

2024 Principal's Report

As you are aware, Clinton Payne accepted a Principalship position at Matthew Gibney at the commencement of Term 3. On behalf of our school, I would like to thank Clinton Payne for all his hard work over the past four and a half years to build a fantastic school and drive the educational standards of excellence. I cannot thank him enough for the positive impact that he has made for our school and our community. I have been blessed with the opportunity to lead such a great school for the remainder of 2024.

It is quite humbling to work with such great students, staff and parents. I truly believe that we have a unique quality here at Santa Clara School. Jule Southwell has been appointed the substantive principal beginning in 2025. This is a very exciting time for our school, where we, together with our whole community, can further build upon Clinton's legacy.

I would like to thank our students. Truly, our students are second to none. The way that they take care of each other and try their best in all they do is a reflection of the work their parents and teachers do each and every day.

Numerous times throughout the year, during liturgical celebrations, people have expressed their reverence as they enter the Church and are in sacred spaces.

To every individual staff member, Clinton would say that he, as principal, has been blessed to work with such a professional, close-knit, and dedicated staff, and I fully agree. You show the highest level of commitment and love for our students. You continually go above and beyond expectations and the little things you do don't go unnoticed. Being in the classes and seeing the quality teaching and learning that is happening is truly humbling and very exciting to witness. To our staff, I would like to express my sincere gratitude. You are all truly appreciated for all the hard work that you have put into the students, your profession and our community.

At this time, I would like to farewell Renae Armstrong and Sue Hawkins, who will take the following year off. On behalf of the school community, we hope you enjoy 2025 pursuing your dreams and look forward to seeing you in 2026.

To Claire Daniels, who is currently on maternity leave, and Lia Partington, who will take maternity leave in early 2025, we wish you all the best and enjoy this very special time.

I would like to thank Maria Nieto for your efforts in pre-primary this year. On behalf of the school, we wish you all the best for when you move up to Broome to take up your teaching position at St Mary's College, but more importantly, your upcoming wedding in January. We wish you countless blessings!

To Father Richard, our spiritual leader. Thank you for your commitment to our school. You are truly valued for your tireless time and dedication that you put into our school so that our community can flourish in its Catholicity.

To the parents, I would like to thank you again for your tireless commitment to our school's mission. The raised engagement is fantastic to see and will continue to be a focus for 2025.

I would like to thank Densie Grech as the Assistant Principal. Thank you for all your work this year. Thank you for taking on all the extra responsibilities in administration, and Renae Armstrong, thank you for the continuous drive to raise educational standards along with the whole staff.

To Suzanne Walker, Jac Wilson and Sonia Theil. I thank you for your advice and support in administration and finance. I have learnt so much from you, and this will hold me in good stead for the future.

To our parent community. I truly believe that to be a school of excellence, parents and educators need to work side by side. The open afternoon was one example of this. To see the students excited that parents and grandparents are making time in their busy lives to see first-hand what the students are learning was beautiful to witness. Another example was our school fete. What a fantastic success. This event highlighted for me that our school is truly one big family!

I would like to personally thank the CSAS members and the P&F for their time and energy, which they continue to invest in the school, enabling us to achieve our best. You truly have the students at heart, and I have been blessed to be able to work with such a great P&F and CSAC team.

A special thank you to Michelle Kinsman for all the work you do behind the scenes for all our events! You are appreciated heaps.

At the end of 2024, Ruth will end her tenure as our secretary and the CSAC. I would like to acknowledge Ruth for her commitment and time to fulfil her duties as our secretary this year and as chairperson in the past. Again, thank you for your time and efforts over the past 5 years. Furthermore, I would like to thank Jasmine Pitt, Sandhya Pattani, John Mpala and Mary Jane Hall for all the valuable input you have provided to the CSAC over your tenure. On behalf of the school and CSAC, you are truly appreciated. Can you all please come up and accept a small token of our appreciation.

Renae King has taken on the Chairperson role. On behalf of our community, I would like to thank Renae for her commitment to the role of chairperson for 2024. Renae is stepping down as chairperson but will still offer her support and continue to be a member of our CSAC for 2025. I would like to thank Luke Webster for taking on the role of Chairperson for 2025. You are appreciated heaps and looking forward to working with you in this role for 2025 and hopefully beyond.

A Principal is required to report on some aspects of the school as part of the agreement, which I will do with pride and great excitement.

For the sake of brevity, I will simply highlight the main points:

- to continue to focus on bringing the Gospel to life through a prayer-focused lense
- to upskill all staff in strategies using the Berry Street Education Model to increase the engagement of all students, including those with complex, unmet learning needs
- Differentiation of the curriculum to meet students learning needs.

Review of 2024 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 (**achieved/continued**)
 - Improve understanding of the Sacraments (**achieved**)

2025 Priorities

- - For students and staff to develop a deeper awareness of their personal character strengths and use them to live out our Dominican Charism of Prayer.
 - To provide students with meaningful opportunities of prayer and worship to deepen their personal connection to their faith.

Catholic Schools of Excellence (Education)

2024 NAPLAN assessments took place in Term One this year. Our Year 3 and 5 students once again tackled the week of assessments with confidence. At Santa

Clara, we continue to teach our students concepts as part of our learning programs, preparing them for the testing style they will experience during NAPLAN. Reducing any anxiety attached to the testing experience only goes to improving the opportunity for our students to showcase their full potential, which is all we ask of them. Our school once again performed well, and we celebrated the fact that our students, many of whom come from non-English-speaking backgrounds, are not only mastering Australian Standard English; they also ensured our school's average Proficiency Band aligned with the National and state averages. These results are the product of our staff and students and drive us forward in 2024.

	Year 3			Year 5		
	School Av	State Av	National Av	School Av	State Av	National Av
Reading	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong
Writing	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong
Spelling	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong
Grammar	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong
Numeracy	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong

Review of 2024 Priorities

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- To investigate an effective functional language support program across Kindy to Year 2 that caters for the needs of our EAL/D students **(achieved/continue)**
- For teachers to develop their own professional judgement in discerning how and when to apply the five teacher practices **(achieved/continue)**

2025 Priorities

- For all teachers to use their professional judgement to meet the needs of all their students through learning design and instructional range

Finally, with direction from our system accountant, school fees will be raised by 5.5% in 2025.

To all those who have helped improve our school this year, to our CSAC members, P&F members, and wider community who have assisted in any way, shape or form, I thank you.

It is with great excitement that we welcome Julie Southwell in 2025 as the substantive principal of our school. Julie, our community is blessed to be able to work with you, and I cannot wait for the great outcomes we will achieve together in 2025 and beyond. Thank you.

Kind regards

Andrew Gaudoin

Principal