

## Principals' 2021 AGM Report

As this school year closes and upon reflection, I am very proud of the many achievements and events that our students and school community has enjoyed and the countless opportunities that have enriched our lives – spiritually, academically, emotionally, physically and creatively.

It is hard to believe how quickly the school year has passed and I would like to thank you for your faith, trust, and commitment to the mission of Mater Christi. It is your belief in the Catholic education values that help us to sustain our school. We respect the sacrifices each family makes to send their child/ren to Mater Christi, and we continue to put your child first in everything we do! This was another busy year, and as partners in education, everyone played a significant role in making it a success!

All we do at our school is based on the person of Jesus. We strive to live out His message in words and actions *With Charity in our hearts*. The students have continued to grow in their knowledge of Jesus through the Religious Education Programs, participating respectfully and joyfully in Eucharistic and Sacramental celebrations, praying and remembering together – especially at Anzac and Remembrance Day and so much more.

I especially acknowledge and express our thanks to Fr Dat our Parish Priest for his support and encouragement throughout our school and parish activities. I would also like to recognise that this year Sr Emmanuel retired as Parish Pastoral Worker and Marina Hayward as Parish Secretary and Sacramental Coordinator. Both women have been pivotal in their tireless work for and with the parish community and on our behalf, I would like to thank them and ask God to be generous to them.

The Mater Christi Staff always work tirelessly to create a continuous and exciting journey of learning for all our students. This journey begins for many students in the Three- Year-old and Four-Year-Old Kindy groups.

Teachers steadily build upon these early foundations of learning through play to create an inquiry and questioning approach to learning. The Support Team – teachers and education assistants further support classroom teachers and students to provide focused and intensive learning sessions across the school. Enrichment offers other students the opportunity to “think outside the square” as they develop rich learning skills.

Across all year levels, the inclusion of technology into the learning day has been an engaging and powerful tool for our students. Podcasting in Year Six has been very appealing and worthwhile for the students involved. The 1-1 Ipads for our years four, five and six students and the use of ipads for all our junior students ensure that technology is indeed a relevant tool to support learning at Mater Christi, preparing our students for high school and life. When speaking with Leo Di Gregorio, Principal of Emmanuel College, he always affirms the preparedness of our Year Six students for high school, their achievements, can do positive attitude and willingness to be of service. He used the phrase, ‘They are a standout’.

Our balanced curriculum allows our students to enjoy a multitude of learning experiences. The classroom-based programs are enhanced with Drama, Italian language and culture, Music, Physical Education and Science classes. 2021 has again included highlights such as the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation and year level assemblies. In addition, students took part in activities such as The One Voice Concert at the Perth Arena,

School and Regional Spelling Bee, Year 6 Enrichment Robocup Challenge, Performing Arts Bible Reading, Choral Speech, School Rock Band performances and busking, Edu-Dance, Swimming Lessons, School and Interschool Sporting Carnivals, After School Sport, Mater Christi's Got Talent, Your Move-Walk to School Day, Year Six Camp, Disco, Book Week activities, Learning Journey, Grandparents Day, End of Year Concert and Carols, and various other incursions and excursions across all year levels.

Miss Paino and Miss Edmondson led the staff, students, P&F Executive and School Advisory Council members in the Mater Christi Vision for Learning process. This has been a key focus during 2021, with a range of input from community members ensuring that the document captures all that we believe about learning and more importantly, embedded in our practice. Thank you all for your contribution and Adele and Courtney for your leadership and innovation in this and the curriculum areas.

Thank you to the hard-working and dedicated staff of Mater Christi for all they have done this year! The teachers, education assistants, support, canteen, uniform shop, grounds and maintenance staff work professionally, with a great sense of dedication and pride in a team environment exceeding all expectations, both within and outside the classroom. Our school is blessed indeed with people who care for the Mater Christi students and their families.

Thank you to Paula Nichols and Tanya Hetherington, our administration ladies. The warm, friendly and helpful welcome our families receive is remarked upon regularly. In addition, all office staff assist in the care of our students and for this, we are very grateful.

To Barbara Neville, Finance Manager who leaves no stone unturned and whose motto, 'This will not get the better of me' has worked so hard this year ensuring that we have successfully transferred to accrual accounting, managing our finances within the AoS system and managing two significant capital developments. Barbara, the hours you have put into this role have gone above and beyond, and you were most definitely the best person to take on this role.

Thank you to Amanda Burke for providing support to all members of our community – students, staff, parents, and especially me. You go above and beyond so graciously in all that you do. I sincerely thank the Assistant Principals, Mrs Julie Southwell and Mrs Renae Zelich, for their invaluable and innovative contribution to the management of the school and the wellbeing of staff and students, including the ability to keep things running smoothly no matter what!!

Ladies, we have laughed and cried together many times during the year, and sometimes we just laughed because someone else was – no idea what the joke was, but as a team, we all joined in the hilarity and ridiculousness of the moment.

During the year, our school has continued to receive the support of parents through various types of help in the classrooms, through the Parents and Friends and the Mater Christi School Advisory Council (previously known as the School Board).

Without this support, expertise and commitment, our students would not enjoy the many benefits that we provide. I am very grateful for this wonderful partnership between parents and the school to create the best possible environment for our students. I particularly note the contribution of Mr Dinny Kutty to the Council, now finishing his time at the end of Jayden's primary education – thank you Dinny for all your support and commitment, especially in your exemplary role as Treasurer. The extra time you have taken to collaborate with Robin and now

Barbara has been most generous and you are commended for your knowledge and attention to detail.

I want to acknowledge and thank Mr George Grasa and Mrs Karen Simons who are also retiring as their child is finishing this year. George's legal knowledge and expertise have often assisted us in our work with the City of Cockburn. George, I am sure I will be calling you with any conundrums that may crop up in the future. Good luck with making judge one day. Karen, you have always been the positive and encouraging voice on the Council sharing your parent's insight and perspective. Thank you very much. I hope that your beloved Carlton makes it one day after the Dockers and hopefully will see you at a function at Optus Stadium. Earlier this year, Laura Anchor retired as Secretary of the Council and I would like to thank and acknowledge her and what she has brought to the role.

Special thanks to Mr Luke Zammit, the chairperson for guiding the Council in our decision making, being on many interview panels from which some of you have been employed as staff and Glenn Turner as a member of the capital development team. Thank you to all the School Advisory Council members for your support, advice, and commitment throughout the year. These are a dedicated group of people who offer their time and expertise to our school community.

Our P&F is a remarkable group of parents who work hard to support and provide our families and students with the best resources possible. They support the school extra-curricular initiatives such as Your Move - walk to school. They have financially supported the purchasing of reading books, the Pre-Primary outdoor table with benches and the fantastic chicken coop, the mud kitchen for the little three-year-old cherubs. They have also acknowledged the staff in a most incredible Staff Appreciation Morning Tea and Messages which touched our hearts and even brought a tear to a few eyes. But, most importantly, the work with Rebecca Austin and Terry Andrews in Mental Wellbeing for parents has been groundbreaking and what I would call a lighthouse initiative.

My sincere thanks to Lesley Pascuzzi, Kristie Ainsworth, Vicky Hartill and Jennifer Cotton. Together with the extended members – Stephanie Gill, Michelle Hall and Tracy Richardson and their team of people that have worked tirelessly for and with our families to build community and for the children to have fun. We all sincerely thank you for your outstanding contribution to our school community this year as Executive members.

Thank you to the ladies who look after the School Banking each week – Sharon Trimboli, Nelly Alexander, Jennifer Cotton, Nicole East, Alissa Fazio, Karen Simons, Barbara Thurston and Melina Zuvela. Unfortunately, due to government regulations, school banking will not continue into the future.

Thank you to the P&F Class Representatives, led by Stephanie Gill – a great team of parents who provide a link between the teachers and the parents of each class to support class activities, reach out to new parents, and build relationships between families – great work and thank you!

I was very delighted and humbled to be nominated by the P&F Executive for the Building Positive School Communities Award and it was lovely to be there on the night. I feel that this award belongs to all of us – families, staff and students.

I am pleased to say that our staffing for next year is finalised and again brings an excellent mix of expertise, experience, and enthusiasm to the school. We extend our best wishes to and

farewell several staff members this year – Mrs Katie De Bes, Mrs Sarah Edwards and Mrs O'Donnell begin parental leave as they await either the birth of their first or second child. Congratulations to Mrs Tracy Duffy on her secondment to Catholic Education as Students with Disabilities Consultant for 2022. This is a tremendous recognition of Tracy's knowledge in this area and her work in our school. Mrs Mandy Ikin will step into this role for next year.

A very special thank you and acknowledgement of the work Ms Jane King has given to the Music Program at Mater Christi. Jane's passion for music that the students love and can relate to is paramount in what she does, as is her belief that given opportunities and encouragement, students can achieve so much and shine. This is very evident with the School Rock Band and Choir. So Jane, thank you and we all wish you the very best as you transform the music culture and program at Our Lady of the Cape in Dunsborough. I hope your house will be finished in time. Enjoy the sea change.

Miss Juliet Ferris will be leaving Mater Christi at the end of this year and I sincerely thank her for all she has contributed this year to our school and her students and offer her my best wishes for the future at Newman College.

Miss Maddy Gibb is off to experience life in the Netherlands and Europe for six months and I wish her and Matt every blessing. Maddy will return to Mater Christi for semester two next year.

We welcome to our school in 2022 Miss Sarah Hicks (Year Three). Sarah will be with us for the first semester coming from Assumption Catholic PS; Miss Alyssa Iacopetta is at St Pius in Manning and will join the Year Two Team; Mr Reuben Brennan will work with Courtney and Rebecca in Year Five and is currently at Trinity College; Brittany Carvalho will have two roles – Pre Primary Teacher with Adele Paino and Music Teacher with Alison Clunies Ross who is returning from parental leave.

Welcome to Madeline Harwood, working at St Francis Xavier in Geraldton and joining the Year Two Team.

Continuing with us and in a full time, EA role next year are Alyce Toomey and Kate Annert. We welcome back to Mrs Kirsty Cunningham (one day in Year Six), Mrs Emily Gowland (one day in three-year-old and one day in Kindy), Mrs Katie Williamson (two days in Year Six). Lastly, following a very successful Teacher Practicum this year, Miss Madeleine Ruocco will join us as the assessment relief teacher for Term One. Madeleine will focus her work on the PP – Year Two classes.

To all members of our community – Father Dat, school staff, parents and students – thank you for your tremendous hard work throughout the year. I feel very privileged to be part of such a wonderful community.

My sincere and best wishes to everyone for a happy holiday break and a peaceful and holy Christmas with your families and all God's blessings.

Toni Kalat  
Principal