

St Pius X Catholic Primary School



ANNUAL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT 2016

'Never see a need without doing something about it'.

- Blessed Mary MacKillop (1842 -1909)

The year of 2016 has been another busy, but an exceptionally productive year for our school community. Our many accomplishments this year are a result of the ongoing commitment of all members working together, to continue to make St. Pius X a community of 'faith and friendship'.

THE SCHOOL BOARD

The School Board worked tirelessly in 2016 to ensure that St. Pius X continues to be a school of choice in an increasingly competitive environment. One of the major achievements of the School Board this year has been over-seeing the Capital Development Plan, which has seen our facilities at the school continue to be a great source of pride. Our school now has an extended library, TSH room, storeroom and classrooms, as well as the creation of more small-group learning spaces. Our toilet facilities and canteen received a much-needed update, while the staffroom and staff work-space were also expanded to a more functional size and layout.

We continue to enjoy I.T. resources which would be the envy of many other schools, with the School Board helping to provide new resources as needed and directed by the community through the IT survey completed this year. This Board has been outstanding in supporting the staff in their essential role as educators, by ensuring that their work environment continues to be exceptionally well-resourced.

The School Board continues to be a great support as we implemented the 1st Year of our Strategic Plan and look to develop this further into 2017. This is at the forefront of all we do and strive to achieve for our children.

I wish to thank the School Board for their commitment to St Pius X Catholic School. These individuals freely give their time and effort to support the Principal in the running of our wonderful school and have been a pleasure to work with this year. I would like to especially acknowledge the School Board Chairperson, Mr. Nick Sertis, for his ongoing support and his dedication to the extra hours that go into the role behind the scenes, as well as our retiring member of the Board, Mrs Renea Capararo (Treasurer). Thank you.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION

At St. Pius X, we are fortunate to have an energetic and dedicated group of parents making up our Parents and Friends' Association. Led by Mrs. Lidia Pino, our P&F have once again been able to raise a significant amount of money for the school. All of this money raised goes into resources that will benefit our children. The P&F have worked particularly hard in fundraising for the new nature-based playground, which was one of the most rewarding experiences I have been part of at a school. This process not only brought about a wonderful playground but also allowed for many interactions amongst our school community.

At the same time, our P&F have added so much to the community spirit of the school, holding a number of well-received parent events throughout the year. From Quiz Nights and Art Exhibition and other events for the parents, our P&F do so much to help create the wonderful community feel that St. Pius X continues to enjoy. I am extremely grateful for the essential role that the P&F have once again played in our school in 2016 and look forward to their contributions again in 2017.

PARISH - SCHOOL

The St. Pius X Parish and School continue to work together through Father Blasco and the parish council. I thank Father Blasco for his spiritual guidance throughout the year and we look forward to this continuing next year.

A major achievement for the school and parish this year has been the celebration of the Sisters of St Joseph's 150th Anniversary and the renaming of the library in their honour. It has been very rewarding to see the school and parish collaborate to celebrate this event.

STAFF

There is no doubt that schools are becoming increasingly complex environments and strong leadership is required to ensure success. We are very fortunate at St. Pius X to enjoy a very efficient administration team. Mrs Margaret Tatasciore and Mrs Marni Nichol continue to go above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that our school runs smoothly and we are all very grateful for their efforts. I would like to thank Mr. Brett Wilkie and Mrs Tiffany Johnson, for their ongoing loyalty, professionalism to the role and ability to work the many hours required of them outside the normal school day for the benefit of our community. I also wish Mrs Johnson all the best as she moves onto her new role in 2017.

I wish to also acknowledge the effort and skills that our wonderful staff bring to this school. We are staffed by some wonderfully talented and caring individuals, who consistently put the needs of their students first. I would like to personally thank the staff for their dedication and ability to get the best out of the students. Your support of the school and the journey we are on this year has been unwavering and you continue to bring your own unique gifts and talents to enrich the lives of our students. To those staff leaving us and moving onto a new journey, we wish you all the very best and thank you for your contribution to St Pius X.

STUDENTS

At St. Pius X, we are blessed to be given the opportunity to care for such amazing students. Our students show such a love of learning and nowhere are our school values more evident than in the way our students conduct themselves and interact with each other. It is truly a privilege to interact with such wonderful young people each day. The students are to be commended on maintaining the high standards of manners and respect that we have come to expect from students at St. Pius X.

Throughout the year St Pius X have continued to support a variety of charities including the Lifelink Program run by the Perth Archdiocese, Caritas, Project Compassion, Catholic Missions, Wheelchair for Kids, Get Loud and St Vincent de Paul. These commitments will continue in 2017. Thank you to those who have generously supported these charities.

The students have also participated in a number of events throughout the year, such as the Catholic Schools Performing Arts, the Interschool sports, Winter Sports, Athletics and Swimming Carnivals, Write a Book in a Day, Chess Tournaments and Cross Country. We once again look forward to a successful 2017 when the school community will continue to be actively involved in a variety of school community events.

I would like to make special mention of our graduating Year 6 class, as they take the next step in their schooling. There is no doubt that while many challenges will lie ahead for them, the friendships and values nurtured during their time at St. Pius X will hold them in good stead, no matter where their paths might lead.

PARENTS

Any effective school can only succeed in partnership with parents. The children in our school come from such beautiful families, where they are loved unconditionally and assisted in their learning. I would like to personally thank the parents for your support this year. There have been numerous

times where parents have put their hands up to assist with classroom rosters, P&F events, carnivals and student activities. Your efforts have not gone un-noticed or unappreciated.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education and Evangelisation 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 Catholic practices and knowledge, through the Religious Education Units of Work, is an integral part of our mission as a school. It is mandated by the Bishops of Western Australia and the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia.

The Year 3 and 5 students participated in the Bishops' Literacy Assessment once again, with pleasing results. As parents, you play an essential role in guiding your children throughout their faith journey. And this has been shown and supported through the many events and sacraments that have been held this year.

EDUCATIONAL

St. Pius X continues to enjoy excellent results in NAPLAN, ACER and other standardised testing throughout the year. We continue to perform well in literacy and numeracy, not only in comparison to national averages, but also in comparison to 'like schools'. This year, we had a particular focus on the areas of Measurement, Grammar and Punctuation. Our assessment results indicate encouraging gains in these key areas.

In Year 3 and 5 our NAPLAN Testing indicated that we are Above the National Average compared to All Australian School averages. Even though still above this average, an area to focus on will be paragraphing and the structure in writing.

In 2017 we will implement the student wellbeing program called Highway Hero's – which will be a whole school program integrated into the classroom day-to-day teaching and empowering students to use a common language when dealing with social and emotional issues.

This year has also seen the approval and development of our 3-Year-Old Program and its implementation for 2017. This is an exciting initiative and we look forward to welcoming the families next year to St Pius X. We continue to look at other options that will continue to draw families to St Pius and how we can assist these families with the pressures associated with working parents.

In 2017, our key focus areas will be Numeracy; and in particular, mental mathematics strategies and in Literacy the development of language structures in writing such as paragraphing and text formation. We also look to develop more fully our IT program and introduce the elements of coding and robotics across the school.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank staff, parents and the wider community for their involvement in ensuring that 2016 was a wonderful year for St Pius X Catholic School. We are truly blessed to be involved in such an authentically Christian community.

Best wishes and may God bless you in all you do.

Kindest regards

Daine Burnett
Principal 2016