



PRINCIPAL'S 2019 ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING ADDRESS

Good evening everyone,

In my address this evening, I will speak about the school's achievements in 2019 and outline our intentions and annual school improvement plan foci for 2020. I will do this under the Catholic Education of Western Australia acronym of LEAD; Learning, Engagement, Accountability and Discipleship.

LEARNING

Educating the whole child and improving student outcomes for each individual child is our core business at Francis Jordan.

Our focus this year has been to provide a consistent school wide approach to the teaching of literacy and numeracy and lift each child's performance through quality teaching. We have focused particularly on reading in 2019; principally on more fully utilising individual student data to improve academic achievement. We have set high achievement targets for reading for all cohorts of children across the school and have monitored and evaluated this data to inform teaching and learning. Through focused and targeted teaching our students across the school have achieved outstanding results; a very large percentage of them reaching the high target set for them early in term four. The staff and I are very proud of the achievements of every child in this area this year. The work in this area is tireless and will continue into 2020.

The following table shows the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard in the NAPLAN assessments for 2019.

Year	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Three	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Five	100%	98%	100%	98%	100%

In Year Three this year, 100% of children were at or above the National Minimum Standard in Spelling, Writing, Reading, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy.

In Year Five, 100% of children in Spelling, 98% in Writing, 100% in Reading, 98% in Grammar and Punctuation and 100% of children in Numeracy were at or above the National Minimum Standard.

One of the very important pieces of data we gain from the NAPLAN assessments is the student data over time. This shows the rate of improvement for each individual student, and their cohorts as they progress through primary school. It is important to note that, whilst our data is very high in relation

to other schools, we will continue to explicitly personalise the learning for each individual student in order for them to reach their full potential.

In 2020, our focus will continue to be implementing a consistent and school wide approach to the teaching of literacy; specifically reading and writing. This will involve ensuring consistent explicit pedagogical teaching practices, learning structures and curriculum processes are put into place and that these have a measurable impact on student achievement. This will include the use of observation chairs and shoulder to shoulder feedback to continue to build staff capacity. In semester two, the focus will be on consolidating the Talk 4 Writing program across the entire school to ensure a consistent approach.

There will be a focus on making learning even more individualised and personalised. In addition, in order to address children not making appropriate progress, a case conference model will be implemented to assist teachers to address the specific learning needs of individual children. Our staff work tirelessly and collaboratively every week in professional development sessions to improve our practice to provide an outstanding education for the children at Francis Jordan. I especially acknowledge Mrs Gloria Ward in her role as Assistant Principal of Curriculum, who oversees these processes and staff development.

In 2020, we are very excited to announce we will be introducing STEAM as a specialist subject. This will replace our DigiTech specialist, as ICT will now be accessible at our children's fingertips throughout the day in each of our classrooms. STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) allows our children to utilise these different subject areas and learn through inquiry and discovery in order to ensure our students are well placed to develop as 21st century citizens. This will be taught by Mrs Gloria Ward.

In addition, we will introduce Health as a specialist subject across the school in 2020. Mr Peter Elek will be teaching this subject area.

In Religious Education, we continue to give particular focus to the teaching and knowledge about our Catholic faith and traditions. This focus is coupled with the faith development experiences we provide for our children throughout the year. As in previous years, our Year Three and Five students sat the Bishops' Religious Literacy tests. It is clearly evident from these assessments that children who are active in the practice of their faith and have good literacy skills are the students who perform well on these tests. The tests reflect the progressive nature of the K-12 Religious Education curriculum and is comprised of multiple choice, short answer and extended response questions. This year 67% of Year 3 students and 51% of Year 5 students received scores above the Catholic school mean from across the state.

ENGAGEMENT

Our school reflects the unity of family and school where students, parents and staff come together in harmony for a common purpose. The many community events this year have given families many opportunities to build connections with each other.

To the many parents who actively contribute on a daily basis a huge thank you. Whether it is helping at home, in the classroom or supporting the P&F or School Board endeavours, this demonstrates to your children the importance you place on their learning. The energy and common focus that exists within these service groups to the school ensures that our sense of community will continue to grow and prosper into the future.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the P&F this year. They have worked hard to develop social activities to enhance community spirit and engage with families in our school. The P&F have had an incredible year with magnificent events such as Family Fun Night, the Quiz Night, school discos, the Cyber Safety Seminar, Mother and Fathers' day stall and Easter raffles. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the P&F committee for their outstanding efforts this year. It has been an absolute delight to work with a dedicated and fun filled group of people. I would especially like to mention and thank Shannon Britten for her outstanding leadership and love of all things Francis Jordan, the assistance and support of Kellie Hall as our Vice President, Naomi Agosta for her fastidious work as Treasurer and Marie Paragalli, our very competent Secretary. I have worked with many P&Fs during my time as principal and I can say with my hand on my heart that the Francis Jordan P&F is certainly one of the best.

We have worked hard as a school to improve our communication this year and I thank our parent community for their continuous feedback in this regard. The introduction of Class Dojo has been a great success with parents commenting that they truly have the opportunity to be part of the learning experience and are kept informed of the daily occurrences in the classroom from the class teachers. We have also streamlined the communication process in regard to how information is disseminated to our school on various levels. We will continue to consolidate and further enhance communication with all of our stakeholders in 2020.

Our Year Six students have embraced every opportunity to enhance and build their leadership skills and have contributed enthusiastically to all aspects of school life. I am especially proud of these wonderful role models for their younger peers as they have consistently demonstrated the significance of being a Francis Jordan student. I wish them well as they move on to high school.

Mental health and well-being will be a focus in 2020. This year the school received a chaplaincy grant for the next three years. From 2020, Mrs Margaret Brown will recommence her role as chaplaincy worker at Francis Jordan. In addition, I am pleased to report that our well-being dog trial has been such a success in 2019 that Pickle will join us again next year on a Friday to be with our students. We thank Miss Rachael Araujo for allowing Pickle to embrace life at Francis Jordan.

Finally, in this area, in 2020 the school will begin a community playgroup. This playgroup will be run by Mrs Ella Redding and will be an open invitation to all members of the Francis Jordan community and those within our extended community. We look forward to the commencement of this initiative next year.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Our focus area of accountability has been dominated by a number of projects this year including:

- Fixing a number of columns around our school
- Upgrading of the electrical boards
- The installation of bollards in the car park
- The donations of funds by our P&F which allowed us to upgrade furniture, outdoor seating within the school and buy tens of thousands of dollars of reading book resources.

I would like to thank all the members of the school board for their dedicated commitment to the financial management of our school. I would particularly like to thank Mr Tim Tolley for his excellent chairpersonship and unwavering support, and Mr Robert Rees for his watchful scrutiny of our financial reports. It has been an absolute pleasure working with such a dedicated group of people this year. Thank you for your commitment to Francis Jordan.

The school will also undergo an enormous change in our front office system next year, moving to a Catholic Education of Western Australia devised system AoS. This will occur in the first few months of the school year and parents will be advised of any changes that affect them in due course.

A very comprehensive draft information and communication technology plan has been designed and the first stage of implementation is underway; this being the one-to-one parent funded BYOD iPad program for students beginning in Year Four in 2020. The plan aims to focus on the incorporation of 21st-century learning into the school with a two pronged focus of pedagogy (this being staff training and capacity building) and infrastructure.

This implementation of this plan will involve moving towards a one-to-one iPad program for children in Years 4 to 6 and a 1:2 model for Years 1-3 by 2022. In addition, kindergarten and pre-primary will utilise a small bank of iPads in their learning centres.

DISCIPLESHIP

We are blessed with a strong connection to the parish and work closely with catechists in the delivery of parish based, school supported and family focused sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. I thank Father Francis for his strong support within the school and in the lives of the students. We are blessed to have an incredibly thriving Catholic community and parish and it is a delight to work in a school and community where faith is truly alive and nourished.

Reaching out to those in our community teaches students about the Social Justice issues that exist in today's world and giving to those who are less fortunate is part of that to which we are called as Catholic people. In 2019 each term provided opportunity for students to reach out to others:

- In Term One, we raised money for Caritas and Project Compassion.
- In Term Two, the Year Six children held the mini fete; the money raised from this was sent to the Salvatorian Mission in the Philippines. In addition, there was a free dress day to raise money for the missions.
- Term Three, fundraising supported Perth Children's Hospital Cancer Ward in recognition of Charlie Ryan.

- And Term Four, the school contributed to and supported the Shave for a Cure; which one of our students Zion Fernandez instigated.

I thank Mr Damian Purcell in his role as AP RE for keeping faith at the forefront of our school and ensuring *reverence, respect and Christian Service* remain paramount.

Staffing

I would now like to announce the teaching staff for 2020. (Read from slides) The remainder of the staffing allocation is still being finalised and will be published in the next school newsletter.

A number of our staff are leaving Francis Jordan at the end of the year and spreading their wings. Miss Lauren Franchina joined our staff for the later part of second semester taking over from Mrs Hawley when she went on maternity leave. I would like to thank Lauren for her contribution to Francis Jordan; your enthusiasm, love of your job and efforts are greatly appreciated.

Mrs Louise Richards has a long history with Francis Jordan, having her own children at the school many years ago. Over the last few years, Louise has worked in the canteen every Thursday. Louise is a strong supporter of Francis Jordan; always going above and beyond her one day contract to assist the school without being asked. Her friendly demeanour, welcoming nature and obvious love of the children has been an asset to our school. Louise, we thank you for your contribution to Francis Jordan; you will be missed by our community.

Miss Gloria Casserly will be retiring at the end of the year after being a foundation member of Currambine Catholic School. It is virtually unheard of to stay in the same industry for 25 years, let alone work at the same school. Gloria has woven herself into the deep history and fibre of our school and holds much of its richness in her heart and in her memories. Gloria is known for always putting the children first, being meticulous in her planning of quality learning experiences for our students and her deep care for each and every child. On behalf of the community, I would like to acknowledge the incredible contribution of Gloria Casserly to Francis Jordan.

As our community are aware, Mrs Wendy Manners resigned from her position in semester two. Wendy has been the principal at Francis Jordan since 2016. Wendy was a very passionate advocate of the early years program and displayed a great love for the children at Francis Jordan. She was focused on ensuring that whole school quality learning programs were implemented; such as Sounds-write and the MacLit support program. Wendy was also passionate about integrating ICT effectively into the teaching and learning programs. We sincerely thank Wendy for her service, dedication and commitment to Francis Jordan and we wish her well in her future endeavours. A gift, on behalf of the school, has been arranged for Wendy and will be presented to her privately in the coming weeks.

Thank you and acknowledgements

It has been my absolute pleasure to work with a team of wonderful people at Francis Jordan this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff for their dedication, unwavering commitment and support. Each one of them works tirelessly to improve the outcomes of each student in our school. The love of their job, loyalty to the students in their care and positive attitude is to be commended.

I would like to acknowledge our hard-working office staff, Geri Nagy and Claudia Black, who are the face of our school. Your warmth, sense of humour and dedication to your work is admired by many. I thank you for your incredible support this year.

As principal, I've had the privilege of working with a number of wonderfully dedicated members of staff this year. I thank and acknowledge Damian Purcell and Gloria Ward for their support as assistant principals.

I thank Shaun and Maurice Seamons for their upkeep of the school grounds and their willingness to go above and beyond in their work on a daily basis. I would also like to thank Peter and Teresa our cleaners for their work in maintaining our school to such a high standard. Your efforts and love of our school are greatly appreciated.

In conclusion, I thank the children of the school for the wonderful life they bring to our workplace. Francis Jordan is a wonderful school. It is a place of hard work, much growth and development, great fun and energy. It is also a privilege to be able to work in a Catholic community where one's own faith in God is nurtured and fuelled every day. On behalf of the staff I ask that you pass on our very sincere thanks to your children for making our lives more complete by way of what they bring to us on a daily basis.

Thank you and God bless.

Miranda Swann