



2013 ANNUAL REPORT

'Carve your name on hearts, not tombstones. A legacy is etched into the minds of others and the stories they share about you.' Shannon L. Alder

The Parables provide us with stories to teach us about the 'big picture' God has in mind for each of us. Amongst others, the parable of the Sower and the Seed comes to mind when looking back over the past 12 months, especially when I reflect on 'legacy' and the importance of understanding the depth of presence and influence we have as educators in our everyday dealings and relationships with those with whom we live, work and teach.

With our words and actions, we grow seeds into the lives of others. We continually try to build all in our community, particularly our students by giving them confidence, helping them to develop their vulnerabilities and to help them feel God's love to show them how important and precious they are. We sow seeds to help our students develop the abilities to always make positive changes in their lives.

The lay version of this parable would be 'Teachers are like Gardeners' TED talk by Sir Ken Robinson. Sir Ken's talk on 2006 on school systems and how they undermine creativity and individuality in our students is a treat (see it on youtube)! In this talk, Sir Ken makes the analogy that builds upon his proposed agricultural paradigm and shows so much respect for the inherent life in our children. The analogy is simple, everything that we do with children is a way of planting seeds of curiosity and knowledge that will bloom and grow in their own time, helping children lay down roots, blossom and flourish.

This report outlines many of the seeds that have been sown and reaped and those seeds that continue to grow and flourish; a year of learning and growth that the whole community ought to be very proud.

No legacy is so rich as honesty. William Shakespeare

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

The Religious Education & Sacramental Program continues to thrive in a spirit of love, collaboration and prayer.

- First Communion was held in April and received eagerly and reverently by our Year 4 students
- Year 3 and 5 students sat the Bishops' Religious Literacy Assessment in term 3. The results indicate our students are developing a strong sense of Jesus through Bible stories, learning that prayer plays an important part of their lives and the elements of the mass
- Year 6 students were confirmed at Pentecost and were blessed to receive the sacrament from Archbishop Timothy Costelloe. In preparation, their retreat was held at the Cathedral, with Fr. Brian and Sr. Ngairé thoroughly engaging the students with a visit to the crypt, instigating many questions; being allowed into the choir loft with Cathedral organist Jacinta playing for them and Archbishop Tim spending time with the students, talking to them about how the Holy Spirit played a part in him becoming Archbishop of Perth he became Archbishop and how the Holy Spirit works in his life
- Year 3 received the sacrament of Reconciliation in September. The parent and family support at this celebration was overwhelming, especially on a weekday; a great sign that our families are very supportive of their children and have an honest desire for them to experience and bring to life our tradition.
- Children regularly celebrated Eucharist
- School 'Values' were introduced into the Prayer assembly and a good number of parents and grandparents attended Monday assemblies.

Sincere thanks are extended to Fr. Brian and Sr. Ngairé for all their support, prayers and work with the staff and students. We are very appreciative of your time, friendship and love!

EDUCATION



Student Learning opportunities and experiences

- Introduction of uninterrupted Literacy, Numeracy and Religious Education blocks in the daily timetable
- Introduction of learning support in Years 4, 5 & 6
- Numeracy as key curriculum focus
- Mental Math focus
- Introduction of Student Math Wallet
- Continuation of the Extending Mathematical Understanding (year 2) program
- Implementation of whole school approach of structured literacy time (levelled reading instruction)
- Continuation of Bookclub Breakfasts
- Successful Book-a-thon
- Introduction of whole school Asian Studies program
- Successful application for Excellence in Languages Grant
- Introduction of 'Language' room and purchase of resources including internet capable tv
- Nexus whole school incursion (African drummers)
- Successful EduDance program and finale
- Participation in Catholic Education Commission of WA Performing Arts Festival
- Introduction of private music lessons offered by WA Academy of Music
- Murdoch University partnership *The Effects of NAPLAN*
- Year 5 Value-added NAPLAN achievement

2013 NATIONAL ASSESMENT PROGRAM LITERACY & NUMERACY SCHOOL MEANS

2013 YEAR 3					
	READING	WRITING	SPELLING	GRAMM & PUNC	NUMERACY
SCHOOL	405.6	417.8	388.8	408.3	381.3
NATIONAL	419.1	415.6	410.7	428.2	396.9

2013 YEAR 5					
	READING	WRITING	SPELLING	GRAMM & PUNC	NUMERACY
SCHOOL	517.2	491.4	511.0	546.7	489.2
NATIONAL	502.2	477.8	494.0	500.8	485.9



SCHOOL PERCENTILES

2013 YEAR 3					
	READING	WRITING	SPELLING	GRAMM & PUNC	NUMERACY
Well Above Minimum Standard	15%	4%	7%	11%	0%
Above Minimum Standard	70%	85%	67%	59%	74%
At Standard	15%	11%	26%	30%	26%
Below Minimum Standard	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

2013 YEAR 5					
	READING	WRITING	SPELLING	GRAMM & PUNC	NUMERACY
Well Above Minimum Standard	38%	23%	27%	46%	23%
Above Minimum Standard	42%	62%	58%	38%	65%
At Standard	19%	15%	15%	16%	12%
Below Minimum Standard	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

EDUCATION

Student Support

- Students with Special Disability and learning difficulties continued to be supported with Teacher Assistant time
- Introduction of Letters and Words Program
- Regular contact with Mrs Val McKelvy, Consultant, Catholic Education Office, has assisted in enhancing the support mechanisms added to programs for students
- Regular contact with outside agencies (Autism Australia) has significantly contributed to staff development
- First-time contestants in the Catholic Schools Academic All Stars Tournament (year 5)



- Our long-standing Social Worker Lisa Mueller continued to provide her genuine care and excellent guidance to students, parents and staff this year. Mrs Mueller resigned at the end of term 3 as family duties beckoned her. Mrs Mueller's support role and the professional manner in which she contributed have left an indelible legacy here. Her love of our community, laughter and life will always remain very special to us. *Mrs Mueller we thank you sincerely for sharing your gifts so freely in our community!*

STEWARDSHIP

Ever grateful for the tools and resources we are able to share, 2013 has delivered many successes

- School Board initiated No Booklist for parents (school bulk purchase of stationery)
- Information Communication and Technology:
 - Introduction of iPads, Macbook Airs and Apple TVs into classrooms
 - Outside expert support for staff
 - Upgrade of school server
- Building and Maintenance
 - Pre-Primary and Kindergarten renovation
 - Students' Toilet upgrade and renovation
 - Hall foyer renovation
 - Light fittings replaced in all classrooms and tubes upgraded
 - Resource Room furniture refit to house resources and teacher work area
- Pilot school for the National Collection of Data for students with learning difficulties
- Pilot school for National Quality Standard in the Early Years
- Empowering Local School Project Business Manager Dympna Forte successfully working with office staff, developing and improving structures and systems
 - Formal introduction of Administration Officer and Finance Officer position
 - Pilot school for upgrade of MAZE and SEQTA administration programs
- Cyber Safety Committee
 - Regular meetings lead by Miss Barrett members included parents, students, and social worker
 - Year 5 & 6 students held very successful family afternoon and evening showcases to demonstrate their knowledge of safe and responsible use of technology. Great response by parents, thank you! Excellent ICT skills and oral language skills by students. Well done!!
- Staff Professional Learning

Staff have been involved in many opportunities and again took part in the professional learning offered by the Catholic Education Office in the areas of Literacy, Numeracy, ICT, Students with Special Disability and Early Years Education

 - Introduction of AITSL standards for professional appraisal
 - Peer enhancement experiences and discussions with critical friend and principal
 - Boys and Education *Ian Lillico*
 - Mathematics and the Australian Curriculum *Ellita Denardi*
 - Mental Math strategies *Ellita DeNardi*
 - Surviving Catholic School *Fr. Richard Leonard*
 - Disability Discrimination Act *Sam Blackburn-Read NGSPS*
 - Students with Learning Difficulties *Tanya Dickson*
 - Differentiating the Curriculum *Tanya Dickson*
 - Pastoral Care *Tanya Dickson*
 - Circle of Security *Sam Blackburn-Read NGSPS*



- Whole School Improvement and Quality Catholic Schools
Insight SRC and School surveys were very informative and have initiated great discussion and activity
 - School Survey re Wider Partnerships with results indicating strong connections with local community groups; identification and difference of extra-curricula activities and extra-intra school activities
 - Strong response to parent survey re Extra Curricula activities with several activities identified as possibilities to offer students including a Chess Club and a Basketball group (being explored)
 - Parent survey re Cultural Diversity opening possibility of further excursions/incursions related to Indigenous and African studies
 - Quality Catholic School Review
Catholic Education Office Director Tim McDonald instigated a system review of the current system and whole school improvement strategy. Results of this review included the rationalisation of improvement elements and schools having greater autonomy selecting areas for growth
 - Taking the Pulse Report a review of the services offered to schools by the Catholic Education Office. St Augustine's participated by providing feedback for the Leadership, Employee and Community Relations team and the Accreditation of Staff panel.
- School Polices under review are Behaviour Management and Homework
- Staff wacky sandwiches day, breakfasts, corporate massage and birthday celebrations are some of the activities staff have engaged in to help look after ourselves and enjoy each other's company.

COMMUNITY

Our community is blessed in its' uniqueness, with families from a variety of cultures collaborating harmoniously to provide the best possible education and environment for our students to flourish

- Our School and Parish relationship continues to grow with Fr. Brian and Sr. Ngairé very visible in the school
- Our School thrives on the good will and love of the parent body. Increasingly we have seen greater response to surveys. The success of the electronic newsletter has resulted in a saving of paper and easy access to news and forms for parents and prospective families Sincere thanks to Miss Rebecca Smith for her persistence in 'getting the newsletter right'! We have all enjoyed lots of fun with parents during our sports afternoons. Thank you very much to our parent helpers, your assistance and support has been invaluable.
- The School Board has supported all initiatives and is sincerely thanked for the guidance and counsel they provide at all times. Sincere thanks to Mr Clinton Bishop who completes his term as Chairperson. Clinton has been a great support and mentor during his time on the Board. Clinton's approach to 'chairperson' is astute, tainted with humour and reality. Sincere thanks too to Ms Amanda Negus as she completes her time on the Board and as Secretary. Amanda too has made a significant contribution to school life through her role on the Board. Amanda's energy, enthusiasm and support of our school are very much appreciated, as too has been her accurate detail of meeting reports. *Sincere thanks is extended to all board members for their positive contribution, critique and support.*
- The Parents and Friend's Association has again proven to be a force to be reckoned with!
 - Very successful election-day cake stalls and sausage sizzles
 - Canteen Special Days



- Super Lap-a-thon fundraiser
- Mother's Day and Father's Day Raffles
- Roller-skating party
- Easter Bonnet Parade helpers

You are to be congratulated! The spirit in which the P&F meet to discuss, plan and organise events is to be commended. The detail in organisation and the care and friendship you bring to our community is tremendous. A very big thank you to Byron Trumper, dad and chef for giving of your time so freely and serving deliciously healthy canteen specials. *Sincere thanks to Mrs Maryann Taraborrelli for leading a dynamic, purposeful and successful team*

- TravelSmart community success again! Sincere thanks to Mrs Taraborrelli for her enthusiasm and care promoting Walk, Ride or Scoot to school. We have all enjoyed the stickers and healthy breakfasts in reward of our efforts. Well year 6 TravelSmart team, your assistance and care with students have been great!
- Numeracy Parent Night and Numeracy Fun Night were very well received and a lot of fun had by all!

STAFF

Our 'Gardeners'

This has been a year of joy and challenges of both personal and professional in nature

The research on the qualities of a great teacher is abundant. There is a general consistency that these are probably the top 10:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <i>An engaging personality and teaching style</i> | <i>Clear objectives</i> |
| <i>Effective discipline skills</i> | <i>Good classroom management</i> |
| <i>Good communicators</i> | <i>High expectations</i> |
| <i>Knowledge of curriculum and standards</i> | <i>Knowledge of subject matter</i> |
| <i>Passion for children and teaching</i> | <i>Strong rapport with students</i> |

Having each of these working well at one time is nearly impossible, however the challenge to further develop these qualities and skills has been at the fore of our discussions and professional learning.

How do words justify the time, effort, commitment, and care that each one of our staff members gives freely, to say 'thank you'?

Our staff are to be commended and admired for the manner in which they behold challenge and the desire to improve their practice in order to provide the best possible education for our students. They deserve our respect for the determination they demonstrate to ensure that our students and their families are prime in their duty of care.

2014 FUTURE FOCUS

Catholic Education Commission of WA Strategic Plan LEAD

Leading Engagement Accountability Discipleship

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

- Classes experiencing Eucharist more often by regular attendance at Friday masses
- Parent Information/Formation Sessions for each of the Sacraments

EDUCATION

Student Learning

- Continued whole school focus *Numeracy*



- Whole school focus *Writing*
- Further integration of *technology* across all areas of learning

EDUCATION

Student Learning Support

- Introduction of Academic All Stars (initially years 3-6)
- Continued School Board funded support of students with disability and learning difficulties

STEWARDSHIP

- Team Building *Brendan Spillane*
- Instructional Rounds teacher professional learning (Partnership with Murdoch University, St Columba's School South Perth and St Jude's School Langford)
- 3 School Conference Student Engagement in Numeracy and the Early Years
- National Quality Standard Improvement Plan for Kindergarten to Year 2
- Information, Communication and Technology committee
- Building and Maintenance committee

COMMUNITY

- Parents & Friends' Class representative (social and news coordinator)
- School/Parish social activities
- Parent information sessions
- Loose Parts Play (creative play)

2013 has been a very busy year at St Augustine's with many successes, challenges and discussions to continue into 2014. I look forward to continuing the collaborative, positive and critical discussions.

*What kind of seeds would you like to sow into the people in your life?
What is your legacy? How does it define you?*

"Reaching for Great Heights"