

**CHAIR'S REPORT
SANTA CLARA PRIMARY SCHOOL
TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2023**

Good evening and welcome to our Santa Clara School Annual Community Meeting.

I'm the Chairperson of the School Advisory Council, and I'm honoured to talk about the past year and the fantastic journey we've had as a school community.

This marks the end of my 5th year associated with Santa Clara School, and each passing year only deepens my admiration of the achievements of our small, single-stream school.

One of the most notable accomplishments over the past 5 years, is the surge in enrolments, which have now reached their highest point in the last decade, currently sitting at an impressive 90 percent capacity.

This reflects the positive reputation Santa Clara has built in the wider community.

Our school's reputation is by no means a fluke or twist of fate. Families have choices, and they are consistently choosing Santa Clara.

Enrolment applications remain strong across all year levels, with particular enthusiasm for our Early Years program. The Kindy class, a barometer of our school's appeal, has been at capacity for the past three years and is set to continue this trend next year. This is no coincidence; it reflects the genuine preference of families who recognise the unique value of a Santa Clara education.

To illustrate the visible transformation of our school, I would like to draw your attention to the screen. The first picture, from 2020, depicts our school in my child's second year at Santa Clara and our Principal, Clint Payne's, first day. What we see is a school garden overrun with weeds, a stark contrast to the second picture showcasing the recent renovations, vibrant garden beds, and proudly displayed School House flags. These changes are not only cosmetic; they symbolise the love and care our school community has poured into our school.

Our dedicated teachers play a crucial role in our school and what is achieved here.

I want to express our deepest gratitude to our teachers. Your unwavering professionalism and passion for teaching is truly commendable. Your enthusiasm ignites a similar passion in students, boosting their confidence and self-esteem, motivating them to face challenges and believe in their abilities.

Equally deserving of acknowledgment is our Principal Clint Payne, whose unwavering professionalism and dedication to both staff and students have set the tone for excellence within our school.

I extend a warm welcome to Andrew Gaudoin – Mr G – who brings his wealth of experience to our leadership team as the new Assistant Principal. Additionally, a heartfelt acknowledgment goes to Assistant Principal Denise Grech for her continued dedication to our school and for completing the six faith units this year required for her leadership journey and substantive position.

Clint's leadership and that of his leadership team, has been instrumental in steering Santa Clara towards greater heights, fostering an environment where students flourish academically and personally.

Our students' success in the 2023 NAPLAN assessments, especially in literacy and numeracy where our students' results align seamlessly with both National and State averages for literacy and numeracy.

This achievement stands as a tribute to the unwavering dedication of our educators and the resilience demonstrated by our students.

It underscores your expertise in preparing students not merely to meet but to exceed academic standards and demonstrates your commitment to excellence.

Not to be surpassed, though, in the realm of STEM education, Claire Daniels has been a driving force, motivating students to engineer solutions to real-world issues.

It was with great pride that I read that our Year 6 students' *Condiment Dispenser* innovation earned them the title of state champions in the *Kids in Space Program* – automatically entering them into the National finals in Adelaide.

Our Year 6 students' achievement and the eagerness of other students' is a testament to the innovative and forward-thinking education Santa Clara provides.

Our front-of-school staff, including Suzanne Walker, Jac Wilson, and Sonia Thiel, deserve special recognition for the warmth and friendliness they bring to our school. Their welcoming presence contributes significantly to the positive atmosphere that defines Santa Clara. I had a conversation with a woman on the Cannington-Queens Park Buy Nothing Facebook page earlier this year, who saw the Santa Clara uniform hanging on my line, and she beamed with positivity about the tour she received when she was selecting a school for her child for 2024.

It is for all of these reasons, and many more, that our community grows, and we continue to choose Santa Clara for our children.

Finally, as we celebrate the accomplishments of the past year, we must also acknowledge and bid farewell to some cherished members of our school community: former Assistant Principal Fiona Messer, Jessica Delmadoros from our Preprimary, and Georgia Copeland from Year 6. Your contributions have left an indelible mark on Santa Clara, and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

“A good education can change anyone. A good teacher can change everything!”

A heartfelt thank you must also be extended to the Parents and Friends (P&F) Committee for their tireless efforts in organizing various community-building events throughout the year.

From School Discos and Book Fairs to Subway Lunches at the Athletics Carnival, Mother's Day Stall and Mother's Day Morning Tea, Father's Day Stall and Mother's Day Breakfast, Sausage Sizzle at the Open Night, and the unforgettable Bogan Bingo and Colour Run – the P&F Committee plays a crucial role in fostering the strong sense of community that sets Santa Clara apart. The funds from these events are used to improve the school environment for our children.

Tonight, we bid farewell to Michelle Kinsman, who has served admirably as the P&F President. As her son moves on to high school, we express our deepest gratitude for her dedication and hard work. I know we aren't losing you as you remain here as Santa Clara staff – phew! – but it has been an absolute pleasure serving with you on the School Advisory Council. The energy you bring to the P&F, the Council, to the school and undoubtedly to everything you do is mesmerising. There are so many projects that have been funded by the outstanding efforts of Michelle and her P&F superstars.

Tonight, we also say farewell to three of our School Advisory Council members whose commitment has left an indelible mark on the fabric of our school:

- Alisha Crook
- Bevan Castle
- Naomi Pitt

We extend our heartfelt appreciation for your service and the countless hours you have devoted to enhancing the educational journey for our children at Santa Clara. As your children venture into secondary school, may the journey ahead be filled with success, fulfillment, and fun.

In conclusion, I am filled with pride and gratitude as I reflect on the past year and the remarkable journey of Santa Clara Catholic Primary School. The achievements we have celebrated tonight are a testament to the collective efforts of our dedicated staff, committed parents, and, most importantly, our talented and resilient students.

Thank you for your unwavering support and may the spirit of Santa Clara continue to shine brightly in the years to come.

Wishing you all a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.