

## Principal's Report

AGM 2022

Good evening, and thank you for attending St Jerome's AGM for 2022

I acknowledge the traditional landowners, the Whadjuk Noongar peoples, the land on which we meet, and I pay my respect to elders, past present and emerging.

Our thoughts are raised this night for **Nicky Wilcox**, and prayers for Scott and the Wilcox family. May Nicky's soul, and all the souls of all the faithfully departed, rest in peace. Amen

### A special welcome to ...

- Fr Vijay, Parish Priest, -St Jerome's
- Melanie Freeman, Chair of St Jerome's School Advisory Council.
- Stephanie McLernon, President of the P&F Association.
- Assistant Principals -Vanessa Alaniz and Carol Hoare
- Advocates – Fleur Coy, Christine Celenza, Peta Nicolaou, Sarah Wohlsein, Manuela Benino.
- Staff of St Jerome's.
- Parents and Caregivers.

Thank you for your attendance tonight

### Let's begin our discussion about the 2022 School Year.

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#### The Arts - Visual Art

January saw our Visual Arts Studio take on a fresh look with the purchase of new tables, stools and storage units which awaited our amazing artists from Pre-Primary to Year 6 to begin the school year.

Mrs Penny Stonestreet assisted with the younger classes from Wednesday to Friday, Semester One took off and not even COVID could stop The St Jerome's Visual Art Exhibition for 2022 from showcasing every students' ability to demonstrate their artistic skills to produce individualised artwork admired by all ages in Term Three.

Special thanks to the Cockburn Community Cultural Council and Emmanuel Catholic College for providing the pin up boards that enabled this to happen. In addition, the Angelico Art Awards proudly displayed eight of our students visual artwork from Year One to Year Six, with **Amber Mond**i winning 1<sup>st</sup> Place for the Junior Primary 2D & 3D Art Award.

An expression of appreciation goes to our P&F for providing art equipment which will expand the Visual Arts program and our students' skills and processes next year. It has been a delight to see how our students at St Jerome's have demonstrated their ability to create amazing and unique artworks of their own, and also begin to understand, appreciate, and respond to diverse types of artforms from various art periods.

### **Music**

We had two of our private vocal students perform at **Arts Alive Performing Arts Festival in 2022**. Both students received outstanding reports from the adjudicator, and we had another amazing shield win with one of the students Zarli Ross winning the prestigious award the 'Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions for Vocal Solo Primary'.

- The beautiful voices of our Chorale were reinstated to lead the singing at Mrs Hoare's farewell mass.
- Our Year 1 and 5 students entertained a full hall of dignitaries with the school song at Mrs Hoare's Farewell Morning Tea as did the Year 2s with a special song which they helped write for Mrs Hoare.
- Some of our private vocal students sang at a variety of events with Jenelle Russo studios including the Perth Royal Show.
- Our bucket drummers and cheer squad added to the amazing atmosphere of the sports carnival
- Our dancers showcased their skills with Dance of the Decades

All children, including Kindy children, have been busy practising Carols for our Community Carols by Candlelight night, accompanied by some wonderful drama students and bucket drummers who will be back on stage for a Carol I am sure you are all familiar with.

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### **Dance and Drama**

Performing Arts has taken a holistic and more inclusive approach in 2022.

Although the Musical was cancelled in 2022, many other opportunities have been created for students throughout the second semester to perform including the bucket drumming and cheer squad ensembles for the sports carnival & all students in years 2-6 were given the opportunity to audition for the 2022 Talent Quest with 16 acts chosen to perform at the finals where an amazing diverse selection of talent was on show.

### **Second Semester Dance**

All students in years 1-6 have had to work in small groups to choreograph a dance they performed in front of their classmates. The students in years 3-6 have been taught choreography during their class time with Mrs Bibra and got to perform their dance routines on a stage with specialised lighting and costumes in front of an audience for the Dance of the Decades showcase. Cross curricular learning has also occurred in the Dance Specialist Program during 2022 with the inclusion of Digital Technologies. All middle and upper primary students were given a task to use Minecraft Education software to create a stage for a specific purpose and add special effects or to apply their knowledge of the Elements of Dance to code characters to dance.

Mrs Searle and Mrs Bibra have collaborated to put together a special entertainment feature for Mrs Hoare's Farewell this week, and have also been working hard together on the Carols by Candlelight Event coming up in December that includes singing Christmas Carols for all students in Kindy to Year 6. Selected students have been chosen to be a part of the Nativity scene who will perform on the stage and a special performance from year selected year 3 students accompanied by the bucket drumming ensemble.

None of this could be achieved without the support from the Arts Committee and the flexibility of all the classroom teachers when the Performing Arts Specialists require students for rehearsals.

### **Physical Education**

Physical Education is taught as a specialist subject to all students in pre-primary – year 6. Our pre-primary and year 1 students focused on developing their fundamental movement skills with Cassandra Pirozzi in Semester 1, and then with Helen King in Semester 2. The year 2s and 3s work to applying these skills to modified games, while developing their interpersonal skills and learning to work as a team. Our upper primary students then continued to develop all the skills they have acquired in their foundation years to be able to play a variety of sports.

## Carnivals

Covid once again created challenges for our Swimming Carnival, but we modified the format and students in years 4-6 still had a great day at the Fremantle Aquatic Centre. All students in pre-primary to year 6 participated in our cross-country carnival in T2. The students run various distances along a course set up around the school. Finally, we had our Athletics carnival in Term 3 which, despite a bit of rain, was a fantastic day. So many family members showed up to support our students and create a great atmosphere at all our events.

St Jerome's is a member of the Catholic Primary Schools Sporting Association (CPSSA). We compete in several carnivals throughout the year including swimming, cross-country and athletics. Across all three of these events, several of our students enjoyed individual success, winning championship medallions.

The CPSSA also holds seven team sport competitions each year. The Lightning Carnival in term 2 allows all students in year 6 to have the opportunity to represent St Jerome's in either football, netball, soccer, or volleyball. For the second year in a row, our football team won the competition. We also competed in cricket, basketball, and league tag rugby. Several of our teams from these competitions made it into the grand final or top 2 positions.

Thank you to Mrs Kalat, Mrs King, and all staff and parents who supported our children in either coaching or officiating roles at all school based and interschool events. Volunteers are the backbone of junior sport.

## Swimming Lessons

This year, St Jerome's introduced swimming lessons for the first time in many years. Our Pre-primary and Year 1 students completed an 8-day program at State Swim, East Fremantle in term 2. There were nervous students, parents, and staff, but after a couple days the children settled into the program nicely. Our students in years 2-6 will be going to Coogee Beach later in term 4. This will be an excellent opportunity for the children to learn about open water safety, which is essential living in WA. Lessons are again booked for 2023.

## Sporting Schools Grants

We received two grants from Sporting Schools this year. Year 2 students received a 5-week program from a coach provided by Football West. We also updated our soccer equipment for PE lessons. Orienteering WA have mapped our school and students can now complete an orienteering course on school grounds.

## Religious Education

Our Faith Advocate, Fleur Coy, has worked in close partnership with our Religious Education Coordinator, Carol Hoare. This strong partnership has further extended God's hand of faith. Fleur has shared her faith through engaging classroom teachers in a process of fine tuning their understanding Eucharist, Liturgy, Reconciliation and the importance of following a journey of faith through the Sacraments.

Fleur has taken our Early Career teachers through workshops on Eucharistic Celebration and shared her knowledge with experienced staff. As a Faith Advocate and classroom teacher, Fleur has been in close contact with staff. Class Reconciliation was refined, with preparation in the classes enabling students to deeply engage with God through our St Jerome's Priests. Junior Primary classes have been learning how to present liturgies in the church and familiarise our younger children with feeling at home in God's home.

Fleur's affinity with our Aboriginal Peoples has seen the school taking positive steps in implementing Pope Francis' encyclical 'Laudato si'. This calls all peoples from across the world to care for our common home. Fleur has taught us about the spiritual connection our Indigenous Peoples have with Mother Earth. We have learnt that First Nations People do not see country as a commodity, and that by caring for country we care for their spirit and, in turn, connects us with God the creator. We can learn so much from those who are from the land.

## Maths

This year we have had Mrs Asri Brierley join the Maths Support Team and work with a range of students from PP to year 6. Mrs Brierley enthusiastically implemented Numero with some of our year 4 to 6 students which led them to compete in the Interschool Numero Challenge at Comet Bay Primary School earlier this term. We also had Movement and Maths integrated in a dance/maths incursion for our junior students for World Maths Day held back in term one. Whilst our upper primary students had the opportunity to compete in the International Mathematics World Maths Day competition. We are continuing our journey to implement Number Talks and the Launch, Explore and Summarise model within the school. Mrs Georgie Turco has been team teaching alongside our year one and year two teachers to embed EMU strategies and resources to target a broader range of students.

## Early Years Focus

This year has been very busy for our Early Childhood Learning Area with the implementation of the Initialit program. Initialit is an evidence-based whole-class literacy program providing all children with the essential core knowledge and strong foundations to become successful readers and writers. Initialit is a three-year program, covering the first three years of school (Foundation to Year 2). It is based around the Science of Reading philosophy. Our staff attending a number of Professional Learning days based around the Science of Reading and the program itself. This was a big change to our teaching at St Jerome's, but all staff are excited by the results of our students thus far. Congratulations to all staff involved in implementing Initialit. This program has been a game changer for literacy delivery. We have also created a program to support teachers in their classroom by providing 1:1 parent support. This initiative is called Creating Change in Children – CCC and we had an amazing response from our parents. A big thanks for all parents who have been involved. This program will continue into next year, hoping to have the same response or better from our parent body. This year saw the beginning of our school building plans, beginning in the Early Years area. The project will see new learning space for Kindy and Year 1, new toilets for the Pre-Primaries and refurbishments to the Year 1 and Pre-Primary rooms. This should be commencing over the Christmas holidays.

## Indigenous Perspectives

We built a strong foundation with Indigenous Perspectives last year. Classes began 2022 recognising the Noongar Seasons, understanding the significance of acknowledging country and seeing the country we are on from an Indigenous perspective. All teachers have taken the initiative to learn more in order to share more with our students.

Reconciliation Week in Term Two, was a reflective experience for all of us, as we reflected on the past and felt sorrow for the horrific ways cultures collided during colonisation. We followed on with an empowering NAIDOC Week at the beginning of Term Three through the theme Get up, Stand up Show up. We all stood up to look after Beeliar Boodjar and learn from our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

All of us have taken a very big step forward in lighting the fire of reconciliation. Seeing country from an Indigenous perspective has become part of who we are and runs through all we do at St Jerome's. This is the greatest way we can pay respect to Whadjuk Noongar Country and its peoples.

## NAPLAN

This year our Year Three NAPLAN results showed an overall slight improvement in maths but still below the state mean, indicating our continued focus on Maths, particularly in the early years is still very much justified. Reading and writing in Year three has taken off and our students are working at a state level.

The flow on effect of the work being done in maths in the lower years has the Year Five classes on par with the state and in all other NAPLAN subjects, equal to, or in the case of Writing and Reading, well in excess of state scores.

## BRLA

In the Bishops' Religious Literacy Assessment (BRLA) this year, our Year Three students' overall results exceeded the state mean score, whereas our Year Five overall results fell short of the state mean by twelve points.

## Digital Learning at St Jerome's in 2022

The initial stages of the Digital Learning implementation began in late 2021 with whole staff/team level professional learning, and we saw our dynamic staff rise to the challenge, beginning with the introduction of Apple Teacher status.

The next step was to establish consistent practise throughout the school by investing in our staff in transforming the digital pedagogy of the school. Leading the drive and dedication in creating networks for Digital Learning were the following staff members: Cassandra Lioni, Chloe Kramer, Katelyn Correia, Sarah Wohlsein, Tasha Hartley, as well as myself. These key staff have participated in collaborative learning sessions (virtual and in-person) and then brought their knowledge back into our classrooms and consequently to staff. Furthermore, staff professional development, webinars, and visits to other key digital schools have provided an informative view of where St Jerome's stands in comparison to other schools. It is clear that our staff has taken great initiative in this area, demonstrating that we are at the forefront in terms of effectively embedding digital learning in our classrooms.

At the end of 2022, we see ourselves at the building progression phase in terms of improving learning experiences in the classroom via digital learning. Our next steps in this phase in 2023 will be to develop our own scope and sequence in Digital Literacy with staff involvement, where we will map out the essential skills that our learners will need and how the Digital Learning Advocate can support both staff and students in maintaining this.

## Learning Diversity

The learning diversity team consists of 7 highly trained and dynamic EAs who are coordinated by a Learning Diversity Advocate. All of whom work shoulder to shoulder with classroom teachers to support students with diverse learning needs.

At St Jerome's Learning Diversity is a priority! We whole heartedly adopt an inclusive approach. Through collaboration with the school's leadership team, teachers, our school psychologist, therapist and parents students are supported to help achieve their goals on their Individual Educational Plan.

Student's interests, strengths and learning needs on a spiritual, educational, social and physical level are catered for through various opportunities to engage in initiatives and experiences.

This year our students have enjoyed participating in social skills activities offered in regular cooking sessions on a Thursday and through Creative Club and Sporting Club held throughout the week.

The Learning Diversity room is a wonderful sensory space for students to learn, socialise and play. It is also a space where therapist come to work in or to share in our equipment to help support our students.

This year we have been fortunate enough to add further resources to the learning diversity room to help create a child centred space, offering students flexibility to choose and engage in activities at their level.

We look forward to extending and adding more resources to our Learning Diversity space creating a break out area for students to further explore, socialise and engage.

## Extension Program

St Jerome's have had a Year 2 Extension group in 2022

For the first time, we entered a group of Year 5 students into the Da Vinci Decathlon, held at the University of Western Australia. This was a terrific experience for the children, who competed against very experienced schools.

We also entered the "Creative Edge" competition, held on a Saturday in July at Curtin University. The team were presented with an "Honours" award.

Our Numeracy Extension students again entered the APSMO Maths competitions, and our Year 3 and 4's for the first time entered the Maths Explorer Competition. We had a Year 6 student place in the Top 10% in Australia.

We entered the Prime Minister's Spelling Bee for the first time, and had 3 students reach the state finals.

Our Year 5/6 students entered the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge and received 2 Distinctions, Credits and the like

The Cluedunnit Competition facilitated by the UWA Law Society had a Year 6 team enter

We had four teams enter the "Write A Book in a Day" competition, and between these teams they raised over \$10,000 for childhood cancer research.

After many date changes due to Covid, our Year 6 Literacy students participated over two evenings in our "Night of the Notables".

Four **Town Hall** sessions were presented this year to share what is happening at St Jerome's. The topics presented were:

- Term 1**      No Presentation
- Term 2**      **InitialLit**
- Term 3**      Enhancing Wellbeing
- Term 4**      **EMU Maths**

My thanks to all our presenters. We will continue to offer Town Hall sessions in 2023.

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The **P&F Association** must also be recognised for their building of community, it's not all about asking, it's about providing opportunities for families to meet and get to know each other. A considerable amount of money is raised for our school from the efforts of this dedicated team of parents. This hard work demands our appreciation, and we thank every member of the P&F for this outstanding effort.

Our thanks must be noted for the generosity shown over the past year. A special thank you to **President** Steph McLernon, **Treasurer** Mark Watson, **Secretary** Kerry Fryers, and **SAC Rep** Naomi O'Hara.

These parents are an amazing example of what it means to be engaged in their child's school. From all of us at St Jerome's, our sincerest thank you.

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For the **School Advisory Council** it has been an exciting time as we have planned for stage 11 of the building programme at St Jerome's. It has taken longer than we had anticipated, but soon we will all see the merits of our planning.

My sincere thanks to every member of the School Advisory Council. We have shared many good evenings together, some via Zoom, and others in person. Always filled with good humour, our meeting looks for ways to grow this community with first class facilities for every child to enjoy.

A special mention to Mel Freeman, our Council Chairperson. Mel always conducts a well-disciplined Council meeting. At times keeping us all on track is a challenge, but Mel's quietly assertive manner brings us all back to task.

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It's always exciting to welcome **new staff** members to St Jerome's, and we thank God for calling them here. Carol, Vanessa and I are delighted to introduce: (7)

- Susannah Robinson
- Priscilla Hawthorne
- Jessica Allison
- Connor Astbury
- Hannah Hughes
- Rachel Hicks
- Sarah Connolly
- Asta Breeze
- Andrea Eade

#### **During the year we also welcomed:**

- Sarah Hicks – teaching science
- Amy Farr – teaching in Year 1

Welcome to each of you, and we are so glad God called you here.

#### **Farewell to Staff in 2022**

Schools each year farewell staff members who have worked in the community, and who have shared in the responsibility of building a Faith inspired school. Our thanks is

to be noted for the following staff members who will be leaving, or have left St Jerome's in 2022. (8)

### End of Contract at St Jerome's

- Cassandra Pirozzi
- Emma Bibra
- Daniella De Araujo
- Cassandra Mortimer

### Transferring to other Catholic Schools

- Helen King – Christ the King, Beaconsfield
- Chantelle Comiskey – Emmaus Catholic Primary, Dayton
- Genny Deeble – Hammond Park Catholic Primary
- Fleur Coy – Sacred Heart, Thornlie

### Retirement

- Michelle McCarthy
- Anna Olislaegers
- Carol Hoare

### Resignation

- Mel Crosby

### New Advocate Leaders in 2023

Carol, Vanessa and I are pleased to announce the following new Advocate leaders for St Jerome's in 2023.

- **Faith** – Tess Lornie
- **The Arts** – Carmel Searle

We congratulate Tess and Carmel, and we ask that the Holy Spirit inspire them to lead with courage, wisdom and knowledge. Their gifts were meant for us, and we are glad God has called them forward to contribute to our school community.

All the 2023 staff positions can be found on the school web page.

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**The Admin Team** of Vicky, Dee, Pasc, Angie, Robyn, and Kim deserve a special mention for their interest in caring for parents, staff and students of our school. These six staff members go above and beyond to make sure our school is running at its very best. They greet all of us with a smile, and attend to so many questions, injuries, financial matters, uniforms, lost property, lost children, school tours, enrolments, budgets, receipting of income and paying bills, and never a complaint is heard.

Vanessa, Carol and I are so reliant on your support, advice and generosity to be able to effectively lead our school community. On behalf of the school community, we offer each of you our most sincere appreciation. Our work is made easier because of you.

### **Library**

We thank Karen Carkeek for keeping our library the place all of us love to go. A school library is a meeting place, a resting place, and it's full of wonderful books. Making our library, look good and function well takes time and creativity. Both of which Karen generously gives to St Jerome's. Karen, thank you for the administration of our library, and Book Club too.

### **The Tuckshop**

My thanks to for Renate Martin, and her staff members, - Luisa Direnzo, and Diana Bucat. The canteen had a makeover this year, and they now have a flashy new name too; 'The Tuckshop'. It is the most efficient, delicious and well organised food outlet in Lake Coogee, and probably South Coogee. The Tuckshop team deserve our appreciation for the delicious food which they lovingly prepare each and every day. I know the most read app post for the week arrives Sunday night at 6.30pm. Renate, and Team Tuckshop, tell us what's cooking for the week, and if they need any help with any upcoming events. Renate does tell me that the 'help' has been forthcoming, which Renate is pleased about, but more help is always welcomed. Thank you ladies, for all your amazing efforts with food and care.

**John Williams, our groundsman**, keeps an eye on the surrounds of the school. He prunes and mulches where needed, and will fix anything which breaks or is broken.

John too, is first on scene for helping set up and pack away every school event, such as sport or art or a special occasion. Thank you John, for your attention to detail with making sure our school is safe, clean, and attractive.

## EA's

A very dedicated team of EA's are to be acknowledged for their dedicated and supportive help at St Jerome's. EA's work so hard, and all too often their efforts go unnoticed in the busyness of a fast-moving school. Take them out of the school and things very quickly grind to a halt. Their work covers a myriad of responsibilities, and often they have to change tack on where they're working and who they might be helping. Schools rely on EA's, and at St Jerome's we have a first class team. Thank you ladies for being so accommodating, and for every aspect of goodness you each bring to our school. From all of us, it is very much appreciated. Thank you.

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To my colleagues in Leadership **Vanessa and Carol**, my sincere thanks for your advice and support throughout 2022. They are both amazingly dedicated and passionate leaders, and at their level it doesn't get any better, it just gets different. They are loved and respected by everyone.

Carol concludes her time at St Jerome's this year, and her leaving will affect all of us. I remember meeting Carol's husband David for the first time. I said that Carol, your wife, was a very impressive woman. David nodded in agreement, and then said to me. 'I find that Carol works best with a measure of guidance'. Now, I'm not sure Vanessa or I have been able to offer any guidance to Carol, rather I think we have been guided. But that's one quality, among many, which all of us will miss the most, her guidance. To guide is to give. Give of self, give advice, give comfort, give wisdom, give care, give empathy, give love, give peace, and give rest. Carol gave each of those attributes to each of us, often all at the same time.

Will Carol be missed? Yes.

Will Carol leave a bit of a hole in our community? Yes.

## Fr Vijay

Fr Vijay visits the school daily, and it is wonderful to see Fr Vijay join us for prayer on Monday mornings. Fr Vijay and I have learnt a lot about property law this year, more than we bargained for.

Fr Vijay has a deep interest in making sure that the school and Parish work together in a mutually supportive manner. We are frequently in discussion, and I am comforted in his support for all the endeavours St Jerome's is involved with.

The support we receive from the Parish under Fr Vijay's care is appreciated and honoured. Fr Vijay is an active member on the School Advisory Council, and he participates in staff appointments.

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St Jerome's is a very special place and so many people contribute to maintaining this vibrant community. To everyone involved please accept my sincere thanks and I ask God to bless you abundantly for your generosity and commitment.

To the amazing staff of St Jerome's, your work provides a safe, supportive, pastoral, and educationally sound learning environment for every child here. You deserve to be acknowledged and thanked for all that you do.

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And on behalf of Vanessa, Carol and myself, we wish you and your families all the very best for the celebration of Christmas. May the birth of the Christ child bring peace and happiness to you and all your loved ones this Christmas season. God Bless.