priorities

- Embed our Santa Clara Professional Growth model for Teachers and the CEWA Leadership Framework.
- Review all relevant school documentation to ensure we are meeting all legislative requirements and are compliant.

Conclusion

As with every year, we will have families and staff leave our school. I take this opportunity to wish all our departing staff members and Santa Clara families all the very best at their new schools. You will always be Santa Clara people and are welcome back for a visit whenever you are in the area. May you all continue the Dominican charisms of praying, preaching and blessing through your journey of life. We invite the following people forward to accept a token of appreciation for your service to our school:

- Matthew Keane
- Karen Morich
- Yvette Mistry

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It is also with excitement that I have the privilege of introducing new staff members to our community for 2023. To Miss Sabrina Serra who will take on a classroom teaching role. Sabrina was with us during her final teaching prac in Term 3. From very early days you could see the passion and dedication from Sabrina and I am proud to see her join our team next year. We also welcome Mrs Jennifer Steven as a new Education Assistant. Jen brings with her a wealth of experience in working with students and staff to ensure educational goals are achieved. Please make them both feel welcome.

Thank-you to our parent community for trusting us with your most precious gifts; your children. We honour responsibility and highly value trusting relationships and communication. With that, we present to you our staffing model for 2023 as it stands.

We are so blessed in this place we call Santa Clara School. We get to look at so many aspects of our school, and why we exist, our charisms, our soul, and here we find it. We just need to take a moment to ask ourselves, what is it we can do over the next few weeks in the lead up to the end of the year and Christmas, to bring kindness and compassion to the forefront of our thinking. Bring it alive in those moments where we are called to be Santa Clara people. We allow ourselves to bring the humanness with all of its imperfections, but all of its spirit.

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity to thank staff, parents and the wider community for the support given to the on-going development of our children at Santa Clara School. I sincerely wish all members of our school a peaceful and joyous Christmas. May we all appreciate the significance of this time of rest and renewal as we gear up for a bright and exciting 2023.

On behalf of all in our community, I wish you an abundance of joy this Christmas and a year ahead that is filled with goodness and hope. May you be blessed.
In appreciation for what you all bring.

Clinton Payne
Principal
22 November 2022

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