



SCHOOL COMMUNITY REPORT 2023

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT 2023

ALLEN MCMAHON

Once again St Columba's has continued to offer a stable and secure environment for our students in what has been another turbulent year internationally and financially with the rise in interest rates and the war in Israel. I am very grateful to the staff who while being affected themselves were able to maintain the school routine and support our students to provide a relatively stable school year as possible.

This year we celebrated the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation. Many thanks to Mr Yock, the classroom teachers, and the Parish Liturgy representatives for organising and participating in such prayerful occasions. Also, throughout the year, classes have prepared moving and reverent Prayer Services and Masses in the Church and school classrooms. As always, we thank Monsignor O'Loughlin for his help with celebrating many of these events and providing such a close link to the Parish.

During 2023, staff at St Columba's, have continued to work in a very professional manner. If not for their many hours of hard work outside of school time and the counselling and learning activities happening during the day the students at St Columba's would not enjoy the wonderful education and support, they receive. St Columba's is losing several staff this year. I wish them well with their future careers and thank them for their support, professionalism, and the dedication they have shown to the school during their time employed at the school.

Staff have continued to implement the Science of Reading and review their teaching practices to improve student learning. Classroom teachers have used whole school testing and NAPLAN results to plan and deliver curriculum to students. Implementation of The WA Curriculum continues, and staff use it as a basis for planning classroom strategies during 2024. After a review of the current school Maths Programme, staff have made the decision to introduce a new Maths Programme, Oxford Maths in 2024. To improve student assessment and monitoring, staff will utilise the ELASTIK Programme to analyse student data to improve learning experiences. Our School Counsellor has continued to provide students, with advice on resiliency and developing their relationship skills.

I would like to say goodbye and good luck to our Year Six students, who are leaving us for the new challenges of secondary education. I must say how great it has been to watch them develop as individuals and as a group, growing in maturity and responsibility and developing their own gifts and personalities to become people, who we are proud to claim as having been a part of our school. We wish them every blessing in their futures, and the wisdom and strength to make their future rich and fulfilling. As the year closes, we say goodbye to many families who have had a long association with St Columba's as their last child leaves Year 6. I would like to thank these families for their support of the school and staff throughout the years and wish them every blessing for the years to come.

The School Advisory Council continued to monitor school finances and completed St Columba's 2024-2027 Strategic Plan. This year and it was circulated to the school community, during Term 4. The process involved SAC, staff, P&F, parents, and students and will complement the Catholic Education Office's WA Strategic Plan. All SAC members are to be thanked for their time and dedication they give to school activities.

Once again, our P&F led by Hayley Mitchell have had a very busy year with their P&F ventures. There have been a number of activities that required a significant amount of work, and these went off without a hitch. There

have been many parents who have provided unflagging support for St Columba's in their fundraising efforts and general help around the school. My thanks go out to all who give so generously of their time. Without this generosity and help St Columba's would be much poorer in resources and community spirit.

Many thanks to Mr Timmermans, and Greenworx who have maintained the school grounds to a high standard. Mrs Venturini, Mrs Creek, Mrs Foster and Mrs Griffin have continued to work under many constraints in making sure that the administration and marketing side of the school runs very smoothly. Well done to you all! Our Education Assistants, Library staff, Canteen workers and helpers have also worked hard throughout the year and many thanks to them for their untiring efforts in contributing to the day to day running of the school.

Finally, many thanks must go to the volunteer parents, carers and supporters of St Columba's who have made possible the various activities and ventures held throughout the year.

I wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and a fulfilling New Year.

God Bless

Allen McMahon

Principal

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT 2023

PHIL HORNER

Another year has almost come to a close, and with it comes the perfect time to review some of the achievements of the school and acknowledge the hard work completed by so many to deliver these achievements.

I am hopeful that I am not going to ruin our good luck, but 2023 was a welcome return to COVID free disruptions. Sadly, there are still those in our community who are becoming ill and my thoughts and prayers go out to each and every one of them, and I can say it is a welcome relief that finally we had a year where activity wasn't interrupted by COVID. May it continue long into the future.

The added benefit of a year without disruption, was that all the hard work to develop an exciting schedule of activities across the year enabled these activities to be executed without the added burden of re-work and amendment. It was still a very busy year however, there was a passion to deliver another fantastic year of activities rather than frustratingly re-scheduling everything.

2023, saw the final year of the current St Columba's 3-year Strategic Plan, which meant a body of work was initiated to review the progress and achievements of the previous plan and to develop a new 3-year Strategic Plan. This was a collaborative approach lead by Allen McMahon and the School Advisory Committee that started with a "Voice of the Parents" survey and included consultation sessions with the teachers and students, to ensure the plan included their ideas, feedback, and suggested areas of focus for future St Columba's educational programs. Thank you to all those that participated in this process.

The survey completed by members of our community provided valuable feedback from families on their educational journeys at St Columba's to date and from this, suggestions were made on areas how the school

could enhance the educational growth of the students. Understanding families educational priorities, communication preferences and overall satisfaction with the journey that you and your children are experiencing was key, and have strongly contributed to shaping the future plan. I look forward to sharing details about the new Strategic Plan in a future session.

This year, changes were made to the structure of the P&F, as the school implemented the new CEWA constitution and operating model. This new model of operating enabled the P&F to refocus on delivering even more events that promoted community involvement and engagement, rather than on fundraising. This resulted in the P&F Team building and executing a plan of events that enabled us all to celebrate core community events whilst also delivering new and exciting activities that engaged the children. This new model was particularly effective and ensured that support for the events was planned well in advance and shared amongst the community.

Yearly favourites from the Easter Appeal to Mothers and Father's Day morning teas, Dads of Saint Columba's Camp Out and the Disco night were again all a huge success. This year saw an expansion of the Student Activity program, that involved engaging external sporting organisations to come in the take the children for sports before or after school across the four terms. Hockey, Basketball, Theatre Sports & Tech Club and Kids n Sport were all delivered this year and received fantastic feedback.

Other successes I'd like to make note of were the Worm Farm installation and school incursion, Western Health Kids Incursion, the newly completed Wall Art in the boys' and girls' toilets and the "Student Voice" initiative.

The School Advisory Committee would like to say a big thank you to this year's P&F Committee Members and all Class Reps, SAC Committee Members for their efforts in making this this year's list of activities happen. The opportunities now available to our children are incredible and truly make our community one that is vibrant and engaged.

On behalf of the School Advisory Council, thank you all for your trust and support and may God Bless you and your families. I hope everyone has a safe remaining 2023 and I look forward to seeing you all in 2024.

Phil Horner

Chair