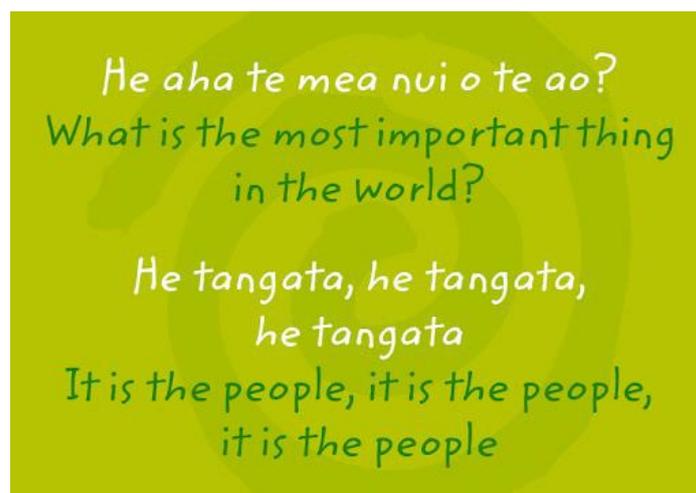


I wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on, the Whadjuk (Perth region) people. I wish to acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

Throughout the 2021 school year, there have been many learnings for us here at Santa Clara, not only in academics and education, but about life and our humanness. I believe that at Santa Clara, we know what is important for us. For me, I continue to know that it is all about our people here. When I have the privilege of meeting new families that want to enrol their child at our school, I tell them how unique our community is and that our cultural diversity creates the sense of unity that we feel. Maybe I feel it more than others, but if we as a community stay true to this we will always find support in each other. There is a Maori saying that a mentor of mine once gave me. The people of New Zealand hold it as the core of their existence, they keep it alive in all their interactions and conversations. This is true of how we respond here at Santa Clara.



During the year of 2021, and all the experiences we have had including the ones that are a direct result of COVID-19, we have all felt a sense of calmness with how our community has been able to work through it from possible lockdowns to getting ready for the need for remote learning. These moments of crisis and uncertainty encourage growth, a word we have focussed on as a staff this year. I personally have witnessed an increased level of resilience from our students and staff, which has almost developed a one step at a time thinking. These are the moments that our community comes alive and shines.

In one of our first newsletters for the year, I set the word growth as our word of focus for 2021. When I discussed this with the staff, it almost set the scene for the year and encouraged us to remain focussed on the importance of our people, of each individual. As a staff, I believe this word has brought us together more closely than before as it connects us to our students, their families and our shared accountability. The word could not be more appropriate. We live in a very changing landscape. Growth allows us to see and think of things differently to how we may have previously thought about our role here at Santa Clara. I know for me, from my experiences throughout 2021 I see things much more simply than I did a few years ago.

Speaking of growth, I would also like to thank Miss Jaymie Caboz who has worked extremely hard as a young early career teacher to not only learn the community but engage the students. The resilience of Jaymie and our students has been something to admire. Jaymie, you should be extremely proud of what you have achieved this year and your current and future students will be impacted in such a positive way because you simply care. Do not ever lose that!

I wish to thank Fr Chris, our Parish, our Advisory Council and our Parents and Friends for their continued support throughout 2021. Fr Chris continues to bring a sense of kindness and compassion to our community. With the support of all Matthew Keane our Advisory Council Chair, and all our Advisory Council Members, we have once again worked for the wellbeing of our community. Our team is exceptional in their commitment to our school and the students who come through our gates each day. In complete gratitude I thank you for your efforts and we look forward to continuing our journey in 2022 to make this school the best ever.

An extremely close relationships with our P&F, led by Michelle Kinsman, has once again ensured we remained focus on what was important to our school and our students. Extra special acknowledgement to Michelle for doing what she does, simply because she loves the role, loves the kids and loves the place. The attendance at our meetings is beginning to increase and the mutual respects expressed is not only unique but a very visible sign of their focus for our kids. On behalf of the school I would like to thank you for your contribution to our many projects in 2021 including our playground, table tennis table, new trees and garden

wall, a number of educational resources and your commitment to our Literacy Pro reading program for our Year 3-6 students yearly subscription.

Our Santa Clara staff continue to focus on the wellbeing of our students and their families. Connection and a willingness to provide our students with the best education drives each of our staff members in their roles and in their planning of meaningful teaching and learning programs. I thank all of our staff for their dedication to our students and I very much look forward to our journey in 2022. Many of you have stepped out of your comfort zones this year and have flourished in your profession. I probably do not say it enough, but thank you. Thank you for sharing in the vision of what we are trying to build here at Santa Clara. Over the summer break we will set a new focus for 2022, however, it will be extremely important for us to remember the concept of growth that has driven us this year. Our profession is all about connection and engaging with others in our world. Our students are lucky to be impacted by each of you.

I am now pleased to report to our community our reflection on 2021 along with our priorities for 2022 using the four key areas outlined in our CEWA system's Strategic Directions. These key areas provide us with a means of monitoring the progress our school has made this year.

### **Inspiring Christ-centred Leaders – Catholic Identity**

Religious Education and faith formation continue to be our primary purpose as a Catholic school. In partnership with our families, the Parish and school community works to assist our children in developing their understanding of our Catholic faith. We are mandated by the Bishops of Western Australia to explicitly teach our students the Church doctrine and traditions through our Religious Education units of work.

Throughout the year, our students have supported a number of charities including LifeLink, Project Compassion and the Catholic Mission as visible signs of being witnesses to our faith.

Thankfully, our Sacramental Program has been more stable in 2021 with minimal disruptions from COVID-19, however, restrictions have all been maintained. Our Sacramental Program continues to be Parish-based, however, our community

responsibility ensures we support our Parish with these celebrations. I would like to acknowledge Marietta, Fiona, Alyssa, Ellen, Adrian and Mim for assisting in coordinating these events and to all our staff for their attendance.

As part of our Catholic Identity, we were involved in the following during 2021:

- Ash Wednesday Mass
- Stations of the Cross
- Sacramental Programs & Celebrations
- Participation & Class Masses
- Staff Prayer
- Catholic Social Justice

#### *Bishops' Religious Literacy Assessment BRLA*

The Year 3 and 5 students participated in the Bishops' Literacy Assessment once again, with results that indicate we are aligned with our system averages. Year 3 CEWA schools scored 53.7% and Santa Clara's 54.1%. Year 5 CEWA schools scored 52.5% and Santa Clara's 51.2%. As parents and staff, everyone plays an essential role in guiding our children throughout their faith journey. This has been shown and supported through the many events and sacraments that have been held this year.

#### *Priorities for 2022*

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

#### **Catholic Schools of Excellence - Education**

We have a very talented and passionate group of educators at Santa Clara School who go about their roles of ensuring high standards for our students through meaningful teaching and learning. Throughout 2021, we have continued to provide our students with positive experiences as we have focused on our staff developed Vision for Learning and how we commit and live that out each day in our

classrooms. The ongoing focus on our classroom practice will continue to drive us in 2022.

Some of our foci in 2021 have included:

- Writing moderation with St Jude's School
- Implementation of InitialLit in K-1
- Implementation MiniLit and MacqLit support programs
- Implementation of our Reading Tutor program
- Implementation of our Noongar Language program
- Implementation of our SCiTEAM extension program
- Program and Assessment meetings with teachers
- Consolidation of our Fountis & Pinnel Reading assessments
- Introduction of EAL/D Plans for our students with additional languages

### NAPLAN

NAPLAN is a test held nationally assessing numeracy and literacy. These are one-off tests that give a snapshot of how schools are tracking in these areas. As with all standardised tests that are one-off in nature, the results must be taken in the context of all other assessments a school may do. This includes the everyday teaching and learning program, plus the many varied assessments that may take place.

I wish to commend our students for their efforts during the national testing and the positive approach from parents 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.

In 2021, we have continued to focus on our teaching on Reading. Our assessments indicate some encouraging gains across NAPLAN results, standardised testing and in-class assessments.

Year Level	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar	Numeracy
<b>Year 3 SC Mean</b>	454	436	449	433	387
<b>Year 3 National Mean</b>	437	425	421	433	403
<b>Year 5 SC Mean</b>	511	488	525	495	484
<b>Year 5 National Mean</b>	512	480	505	503	495

Priorities 2022

- Focus on the five teacher practices across all Learning Areas.
- Whole school approach to Writing – Talk for Writing
- Numeracy – best practice
- K-6 Vocabulary Program
- Continual analysis of whole school data to drive practice and focus
- Continue to further develop and review our teaching and learning programs within our school through our Professional Learning Communities.

**Catholic Pastoral Communities - Community**

Santa Clara's uniqueness is built on community. I have felt it from the very start of my time here and continue to feel it each day. The heart of the community is our diverse population and the way we care for each other and see each other as equal. We find our greatest accomplishments in our service to one another as we live out our Dominican charisms of prayer, preaching and blessing.



This quote from St Clare encompasses all of this. Our pastoral care comes from the love we have for each other. This is our calling and our co-responsibility. Our goal next year is to place more of an emphasis on this teaching of St Clare and the connection we have with one another.

Enrolment applications have continued to increase throughout 2021. These enrolment trends are testament to the reputation that Santa Clara School has in our local community. Our connection to our community is present due to the work of our staff and families. This feeling exists because of the stories of each individual within our community and the quality of learning that we continue to improve and embed in our school. To ensure we continue our enrolment growth, we must ensure that we provide our students with the very best and remain open to further opportunities for growth to refine what we do. Our Bishops' Mandate reminds us that a Catholic school must be a good school, this is what drives us.

I especially would like to make mention of the involvement of our Year 6 students in collaborating with the Year 6 students of Infant Jesus School in Morley to create a digital bilingual book on the Nativity story translated into Noongar, a first of its kind. What started as an opportunity for our students to work with another school has spiralled into a system wide resource that will be distributed to all Catholic schools across Western Australia. How good for our little school to showcase just how good we are. I wish to thank Maddie Smith, Claire Daniels, Kristy Madafferri and the Year 6 students for their involvement in the project and we look forward to showing it to our community in the near future.

We continue to make all our decisions centred on the interests of our students and how we can support our diverse community. I believe our community understand

our commitment as we continue to aim to reduce costs to our families while still providing our students with the best possible education and experience at our school. We are proud to fund each student a new school uniform for 2022 so that each of our students feel connected. Our OSHC also is a place where our staff and children, along with their families, creates a sense of home and belonging. Under the leadership of Tahlya Perez, our staff and children have flourished in 2022 in making the OSHC so welcoming.

As part of CEWA's Transforming Lives Strategy for 2022, Santa Clara School is working with CEWA to appoint an Engagement Officer to work with us and four other schools to connect with our Aboriginal community. We look forward to this person playing a crucial role in connecting with the land and community here in St James.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of Lia Partington who has helped drive our learning and understanding of reaching out to our students and families for whom English is an additional language or dialect. This area will continue to drive us in engaging our culturally diverse community members.

#### Priorities 2022

- Continue to support the endeavours of our School Advisory Council and P&F in their work in caring for our school community members.
- To raise the profile of Aboriginal perspectives within the curriculum and the local and wider community of St James.
- To enhance communication with our culturally diverse community.

#### **Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable System of Schools - Stewardship**

There are many elements within a Catholic school and administration processes that are undertaken to ensure the school runs effectively. At Santa Clara School, we have an extremely dedicated team that work together in our office. I would like to thank Suzanne Walker and Jacqueline Wilson who continually put in extra hours for our school and community. They both continue to work tirelessly not only in their roles but also as nurses, psychologists, the list goes on. I appreciate all that they do and look forward to our continued journey in 2022.

Again, I wish to acknowledge the professionalism of all our staff at Santa Clara School. We are extremely fortunate to have such a committed staff, that enjoys

working together, and ensures students educational needs are met. I especially would like to thank my Leadership Team, Mrs Kristy Madafferri and Miss Fiona Messer, for their leadership and support to our community. Both of these people bring their own gifts to the role which is forever changing and I thank them for their efforts and dedication to our school.

Our school is also made up of many volunteers who are the backbone of our community. I once again wish to acknowledge Dinny in particular for her presence which brings joy to our staff and students. I invite Dinny forward to accept a token of our appreciation.

I would also like to acknowledge the work and dedication to our social worker, Hilary Campos who will finish our time with us at the end of 2021. Hilary's calling to retirement will allow her the time with her family especially her grandkids and is much deserved. Thank you Hilary for the support you have shown our students over the years you have been a part of Santa Clara.

Earlier this year I was asked by a couple of our senior students what my best and worst decisions have been at Santa Clara so far. A tough question to answer. For me, the answer to both is appointing Kristy Madafferri as our Assistant Principal for the last 18 months. At the end of 2021, Kristy will be concluding her time here with us as a very long serving staff member. In appointing her as our AP for the last 18 months, I observed her dedication to our school, our students and our staff. Her drive to continually challenge and make this place better is testament to her as an educator and a school leader. She is a trusted colleague and mate and this year in the office obtained the nick name, Chomp, because she simply does not stop talking and eating! The worst part of the decision in appointing Kristy as the AP is that it has allowed her to acknowledge her own gifts and develop the confidence to move on to St Jude's and continue her journey as a school leader. How lucky for our system that we have up and coming leaders like Kristy and there is no doubt in my mind that you are going make an exceptional Principal in the very near future, just keep your hands off the Santa Clara staff! We wish you all the best for the future Kristy and know that you will be blessed abundantly in your life. I invite you forward to accept a small token of appreciation from our staff, Advisory Council and P&F in recognition of your dedication to our school for the last fourteen years.

From sadness of Kristy and Hilary leaving comes excitement of our new Assistant Principal who will bring with them a wealth of knowledge about teaching and learning, and most importantly having an awareness of connection and relationships. The decision to appoint an acting AP from our current staff will ensure our vision for 2022 will be supported . I am pleased to announce that for 2022 our acting Assistant Principal is Denise Grech. The panel agreed that Denise is suitable candidate who will contribute greatly to the direction of our school. I am very much looking forward to working with Denise and playing a part in her leadership development.

I would also like to welcome Mrs Yvette Mistry to our staff as our Inclusive Education Support Coordinator. Yvette has been Santa Clara School's Special Needs consultant for a number of years and will now join our staff in 2022 to assist our teachers and teacher assistants in meeting the needs of our students. We look forward to Yvette's knowledge in this area drive our school improvement for our students.

### Priorities 2022

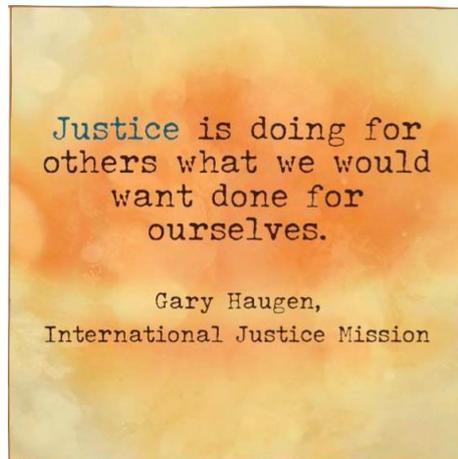
- To provide our staff with opportunities for feedback, professional learning and development that is targeted at their personal level of need.
- Development and implementation of a staff growth and development process.
- Development and implementation of two Pedagogical Practice Coaches to mentor and support teachers as well as Key Teachers in EAL/D and Inclusive Support.

### Staffing 2022

### 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.

To conclude my report, I came across the following quote while reflecting on a conversation I had with some Year 6 students about justice:



This is why we are so blessed. 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 justice 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.

It is with gratitude I thank everyone for your part in creating what we have at Santa Clara, knowing that we embrace imperfection, and we bring gentleness, compassion and kindness to every situation, every interaction. It is a time to celebrate our children's gifts and talents as we end the 2021 school year.

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

23 November 2021