

Principal's 2018 Report

Good evening and thank you for attending tonight's meeting. I appreciate the opportunity to report to you on another very successful and happy year.

One of the many blessings that we acknowledge at Mater Christi is the wonderful partnership between home and school. Our capacity as educators is made more powerfully when we know that we have the wholehearted support of our families. We regularly witness the sense of compassion, empathy, determination and the have a go attitude modeled by our families. It is these characteristics that are then adopted by our students and radiate throughout our school.

2018 enabled our school to encounter a diverse and broad range of experiences and we commenced the year with our mantra of 'Be a voice, not an echo'. Our school motto 'Charity in our Hearts' really came to the fore with the incredible community spirit in the 'Bush Fire Appeal'. The outcome was phenomenal but it was the generosity from everyone that was truly inspiring and I would like to acknowledge Megan Hardie and Sarah Cooke with this endeavour.

This year we welcomed Fr Joe as our Assistant Priest giving Fr Dat, the parish and school some much needed support. Fr Dat continues to maintain a close link between School and Parish taking a keen interest in school affairs with both priests being available to the school for celebrations and the sacramental programme. Thank you to Fr Dat and Fr Joe for your continued support and your work nourishing the faith life of our community.

At the heart of Mater Christi is the manner in which we allow our children to encounter the deep love of God and his Mother. This is regularly evidenced in the liturgical celebrations, daily class prayer, community service and outreach projects, Religious Education program and Sacramental celebrations. This work is underpinned by the commitment we all share to establish and maintain relationships that respect and honour each individual within our community.

Once again, our Sacramental Program has focused on being family first, parish based and school supported. The continued involvement of staff has shown both commitment and witness to the Catholic education of our children and those in the Parish community. A very special thank you to the Year 3, 4 and 6 teachers, Nik Hofmeester and Marina Hayward. We are very blessed to have such a close relationship with the Parish coordinator Marina who spends a lot of time working hard behind the scenes.

I would also like to make mention of our School Psychologist Tony Schneider and Counselor Rebecca Rowland who give so much of their time and energy to the healing and building of relationships. There is an ever-increasing demand on their time and they manage to provide this service with grace and professionalism.

Learning Dimension

Our commitment to develop a love of learning within each child continues to be a key driving force at our school. I acknowledge the efforts of our Support Staff – Mrs Tracy Duffy, Paulina Sweeney, Mandy Ikin, Tania Marraffa and the many Teacher assistants who work with individual children and small the many Teacher Assistants who work with individual children and small groups as well as all the staff for their willingness to be learners themselves and to seek better ways of educating our children. I would like to make special mention of Diana Wake, Stacey Harding, Michelle Tipic, Deborah Gladwell, Karina Minervini, Deb Carr and Emily Gowland for their work in helping our students grow in their learning.

Katie McNally as the IT Coordinator and has worked so hard and her capacity to learn, change direction and lead the school has been instrumental in the gains we have made as a staff.

The confidence in our staff and the ability to look for ways to integrate IT within the curriculum has been impressive. This year we reviewed our Acceptable Use Policy and teachers assisted all students to understand the correct protocols when using a device. We look forward to consolidating this in 2019 as well as our Year 4 students having the access to 1:1ipads for their learning.

Administrative Dimension

Like many households, our school operates within an extremely tight budget. I continue to admire the capacity of Robin Giles to manage our resources and ensure our staff and students continue to access all that is required so that they are able to provide the best opportunities for our children. Robin is a most gracious gentleman who

always looks out for the greater good of all as well as the individual needs of people. Thank you to Paula Nichols and Bek De Souza for their ability to always be the welcoming smile across the counter or the friendly voice over the phone. A very special person who has time for everyone and always acts with grace and dignity is Amanda Burke. Thank you, Amanda, – you are very much the glue that holds us all together. We just survived whilst you were on Long Service Leave this year.

Community Centered

I applaud the efforts of our Parents and Friends in facilitating a diverse range of experiences for our families. Across our school on any day you will witness parents and families being actively involved in the life of our school, and for this we are truly grateful. To the P&F Executive - led by Michelle Hall, Leah Rheinberger, Rebecca Exam and Michelle Pelliccione, you continue to inspire, work hard and reach out to the parents. I am not sure how you managed to do so much and all with a smile. Together with various committee members, the service they provided in organising Dad's and children's Camp Out, Easter Raffle, Mother's Day stall, Father's Day Breakfast, Afternoon on the Green as some of our major events was appreciated by all of our community.

On behalf of our staff I wish to express our thanks and appreciation to the many families who contribute to the strong sense of community at Mater Christi and hope you will be able to join us for the Volunteers Morning Tea next Monday morning.

Our staff are in an era of teaching and learning, that whilst exciting, is incredibly demanding. The multi- media classroom still requires a human heart to contend with the social pressures experienced by children with a growing incidence of anxiety and stress amongst our students.

Our staff continues to impart a great level of care and compassion for the young people who have been entrusted to us. A lot is asked of them in relation to supporting the life of the school in a myriad of ways. There is an incredible amount of trust displayed by them as they reflect on their teaching with their each other so that we can ensure we are providing our children with the very best teaching and learning opportunities. To our Specialist teachers – Ryan Donnelly, Pat Pottier, Alison Clunies Ross, Haylee Klupp and Linda Piacenti – you provide a vibrant program for all our children and you have the admiration of all the staff. We have continued to enjoy much success in the sporting arena with a lot to celebrate. Ryan has ensured that physical education has a high profile here. There year we have excelled in the Arts with over 300 students taking part in the Catholic Schools Performing Arts. This is a great credit to Alison and Pat who with great support from staff help to make a clear statement about the importance of the Arts in the life of the school.

Our distributed model of leadership has resulted in staff members leading the implementation of particular learning areas. Kayla as curriculum Leader, Adele Paino as Literacy Leader, Courtney as Maths Team Leader, Katie as IT Team Leader have taken to their roles enthusiastically and professionally. Together with their teams have led the staff through great learning.

To each and every one of my staff I give my heartfelt thanks and appreciation. All schools say they are great. We can boast that Mater Christi is truly great and that you, the staff, are the difference and make a difference in our school.

School Board Members of Mater Christi have once again provided an invaluable service to the school and to myself personally. Their support is greatly appreciated and the advice and knowledge they share is vital to the smooth running of our school. Many thanks to Jodi Hampel, our Board Secretary, for her two years of service on the Board. The role of secretary is not a job description that people jump to but you have dealt with it so well. To Mark Clayden who has continued to lead our Board through staffing appointments, oval discussions and even more oval discussions. Thank you for your service, good nature and attending all those meetings. You are a constant support of our school and all that happens within the gates.

Our Canteen and the Permapleat Uniform Shop continue to provide a great service to our community. Thank you to Heidi Mann, Joh Perez and Simone Douglas. This year we reviewed and updated our Healthy Food and Canteen Policy which reflected in menu changes within the canteen.

Our school grounds and buildings continue to look the very best by the consistently hard work of Anthony Jenkins, Luke Scott and Edward Martin.

This year we say thank you and farewell to Tamara Yock who is relocating with her family to Karratha. Tam's husband will be AP at St Paul's Primary School next year and we wish Tam and Jesse who was a past Mater Christi staff member and their three children every blessing for their new adventure.

Kayla Trimble and Jo Jensen take parental leave next year. So, we await the stork's delivery early next year and look forward in sharing their joy.

Nik Hofmeester came to Mater Christi on secondment and returns to his role as AP at Orana Catholic Primary School. Nik, I know that you have the aspiration to one day lead your own school and believe that it will come sooner rather than later for you. Thank you for what you have brought to our school, your great sense of fun, your care for the students and in supporting them in their learning.

I thank all these teachers for their passion, commitment and the excellent contribution they have made to the education of our children and the Mater Christi community.

We have engaged new staff for 2019 and welcome:

Julie Southwell who together with Nicole Woodhouse will join me on the Leadership Team.

Laura Barker will be returning from parental leave and will take a three-day position in Yr 5A with Katie McNally.

Natalie Fardella is joining the Year One Team.

Natasha Prka will be teaching in Year Three.

We have two EA's joining us: Joanna Rucki and Narainee Gunness.

I acknowledge the support of our Leadership Team - Nicole Cloutt and Nik Hofmeester for their unconditional commitment to our school and to me. Your work and assistance this year has been invaluable.

Finally, our Audit. It was inconceivable that a school of our size would meet all the seven standards in the National Quality Standards. We are one of only two Catholic Schools to have attained that achievement this year and that has been no small feat. This has only happened because of the courageous and honest reflections, our continual learning and the implementation of changes. Thank you so much to Kayla who led the Early Childhood Team, to those staff involved and every person on staff. It was a team effort and the auditors could not believe the dedication and buy in from all of our staff. This was acknowledged and highlighted by the auditors because this is not common practice in many schools.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Leadership Team, thank you to everyone involved in making Mater Christi the wonderful place that it is, where we work together to support the children in our care.

Thank you very much.

Toni Kalat