

## **Principal's Message 2021**

*As part of our required reporting procedures for Catholic Education WA I will use the four headings of Catholic Identity, Education, Community and Stewardship to present our achievements for this year 2021.*

### **Education**

This year our major curriculum focus has been in the English learning area with a specific focus on reading. All teachers have been in-serviced in the Science of Reading philosophy. This has seen a big improvement in the level and quantity of the students' reading tasks in all year levels. It has also facilitated cohort planning with the year group teachers working together to co-plan the program to cover. We have continued to implement data walls that track reading and writing across the whole school. The ongoing Mini Lit and Math's Lit has continued to consolidate children's knowledge in small groups and the progress of the children in the lessons has been excellent. This year also saw all year groups implement iMaths and this was successful in all year groups. The integration of technology using the iPad in Years 1 to 5 has also enhanced the engagement of our children as well as allowing them to think differently and produce learning in different ways. This will continue next year as the BYOD program moves up the school into Year 6.

### **Community**

COVID 19 once again hit us early in the year and we have had a few disruptions because of this throughout the year. We have adapted where needed and made changes to protocols and procedures due to the advice from the health department. COVID seems to be with us for the near future and moving into 2022 will be once again a different and interesting time.

The P&F have done an amazing job this year, without much fan fair. The start of the year we all joined together to celebrate with the Family Fun Night. Having it a little later in the year allowed new families to make friends before the event and then they were able to join in with the class cohort of families. Our usual Mother's day and Father's day stalls were well patronized as well as the disco held later in the year. At the AGM the P&F were able to pledge amounts of \$30 000 towards stage one of the junior playground refurbishments and towards \$10 000 to the 'Frog Bog' projects next stage as well. A big thank you to Mrs Howarth and her hard working committee members.

After much planning and preparation, we held a community busy bee to get the 'Frog Bog' project off the ground. Earlier in the year the MAD club was established with a regular 30+ students attending each Friday lunch time with Miss Walker and Mrs McQueen. From this group the idea of the frog bog came to fruition, and we had over 35 families help out with the instillation of stage one. We were lucky to receive a grant from the WA Government to help us with purchasing the needed materials to do the project and for this we are very thankful to our local member Mr. Mark Folkard MLA. Next year this project will continue with two further stages of fruit tree planting, and we hope to also build and house our own chickens to

use up our scraps from lunch time.

## **Stewardship**

With many schools in WA finding, it hard to balance their budgets, we have been fortunate this year to have been able to work with a balanced budget and complete some major works needed around the school. A lot of this has been because of the careful and meticulous work of Mrs Henderson our school Finance office supported by Mr Rafferty our School Advisory Council treasurer.

Our hard-working school board (Now named School Advisory Council) made some major changes with our uniform this year after consultation and a lot of discussion. These changes will phase in over the next two years.

We have a new sign finally installed on Marmion St to advertise the school. This is the culmination of 18 months of planning and applications with the City of Joondalup. Special thank you to Fr George for allowing the sign to be installed on the Salvatorians land and also Mr. Mayvis for donating his electrical skills to the setup.

Our online presents on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter have been a big focus this year and has really put our information out in the community in a very positive way. Special thanks to Mrs. Ward and Mrs Admans who have implemented all these improvements.

We also recently teamed up with Prendiville College and St Simon Peter Catholic Primary school in a cross-campus Facebook promotion through the help of CEWA marketing. We hope that this will promote Catholic Education throughout the local area and lead to future enrolments as well as highlight our Catholic high school.

A huge thank you to Mr. Jacob and all of our School Advisory Council members. Gareth has been a driving force behind the council with ideas and support in many quarters from our other Council members during the year, thank you.

## **Catholic Identity**

Once again, this year the sacramental process has aligned itself with that of the Perth Diocese Guidelines by being, Parish based, school supported, and family focused. With the support of Fr Francis, Fr Marius and the parish we were able to complete all of the sacraments by the end of October. Through the hard work of Mr Purcell and the sacramental years teachers all of the meetings, workshops and retreats were well received and patronized. We have been very blessed this year in having Fr Francis and Fr Marius as our school priests sharing the role through the year. Both priests have been regular participants in all activities at the school, being whole school masses, reconciliation, class masses, sacramental talks and playground visits. Their presence has helped us by giving spiritual and moral guidance as well as support.

I sincerely thank all of our **staff**. I acknowledge both the collective and individual

contributions that you each bring to our school as you work alongside our students. Each day you touch the lives of our students in so many ways. Building on the foundations from family, your kindness, patience, dedication, and genuine care for our students, contributes significantly to our students 'blossoming' as they grow into polite, considerate, and hardworking young individuals, who represent the spirit of Francis Jordan Catholic School so well. Thank you for the time you give to provide this valuable support to our students.

Teaching is one of the most rewarding professions in that it gives teachers an opportunity to make an impact on a future generation, however it is also extremely challenging and never easy. No one with actual teaching experience would tell you otherwise. Being a teacher takes patience, dedication, passion, and the ability to do more with less. It is a journey often filled with just as many valleys as mountains. There is the perception that teachers only work from 8-3 each day and have way too many holidays! Our teachers at Francis Jordan are dedicated and go over and above on many occasions throughout the year.

Finally, our students, you constantly impress me with your love of learning, joy of friendships and attitude to life. To our Year 6 cohort, you will be missed next year, and I am sure that once the high schools you are going to realize the quality people, they are welcoming you will flourish like you have here at Francis Jordan.

To the teachers leaving us at the end of the year Mrs Ganassi we wish you well in retirement, your time and commitment is a testament to your passion for your job. Miss Steer, all the best in your future career, you have done an amazing job in the short time you have been with us. To Mrs Brown who will be taking a year's break from her teaching role with long service leave, enjoy your break, even though you will still be with us in your social worker role. To Mrs Hall who has spent the year with us in Kindy, I know you will be with us again sometime in the future. I would like to thank all of them for their hard work and dedication and wish them well into the future.

We also say **farewell** to those families who are leaving or relocating away from our school, we wish you well as you embark on your journey to new places and new communities. I pray that the Holy Spirit will guide your onward journey.

As always at this time of year, I wish everyone a Christ filled Christmas and safe journeys over the break and look forward to seeing everyone back safe and refreshed for 2022.

Thank you.

Chris Dunning

Principal