



Santa Clara School Annual General Meeting

CHAIR'S REPORT - WEDNESDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2024

Good evening, and welcome to our Santa Clara School Annual Community Meeting. As Chairperson of the School Advisory Council, I am honoured to provide a review of 2024.

Our School Advisory Council plays a vital role in creating a true spirit of partnership within our school community. The Council supports the principal and school leadership by bringing the voice of the community into Leadership's decision-making and helping to nurture our Catholic culture within our community.

This year, we met about twice a term, and, together, we worked on projects that supported the well-being and safety of our children while also helping ensure the school's financial health. This included refining protocols for our Kiss and Drive, setting up designated areas for Out of School Care, and creating a safe and effective arrangement for the school and parish to share our space in ways that support both groups' needs.

With Clinton Payne moving to his new role of Principal at Matthew Gibney Catholic Primary School in Term 2, we knew we had big shoes to fill! The Council had the privilege of supporting Catholic Education Western Australia with the Principal Appointment Process for 2025. We wanted to ensure that the selection criteria honoured the incredible growth our school has experienced under Clinton's leadership and reflected the vision we hold for our community into the next decade.

We are especially grateful to Luke Webster for his energy, wisdom, and dedication throughout this process. His support for and involvement in the appointment panel was invaluable in helping us find the right person to lead our school into the future. Thank you, Luke, for guiding us with such care and commitment.

The principal appointment process also deepened the School Advisory Council's understanding of the Quality Catholic Education Framework and how it guides the school's operations and annual goals. We're pleased with the reflections on the school's current practices and the thoughtful planning around improvement goals.

Looking ahead to 2025, we're excited to continue supporting the leadership team with a focused approach. By creating pillar-specific work groups, we can tap into the unique expertise and skills of Council members, providing even more strategic support to our Leadership Team.

Our school remains a strong and vibrant community that fosters meaningful connections. It's been wonderful to see our school actively encouraging and creating opportunities for our community to come together, whether through ongoing parish celebrations, the support of our P&F, or the addition of termly school events. Staying connected is what keeps our school community strong and allows us to continue flourishing together.

Australia's first saint, Mary MacKillop, once said, "Do small things with great love." With Mary's words in mind, I'd like to recognise everyone in our school community for the small acts of love and dedication they have shown throughout the year. These "small things" add up to create truly extraordinary experiences for our children.

To our dedicated administration staff, teachers, education assistants, out-of-school care educators, canteen assistants, parent helpers, carers, and maintenance workers: you may see your work as ordinary, but each of you brings something extraordinary to our school every day, making it the best place it can be.



A special thank you to our passionate teachers and support staff, our talented canteen team led by Sonia Thiel, and our Directors of First Impressions in the front office—Suzanne Walker, Jacqueline Wilson, Michelle Kinsman, and Sonia Thiel. Your proficiency, energy, and commitment shine in everything you do. To our amazing educators who work tirelessly to create engaging learning environments and build meaningful partnerships with families, you are the true rock stars! The small acts of love and dedication from each of you have an enormous impact on our community.

A big thank you to Mai Yau, Michelle Kinsman, and our P&F Executive! On behalf of the Council and the whole school community, we're so grateful for your passion and dedication—not only for fundraising but also for “friend-raising” within our community. Your commitment to delivering quality events and supporting all school functions with such care and attention is truly appreciated and admired. Thank you for all that you do for our community and our children!

On behalf of the School Advisory Council and the entire school community, I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Andrew Gaudoin for leading our school this year. Andrew's agility in stepping up as principal has ensured our school ran smoothly and maintained its positive, welcoming community spirit. With his guidance, we haven't missed a beat. I would also like to acknowledge the dedication of Denise Gretch, our Assistant Principal, along with our extended leadership team. Behind the scenes, we have so many amazing educators who lead every day, and we are truly grateful for all you do!

I thank the School Advisory Council members for their dedicated commitment throughout the year, Father Richard Ye Myint, Ruth Noonan, Sharon Ang, Luke Webster, Nathan Jaskola, Sandy Pattani, Mary-Jane Hall, Mai Yau, Andrew Gaudoin and Denise Gretch. Your commitment of time and expertise to our community is appreciated.

Tonight, we say farewell to four of our School Advisory Council members:

- Ruth Noonan
- Jasmine Pitt
- Sandy Pattani
- Mary-Jane Hall

We extend our heartfelt appreciation for your service and the countless hours you have devoted to enhancing the educational journey of our children at Santa Clara. Particularly to Ruth who has seamlessly fulfilled the roles of Chair and Secretary during her devoted five years of service to our CSAC.

Our school motto is Veritas—truth.

May we always strive to live by the principles of truth for Christ following in his teachings of welcoming and celebrating the unique qualities of each person in our school community. It is each individual's passion, hard work, kindness, and resilience that makes Santa Clara School such a wonderful place for all of us. As we approach the Christmas season, may these values stay in our hearts and minds, especially as we celebrate with family and friends. On behalf of the School Advisory Council, thank you all for being part of our school community.

Wishing you all a safe and very Merry Christmas!
Mrs Renae King