

2019 AGM
Principal's Report

Good evening to you all and thank-you for coming tonight to give thanks for and in celebration of 2019, as well as, listen with expectation to what 2020 brings. I am pleased to present my Annual Report for 2019.

This year 's mantra - 'Find Happiness in Making Others Happy' from the writings of Mary MacKillop strongly interacts with our school motto 'Charity in our hearts and the Making Jesus Real program.

This year, with Peter Mitchell coming to WA, it was a perfect time for the whole staff to engage with the program and how we can bring this message to life through our words and actions. Our Team Building Day followed the PD. We backyard blitzed a previous Mater Christi family's front and side yards. It was hard work; however, the result and feeling amongst staff was tremendous. We made Jesus real that day, and the Spirit of Jesus (SOG moment) was genuinely evident and tangible.

The Early Years teachers workshopped a series of gospel stories for young children through Godly Play, titled Testament in Teachers using Scripture (TITUS). Thank you to the P&F for their contribution towards the purchase of junior and senior bibles for each classroom's prayer table.

We are part of a large and vibrant Parish and are fully supported by Fr Dat and Fr Joe. The preparation for and celebration of our sacraments is supported by all staff. I would like to acknowledge Marina Hayward, the Parish Sacramental Co-ordinator, who together with Julie Southwell, co-ordinate the meetings, liturgies, logistics and so much more for Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. Thank you also to the teachers in Years 3, 4 and 6 who unpack the learning of these sacraments to their children. The teaching and learning are not just about the 'head stuff' but also the 'heart stuff' with the sharing and giving witness to their faith. This year we have also had a number of staff complete the Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist training and now serve at the Parish and School Masses. Thank you very much to Fr Dat and Fr Joe, for their support of us all and for their wonderful homilies. Fr Joe, most Wednesday's connects with students and staff sharing gospel messages throughout the classrooms.

Sir Ken Robinson (2015) said 'A vibrant school can nourish an entire community by becoming a source of hope and creative energy'.

The welcome and vibrancy of Mater Christi is often commented upon by visitors in their interaction with the Office Staff – Mrs Amanda Burke, Mrs Paula Nichols and Mrs Rebekah D'Souza are the 'face and voice' of our school. Visitors also comment on the variety of learning experiences that are occurring on any given day at Mater Christi. The quality of education should always be judged by what it makes possible and I am very confident that Mater Christi's education provides a source of hope and creative energy in the present, and to be stored for the journey ahead for each student. The professionalism and dedication of our classroom teachers, support staff and education assistants are apparent in the care they take to inform, transform and empower their students. I would like to thank all teaching and non-teaching staff for their excellent efforts and endeavours throughout 2019.

We take particular pride in the specialist subjects we offer at Mater Christi, the myriad of opportunities they provide for our students and the results achieved. **In Drama and Music** – the world is the stage and our children thrive to dance, sing and perform. Through the creative and vibrant efforts of Pat and Alison budding artists are discovered, and shy young people blossom into confident people.

Australia is a multi-cultural country and we all love to travel, having an appreciation of another culture as well as knowing some of the language enriches us all. Thank you, Linda Piacenti for bringing a little of Italy into the **Italian** classes.

The band Queen has the great anthem song, 'We are the Champions!' and that rings true in **Physical Education**. Whether in winning or in defeat, our children are good sports, gracious and always encouraging and supportive of others. This is modelled through the PE lessons and engagement in competitions whether at school or interschool. Our achievements have been significant. Thank you to Ryan who is supported by all staff – particularly Donna Johnson during Interschool preparation.

Throughout **Science**, sustainability continues to grow in prominence with the introduction of various recycling programs within our school. We have bins for soft plastics, coffee pods, plastic bottle tops (Green Batch) and one for textas, wind ups and pens. Staff, students and parents are highly supportive of this program. Thank you to Haylee for coordinating and promoting this initiative.

Technology is readily available to all year levels, with the Year Four students being able to access 1:1 ipads provided by the school, for use during the school day.

Thank you to Katie McNally for coordinating all the IT throughout the school and in supporting teachers and students with integrating ICT throughout the curriculum.

Strong investment in the professional development of staff continues to underpin our work – whether overseas, interstate, with Catholic Education or our own Professional Learning Community Meetings. This year we contracted Speech Pathologist, Patricia Forbes, to develop a Language Program in Pre-Primary. This program has been highly successful and will continue in 2020. We all strive for excellence and this flows on to our students.

With our Stage 14 CDP Minor Works which dealt with Kindy, Junior, Senior and Female Staff Toilets, the journey from concept and completion has been a long one. Our continued belief, hope and optimism that good things come to those who persevere and are patient came to fruition. The outcome has been greatly appreciated by our students with the Kindy toilets, UAT, facelift to the Junior and Senior Toilets and much awaited Female Staff Toilets nearing completion. We now transfer that hope and optimism towards our Stage 15 Back Block CDP. Thank you so much to the Capital Development Team, who have worked so well with our Architects to envision something wonderful for Mater Christi.

There are so many critical layers of leadership that make it possible to bring ‘Happiness in making others happy’. The School Board is an exceptionally fine group of men and women who serve the community through their strategic planning and prudent management. They turn hope for good things into action. I thank Mark Clayden, our Chair, for his hard work, vision and dedication to the school and all who serve on the Board. They all provide great support and encouragement to the Leadership Team, Staff and the Mater Christi community.

Mark has been a measured, wise and positive sounding board for the Leadership Team and the School Board. He has assisted on interview panels, attended many meetings at the City of Cockburn in regard to the oval and will continue to assist the Board with this endeavour next year.

Leonie Jones has been the P&F representative on the Board, Parent Rep Coordinator, a great contributor to the work of the P&F and an outstanding advocate for our school. Leonie is a very gracious and positive person and I thank her for all that she has done during her time at Mater Christi. You will be greatly missed Leonie.

The leadership of our parents makes so many experiences possible but the most valued of these is in the community building they do through connecting with each other. They do this through P&F meetings, Welcome Sundowner, Easter Raffle, Mother's & Father's Day Events, combined P&F/School Colour Fun Run, Movie Night Class Reps, co-ordination of food for events etc. All these events require leadership to come from our parents. The P&F Association has been active and generous in their support of the school this year. We are all eagerly awaiting the completion, opening and use of the Nature Playground. Their contribution of \$80,000 over three years has made the Nature Playground possible. Thank you to Michelle Hall for her outstanding leadership, sheer hard work and commitment to making a difference in the lives of our children, staff and parents. To the P&F Executive and Committee Members – Louise McEntee, Rebecca Exham, Leah Rheinberger, Deb Horton, Giulia Orlando and many others, thank you for your immense contribution to our community.

Leadership of our staff occurs in a variety of ways. I would like to particularly acknowledge:

Tracy Duffy – Support Coordinator

Deborah Gladwell – Library Officer

Adele Paino & Courtney Edmondson – Curriculum Leaders

Robin Giles – Finance Officer

Anthony Jenkins, Luke Scott & Edward Martin are the reason our school looks so good. Thank you, gentlemen.

Simone Douglas – Uniform Manager

Amanda Burke – my PA and PA to everyone. Nothing is too hard, and service is always with a lovely smile.

Sadly, at the end of the school year we farewell the following people:

Heidi Mann and Joh Perez our canteen ladies, who feed the children and staff as well as cater for staff events. They have been an integral part of our community and staff over many years as parents, P&F President and Vice President as well as operating the canteen. We are indebted to you for your service and continued hard work and determination.

Next year, we welcome Wendy Scherini and Karen Piscopo as canteen manager and assistant.

Also, finishing her time at Mater Christi is Hannah Kolbusz. Hannah is a remarkable young woman who gives her all to the children in her care. Whilst at university, Hannah received many academic accolades, but the biggest accolade is that of being a beautiful person within and this shines through on the outside.

You are a role model and it is our loss that you are going. John XX111 is very blessed in having you next year.

In PPB next year we welcome Monica Carrello.

I have left to the end, two outstanding people, leaders, mentors and friends – Julie Southwell and Nicole Woodhouse. I am not sure what I or Mater Christi would do without these two women who continually model servant leadership and are always working to ignite and nurture a culture of learning which has the child at the centre of all they do.

Without their support I would not have been able to take on the School Improvement Advisor Role or take Long Service Leave this term. They are the future Catholic School Principals. A sincere thank you ladies.

In 2015 we celebrated our 25th Anniversary, I had my Principal Review in 2017, who could forget our outstanding School Audit of 2018 and just a couple of weeks ago we completed our School Cyclic Review. What's next for 2020 – our 30 Anniversary!

Wishing you and your families every blessing for 2019 and may the Spirit of Jesus be welcomed into your hearts and homes this Christmas. Thank you.