

St Francis Xavier

AGM Principal's Report 2017

Good evening and welcome. A special welcome to our Clergy who are in attendance tonight. I also wish to thank the executive of both the Board and P&F. As parents within the school you have a vested interest in ensuring St Francis Xavier's success and I thank you for your contributions this year.

LEAD is the acronym Catholic Education uses as its strategic direction and under this framework I will address some, but not all of the work undertaken at St Francis Xavier in 2017.

Learning

In 2017 St Francis Xavier continued its learning focus on ensuring best practices is in all classrooms. Staff participated in a range of learning opportunities including, dedicated literacy and a focus on ensuring the intention of teaching is explicit and the success criteria known by students.

Catholic Education, along with schools within the Geraldton Diocese, visited in term three to view the work. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive at the work being undertaken and importantly the ability for children to articulate their purpose in learning and what success looks like.

This year St Francis Xavier also commenced Digital Technologies as a specialized learning area. Gemma Clarkson has been the LEAD Teacher in this initiative. Gemma has worked with students but also ran techie sessions after schools for staff and collaborated with NAGLE Catholic College. I thank all staff for being proactive at developing their own capacity and attending after school session on their own accord. This has ensured technologies are incorporated across learning areas and St Francis Xavier students are well prepared in digital technologies.

Engagement

Ensuring St Francis Xavier develops positive relationships with key stakeholders is essential. In 2017, all classroom teachers commenced communicating via ClassDojo which has enhanced the ability to share and celebrate student growth and enable regular communication regarding events to be easily transferred. Communication is at the heart of effective relationships and Class DoJo combined with face to face meetings and phone calls has assisted in developing positive relationships.

The Board, under the guidance and leadership of Phil Sorgiovanni, has ensured the capital, physical and maintenance of the school has been completed whilst ensuring all decision focus on the well-being and education of students. The addition of seating and trees on the senior oval is an example of how the Board responded to the re of students. Many other upgrades and maintenance items where seamlessly completed, ensuring the facilities of the school are both safe and effective for learning. I Thank Jacque and David from the Board and Jane and Tim for regularly attending sub-committee meetings.

The Board has been supportive in developing a strategic plan for the school community this year. Their vision will continue to focus on the future of the school community and ensuring we change to meet the needs of our family and wider community. The commencement of a Playgroup this term and before, after and holiday school care in 2018 are examples of how we adapt to meet the needs of the Geraldton and school community. The Board has also explored and introduced the Online Canteen as another way of supporting parents and their needs.

In 2018, the school will release its own app that has the built in capacity of ClassDojo, Online Canteen and links to school newsletter and absenteeism.

I would also like to thank the Parents and Friends Association, led by Hayley Morris, for their contributions. Their efforts this year have ensured that the student body was provided with opportunities to come together such as the Junior Disco and Movie Night. Next week, the annual feast day celebrations will be held providing a fitting event for our community to join together. In addition to events, the P&F have committed \$35,000 to the Early Childhood. This will ensure much needed upgrades are made to their outdoor environment, benefitting students for many years to come. This work will commence in the Christmas holidays. Thank you to our P&F Executive and volunteers for your contributions throughout the year.

Accountability

St Francis Xavier continues to focus on ways to improve our collective responsibility to our students, our environment and to our involvement in the wider communities. This year, staff and students have actively been involved in social justice activities to develop an awareness of our role in the region and wider community. This includes recycling activities for both staff and students, supporting victims of landmines through our helping hands initiative and raising funds for wheelchairs, ambulances and for communities in need.

Financially, St Francis Xavier has made difficult decisions to ensure we continue to operate within our financial constraints. Phil and Zane, as members of the Board Finance sub-committee regular meet to ensure good governance. This at times has been difficult, however ensuring students are provided with appropriate resources to meet their educational needs is at the heart of decisions. I thank Jane and Michelle for the essential role they play in keeping accurate accountancy and ensuring prudence in our financial decision making.

Discipleship

The appointment of Fr Michael to the role of Bishop was extremely exciting for the diocese and St Francis Xavier. I would like to acknowledge the ministry Bishop Michael provided St Francis Xavier School, and although in his new role his physical presence may be diminished, we will always be grateful knowing that he is with us in thoughts and prayers. Father Alby and Larry have both been active in supporting the

school in liturgical and sacramental celebrations this year. I thank you both and wish Father Alby well as in 2018 he will be relocating and supporting the people of Karatha.

At this time, I would like to thank St John's School and Parish for their support in 2017. Their generosity enabled students of St Francis Xavier the opportunity to receive and celebrate sacraments in both their Church and school hall.

I thank the staff at St Francis's and their ongoing commitment to Catholic Education. Education has many external influences and distractions however, I wish to acknowledge the focus our staff have had on our most important possession, the students. Staff members' continuous pursuit to provide quality educational experiences for all children ensures that learning is our business and St Francis Xavier is well placed to enhance and adapt to the educational needs of students. In particular, I wish to acknowledge Judi and Murray. Their support personally and their leadership to the school is often taken for granted and unrecognized. Thank you Judi and Murray.

Sadly, as each year comes to an end we say goodbye to departing staff. I wish to acknowledge and thank the work of Gemina Newhill, Carolyn Blake, Sensei Joyner and Maddy Raven. Each member has contributed and played important roles in our school community which I am grateful for.

In closing, as we face the future together let us remember the words of our Patron Saint who said, "It is not the physical exertion that counts towards one's progress, nor the nature of the task, but by the spirit of faith with which it is undertaken."

May we, as members of St Francis Xavier Community, continue to strive for excellence for ourselves, for others and the community by following Christ's examples in the Gospels.

Thank You