

# **St Columba's School Bayswater**

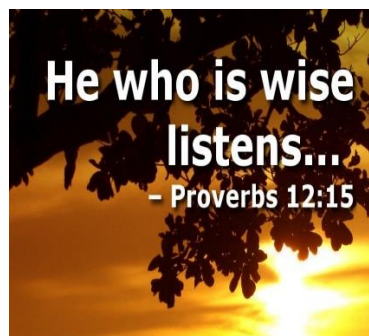
## **Annual Report [Principal]**

### **Introduction**

Welcome to the St Columba's School, Bayswater Annual Community Report for 2022.

Throughout 2022, our school community continues to grow in building strong foundations in faith, wisdom and peace. These enable us to find our connection and grounding. It is through others, the earth and ourselves that we are able to live with purpose and humility. Catherine McAuley calls us to be shining lamps, giving light to all around us. With this as our mission, we are charged with the responsibility to be witness to this in all we do, in all we say and in all we believe.

In writing around the theme for this year's ACM Principal Report I decided to focus on listening and the difference it will make in our lives and the lives of others. It is about listening, but more than that, it is about listening in 'communion' with the other. Fr George, a champion bloke, who facilitated a recent retreat for a group of Principals brought a sense of peace to everything. I do not know what it was about him, but he had an ability to bring everyone to a stillness. I mean, how often do we get to be still? Not often, always something to do. Our brain is always thinking of what is next. Well, the opportunity to stop and be, allowed us to listen. When we are open to listening with a willingness to understand the other, listen to their story, we are open to being in communion with them. This is about truly understanding and listening. Quite a unique thing, to just listen. As the proverbs says, 'Those who are wise, listen'.

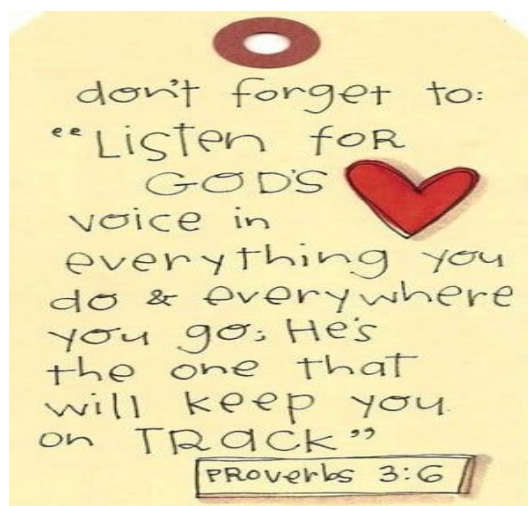


One of the things I realised upon reflection at the retreat day, was that many times when we are in conversations, or prepare for a meeting with another person, whether it be about school, and a child's learning, or whether it be for our work in whatever field we are in, or whether in a family situation, we can over prepare for it. We can think being diligent and getting everything planned for and organised, thinking of what might be asked, having all the answers, thinking of what we will say, predicting what the other will say, but this only adds to the pressure of a conversation, and does not allow for real listening, real communion. I know I do it. I can prepare for a parent meeting, staff meeting, even family stuff, and think far too much about it, rather than going with the flow, and simply listen. The quote above about how the wise person listens, is so true. We know it is.

Through listening, we 100% discover story, and once we discover another's story, we can listen with understanding. As life would have it, I have failed at this a few times already, you know, trying to have all the answers, but have taken a moment to reflect and think about how I could have being different in certain situations. I have the 'It's OK!' model a staff member made me on the 3D printer to remind me every day when I mess up, that it is in fact OK! It means I get another chance in my next conversation.

When we over think it, and do all the talking, dominate the conversation, give advice and basically talk too much, continually thinking of what our response will be, then it is hard to listen with empathy and

understanding. It is a wonderful challenge to place on ourselves to not always have the answers. I get it, some others demand we have the answers. What I say is, it is okay not to have all the answers. We are far more engaged with each other if we keep high respect for each other and come with a willingness to listen. The responses will come. Everyone will feel more open to talk about what needs to be talked about, but to also listen. I think what I loved about the day retreat and what stood out for me was the quote that I always use, 'No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care'. Is this not the perfect link into everything we believe in as St Col's people? When others know we care, then the world is a better place.



This ability to listen, and not already have all the answers and all the responses prepared, is something I very much look forward to talking to leaders in schools about when I venture into my new role next year. Through listening, we will also find God's voice. This again takes a willingness to listen rather than having to always respond. The quote above is so true. Listen to God's voice in all our conversations, will also bring a calmness that we can all carry into our days. I think with all the noise, and all the pressure that comes with being in schools, but being in life generally, your lives, my life, maybe this is the way to bring a sense of peace to the chaos we may experience at times. In the end, this is all about being present with others, something I feel we all try to do as best we can, when we can, when we have the capacity and energy.

### Inspiring Christ-Centred Leaders

Religious Education and faith formation 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 Church doctrine and traditions, through the Religious Education Units of Work, which are mandated by the Bishops of Western Australia and the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia, are the resources from which all lessons are planned.

Throughout the year, St Columba's students have supported a variety of charities, including the LifeLink program, Caritas/Project Compassion, and St Vincent de Paul. We will also soon be having our annual Christmas Appeal for food hampers to support our St Vincent De Paul Chapter here in Bayswater/Embleton. We would like to thank our staff for their engagement in these initiatives, but also to Leesa Vinciuillo and Niall Kehoe for their passion to nurture this vital aspect of our life at St Columba's. Mercy Mission Day is our major fundraising initiative for the year. Thank you to everyone involved. This event raised well over \$4 000. These funds are distributed to many charities across the Catholic works throughout Western Australia and beyond.

As you are all aware, the parish sacramental program runs throughout the school year. The sacramental preparation for Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation has been outstanding. Thank you to the Year Three [Maree Musca and Deb Klatt], Year Four [Jenny McLeod and Sarah Lombardo] and Year Six

teachers [Penny Petite, Leesa Vinculillo and Angela Mai], along with all other staff who contributed hours coordinating the three events, attending the Mass celebrations and for supporting Father Andrew and the parish. Fr Andrew is a constant source of support for our school community. He is compassionate and understanding. We thank Carolyn and Julie Kelly for their continued support of the school.

St Columba's School staff, continue to work towards completion of the Accreditation requirement as part of working and teaching in a Catholic school. In 2022, many of our staff have been committing days during their school holiday breaks to attend courses. Their efforts are appreciated.

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

Our Year 3 and Year 5 students participated in the Bishops' Religious Literacy Assessments in Term 3. As per recent trends, our students continue to perform at above average levels. The table below compares our school results with all Perth schools and also against all Catholic schools across the state.

|        | School | Perth Diocese | CEWA State |
|--------|--------|---------------|------------|
| Year 3 | 436    | 409           | 402        |
| Year 5 | 498    | 467           | 460        |
|        |        |               |            |

### **Reviewed of Priorities 2022:**

Sharing through prayer and observations how Jesus is present in all that we do. [achieved]

*Continue to form connections between the school and parish community. [achieved]*

Quality Professional Development throughout the year, including focus on Accreditation requirements on-going renewal and other. [achieved]

*Appointment of staff to middle leadership positions in 2022. [achieved]*

### **Priorities for 2023:**

Further develop the link between the school and parish.

*Staff, parents and students will continue to be invited to take a more active role in their own faith development. Year level Masses with the parish.*

One PLC based on RE per term – prayer ideas, liturgy ideas/how to prepare a liturgy.

*Year 6 Leadership Ministries to be developed further.*

## **Catholic Schools of Excellence**

Our continued focus for professional development this year, has been the refinement of the use of PLD (Promoting Literacy Development), our whole school approach to the teaching and learning of structured synthetic phonics. The continuing of the teaching pedagogy and methodology, adopted and implemented by staff members, over the last few years, continues to be refined and consolidated. The real impact of the improved use of data in our school is reflected in the growth of our students and the magnified impact that a teacher has in class. Again, I come back to thanking the staff in their adoption of the initiatives that have been implemented here, for without your efforts, we would not see the growth in our students.

2022 NAPLAN assessments took place during Term 2 this year. Our Year 3 and Year 5 students once again confidently tackled the week of testing. At St Columba's we continue to teach our students concepts as part of our learning programs, preparing them for the testing styles they will experience during NAPLAN. We set practice sessions to assist with lessening the 'new experience load' for the students. For example, exposure to using the iPad for their writing exercise. Reducing any anxiety attached to the testing experience only goes to improving a student's opportunity to perform at their best, which is all we ask of

them. Our school, once again, 'batted above average' giving us another celebration point with our Year Three and Year Five students performing above the average when compared to other Catholic schools, the rest of the state combined and all schools across the country. This is by no means a reason to rest on our laurels, as these results are the product of those who have come before us and the programs that exist at St Columba's School.

### **NAPLAN [National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy]**

#### **NAPLAN – Grammar 2022 (Mean score comparison)**

| YEAR   | SCHOOL | CEWA | STATE | NATIONAL |
|--------|--------|------|-------|----------|
| Year 3 | 479    | 431  | 424   | 433      |
| Year 5 | 523    | 500  | 496   | 499      |

#### **NAPLAN – Numeracy 2022 (Mean score comparison)**

| YEAR   | SCHOOL | CEWA | STATE | NATIONAL |
|--------|--------|------|-------|----------|
| Year 3 | 431    | 397  | 395   | 400      |
| Year 5 | 510    | 490  | 487   | 489      |

#### **NAPLAN – Reading 2022 (Mean score comparison)**

| YEAR   | SCHOOL | CEWA | STATE | NATIONAL |
|--------|--------|------|-------|----------|
| Year 3 | 478    | 437  | 428   | 439      |
| Year 5 | 523    | 513  | 505   | 510      |

#### **NAPLAN – Spelling 2022 (Mean score comparison)**

| YEAR   | SCHOOL | CEWA | STATE | NATIONAL |
|--------|--------|------|-------|----------|
| Year 3 | 429    | 419  | 414   | 418      |
| Year 5 | 519    | 509  | 505   | 505      |

#### **NAPLAN – Writing 2022 (Mean score comparison)**

| YEAR   | SCHOOL | CEWA | STATE | NATIONAL |
|--------|--------|------|-------|----------|
| Year 3 | 454    | 427  | 419   | 423      |
| Year 5 | 502    | 490  | 480   | 485      |

### **Review of Priorities 2022**

Fully embed Promoting Literacy Development Program and tracking of student growth. [achieved]  
 Review whole school Mathematics and collaborate on decision for a program for 2023. [achieved]  
 Learning Intentions and Success Criteria embedded in all classroom teaching practice. [achieved]  
 Early Childhood philosophy reviewed and developed for 2022 and beyond. [achieved]

### **Priorities for 2023:**

Sustaining and consolidating what St Columba's has implemented in 2021/2022.

*Continuing with our whole school approach to the explicit teaching of concepts, focused on the use of Learning Intentions and Success Criteria. Dedicated Literacy Time.*

Early Childhood philosophy embedded.

*Regularly using and analysing data, to differentiate the curriculum, to cater for the needs of the children, including assessment and reporting to parents.*

Professional Learning in Mathematics and the implementation of Oxford Maths and Matific.

*Continue to further develop and review our curriculum programs within the school, including how we extend our students. Vision for Learning.*

## **Catholic Pastoral Communities**

St Columba's School continues to build strong relationships within and outside of its community. Enrolment applications continue to be strong throughout the year levels, especially with entry enrolments at Kindergarten having substantial waitlists. Our Kindergarten classes for 2023 were at capacity at the commencement of the 2022 school year. This continues to be a trend over the last five years. Our Pre-Kindergarten program will run at near full capacity again in 2023. In a growth suburb, and with quality schools surrounding us, such as Bayswater Primary, it is a credit to the care of everyone that we continue to see strong enrolments coming through. St Columba's is not about being a perfect school, but rather a place of learning and growth for all, principal, staff, parents and our students, ensuring all decisions are made in the best interests of the students.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of the Catholic School Parents WA. We have continually plugged away during these COVID times early in 2022 to be in a position to set plans in place for a new playground in the lower grounds sand pit. The CSPWA have set aside \$50 000 towards this project for 2023. This is an enormous effort. We would like to extend a huge thank you to the multitude of volunteers who give up their time or resources to the many events that have taken place over the last year, but also for everyone contributing to the levy on the school fees. The CSPWA have also contributed funds to learning resources within our classrooms throughout 2022. I wish to thank the Executive team for their contribution of time and energy to lead CSPWA. In 2023, there will be a change in the Terms of Reference of Parents and Friends groups in CEWA schools. This will be outlined at a special meeting before the end of the 2022 school year.

Our Pastoral Care Committee continue to care for others in our school community. Their commitment to ensuring everyone is cared for is appreciated by all at St Columba's. We wish to thank all members for giving their time to assist in the work of the PCC. They spread goodness. We wish to especially thank those leaving this year, Jeannie Pincus and Jen Bache. Jeannie has been a key driver over many years here at St Columba's, sharing her gifts of compassion and generosity to make an impact on the lives of our families. We wish Jeannie and Jen well into the future. May it be filled with many blessings for them and their families.

### **Parent Satisfaction Survey [August 2022]**

The table below outlines the results in a score out of 5 from the parent/caregiver survey. This is an externally conduct survey and is independent of the school. The ratings are based on 95 families responding during the collection period. The results are reviewed by leadership and the School Improvement Advisor from CEWA to identify areas which may be recommended for improvement as part of future the planning. The one area identified is Assessment and Feedback. This will be placed in the School Improvement Plan for 2023. Thank you to all our families that participated in the survey.

| TOPIC                              | St COLUMBA'S RATING | TOTAL POSSIBLE RATING |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Staff Support                      | 4.4                 | 5.0                   |
| Dealing with Student Behaviour     | 4.19                | 5.0                   |
| Engaging Environment               | 4.03                | 5.0                   |
| Satisfaction With Child's Progress | 4.22                | 5.0                   |
| Welcoming School                   | 4.54                | 5.0                   |
| Affirming Diversity                | 4.23                | 5.0                   |
| Communication                      | 4.24                | 5.0                   |
| Assessment and Feedback            | 3.73                | 5.0                   |
| Satisfaction with the school       | 4.04                | 5.0                   |

### **Review of Priorities 2022:**

Continue to support the endeavours of our Pastoral Care Committee and Parents and Friends' Association in their work in caring for our school community members. [achieved]

*School counsellor role continues to be focused on the students and their needs. [achieved]*

The school's bursary continues to support students within the school, while establishing connections with Chisholm Catholic College, Bedford. [achieved]

### **Priorities for 2023:**

*Development and embedding of the Code of Conduct across the school community, including staff, students and parents.*

A review of the Seesaw App and how this is utilised as a form of communication across the school between teachers and parents. Development of clear protocols.

*Regular meetings scheduled for the Community Engagement Team as part of the Transforming Lives Strategy.*

School Counsellor FTE increased by half a day as well as connection with CEWA psychologist team.

## **Accessible, Accountable 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 St Columba's, we have a very dedicated team that work together in the administration to allow operational matters to be implemented on a daily basis. Flexibility and adaptability to the myriad of matters that may come their way during the school day is a credit to their commitment. We would like to thank Lisa Slocum, Janine Witherow, Peta Santella, Leesa Vinciuillo and Niall Kehoe for their continued support and willingness to put in the extra hours for the school and community.

We wish to highlight the professionalism of all the staff at St Columba's. We are very fortunate to have a committed staff, that enjoy working together, and ensure student educational needs are met. We are grateful and appreciative of each staff member of St Columba's. We'd also like to acknowledge the efforts of Sandro Coniglio, who in my absence, continued his work as Principal seamlessly in Semester 1. We thank Sandro for his contribution to our school during this time.

This year we have some movement within our staffing. Staff Leaving • Fran Da Rui – (St Luke's, Woodvale) • Caroline Brewer – (Secondment to Holy Rosary School, Derby) • Angela Mai – (Mercy College, Koondoola) Staff will be farewelled at our end of year celebration. We wish them all the best for 2023 and thank them for their service to our children, staff and families. Your new schools are blessed to have you as are their students. Peta Santella, our finance officer, moved to Loreto School, Nedlands mid-year. We sincerely thank Peta for her commitment to the financial management of our school and her ability to form strong relationships with our staff and families. We will have staff joining us for 2023. I would like to welcome Mrs Andrea Middleton and Miss Madison Kirwan-Ward, to our staff.

Our School Advisory Council have been very proactive in ensuring that the school is well resourced. The members of the Council have assisted with the development and implementation of the Strategic & School Improvement Plans, formalising school priorities, continuing the leasing and upgrading of ICT and maintenance and assisting with the purchasing of the new teaching resources. Our school grounds continue to be maintained to the highest standards. The construction of the walkway/canopy, which was fully funded through the school reserves, has been a major achievement and a result of sound financial management and planning. An outstanding achievement, which included the resurfacing of the school oval.

The School Advisory Council has been very proactive in catering for the learning needs of students. I wish to thank the St Columba's School Advisory Council for their commitment to our school. The support and collaboration of the Advisory Council, along with their generosity of time, is appreciated, as is their willingness to be involved in such a vital role within our school community. I especially would like to thank

our Chairperson, James Inglis, for his attention to detail and drive to improve outcomes for students. The Advisory Council as a whole have put in many hours of voluntary time, researching initiatives, seeking quotes and lending their expertise, during the construction of the walkway/canopy on the lower grounds of the school, including the refurbishment of the school oval. On behalf of our school community we extend our gratitude to each of you for the spirit of support you bring to our meetings.

The Council have worked very closely with our finance officers Janine Witherow and Peta Santella, to continue to place St Columba's School in a very sound financial position going into 2023 and beyond. We would like to recognise the contribution made to the Council by our Chair for 2022, James Inglis. James will be stepping down from the Council at the end of this year. James brings a sense of joy to our meetings, with a clear focus on improvement and what is most important for our students, staff and their families.

### **Review of Priorities of 2022:**

Maintain high levels of enrolment for students entering the school at Kindergarten. Promote year levels that have vacancies in 2022. [achieved]

*Construction of the walkway/canopy spanning from OSHC to Year 4 classrooms. [achieved]*

Develop strategies and systems for consistency walks and peer observations for staff across the school. [achieved]

*Develop a three-year, responsible and sustainable plan, including maintenance with IT Dynamics, our 2022 partner, and CEWA consultants. [in development]*

Introduction of 10 Minute Rounds for Teaching Staff. [achieved]

*Commence Consistency Walks throughout classrooms [partially achieved]*

### **Priorities for 2023:**

Continue to develop community and look for opportunities to connect with the wider community.

*Maintain high levels of enrolment for students entering the school at Kindergarten. Promote year levels that have vacancies in 2023 and beyond.*

Continue to develop strategies and systems for consistency walks and peer observations for staff across the school.

*Develop a three-year, responsible and sustainable plan, including maintenance with IT Dynamics, our 2023 partner, and CEWA consultants.*

Continued development of 10 Minute Rounds for all staff.

## **Conclusion**

We take this opportunity to express our gratitude for all we have at St Columba's School in Bayswater. For the strength of our community to be united in what we do for our children. It is a very simple philosophy that we hold. It is that every decision we make is in the best interest of the child. That we are Christ-centred in our outlook and that we continue to be there to support each other during the good times and the times of challenges. We are a grateful people here at St Columba's. We genuinely care for those within our community. It is what binds us together.

Ikigai will forever be a part of who I am as a person. It is with gratitude I thank you for allowing me to bring this to our lives here at St Columba's School. I will never forget this part of who we are as a community.





To all our staff and families who leave us this year, I again wish you all the very best at their new schools, you will always be welcome as part of this community. In 2023, we look forward to welcoming Mrs Gina Burns, as our new St Columba's School Principal. Gina will love leading you over the next part of the St Columba's journey. You are blessed to have Gina, as Gina is blessed to have you.

It is with deepest sincerity, I say farewell to our St Columba's people. It has been my honour to be your Principal over the last five years. It has been like coming home. I have had the best life as a Principal. It has been the students in our care that have been what it is all about. I will miss being able to ask the kids, 'Who is the luckiest Principal on the planet?' Have them answer, 'You.' And for me to ask, 'Why?' and they respond with, 'Because you have us.' Could I have asked for any more than this as a human? I wish to thank everyone, our staff, our parents, their parents and the parish for allowing me to be the person I am throughout my time with you. For that I am forever grateful.

On behalf of all our St Columba's School staff, I wish you and your families an abundance of joy this Christmas. May this be a time to find rest and a peacefulness for you, so as you are able to care for self and others with the gentleness that comes with the celebrations of the birth of Jesus and the fresh beginnings of the New Year.

As I sign-off the 2022 Annual Report, I again thank you for your support and kindness throughout my time as Principal here at St Columba's School, Bayswater. It has been my privilege to have spent these years with you. I leave you with one last quote that I have used throughout my Donegal Posts. This is something I know to be true.

God bless you and your families

Art Lombardi [Principal]

