



## SCHOOL COMMUNITY REPORT 2021

### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

BY REBECCA CLARKE

As we come to the end of another school year at St Columba's, I take the time to reflect on 2021 and what a year it has been! While Covid-19 tried very hard to interrupt the learning at St Columba's, we prevailed, worked together and soldiered on.

Every year I have the privilege to work with, and alongside, talented and dedicated teachers and educational assistants and this year was no exception. All staff at St Columba's work collaboratively to teach our students the values, morals and life skills that are associated with being at a Catholic school. Our staff strive for excellence and this was evident with the wonderful academic and sporting results that occurred throughout the school year.

St Columba's has a very strong collaboration with the Parish, and I would like to thank Monsignor O'Loughlin for his ongoing support and assistance during 2021. Throughout the year, classes prepared many prayerful Liturgies and Whole School Masses which reflected our Catholic traditions and beliefs. Many of our students were also blessed to be part of the Sacramental Program with the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation celebrated during the year. A big thank you to Monsignor O'Loughlin, Mrs Alison Brine, classroom teachers, the Parish Sacramental Coordinator and parents for facilitating these celebrations.

Our wonderful Pre-Kindergarten to Year Six teachers guided our students through a number of creative teaching and learning programs with a focus on our Vision for Learning. I need to thank our teachers and educational assistants who are so dedicated and work very hard to make the year a success. A highlight this year was the magnificent Open Night and Art Exhibition held in Term 3. The atmosphere around the school grounds was one of excitement and the sense of pride from our staff and students was evident.

Excursions and incursions play an important role in the educational experience of our students. This year students enjoyed several excursions that enhanced each Learning Area. Excursions included visits to Kings Park, Piney Lakes, Thai Immersion, Fremantle Jail and Spare Parts Puppet Theatre and many more. Incursions are always a big part of

our learning and we had the honour of hosting EduDance, Scitech, Constable Care and 24:7 Retreat Team. Our students are extremely blessed to have passionate and creative teachers who spend hours planning and organising these great learning experiences. The much-anticipated Year Six Camp and Year Five Zoo Camp are just other examples of the fantastic opportunities on offer at St Columba's.

It was a pleasure to see our students proudly represent St Columba's in the community. This year, selected students were invited to take part in a number of academic extension programs such as Robocup, Academic Day, Tournament of Minds, City of South Perth Speak with Confidence and Regional Spelling Bee, to showcase their talents to the wider community. Thank you to Mr Leigh Chatt and Mrs Kate Wilkes for coordinating these events. In Term 3, all classes participated in the Catholic Performing Arts Festival presenting outstanding performances under the guidance of Mrs Louise McDonald and classroom teachers. Well done to everyone involved in these activities including our teachers who assisted students to attend these events. Finally, a number of students participated in the CAPSS Carnivals including swimming, athletics and cross country. Thank you to Mr Leigh Chatt for his dedication towards the CAPSS program.

The School Advisory Council, led by Natalie Low, has been busy behind the scenes working through the School's Strategic Plan. They have ensured that our school finances are sound and that maintenance projects are completed. The installation of Solar Panels and the Kindergarten Playground have been major projects throughout the year and will be a continued focus for 2022. To those stepping down from the School Advisory Council, I thank you for your time and dedication to our school.

Our dedicated P&F committee have been in full swing with a large number of fundraising and 'friendraising' activities organised throughout the year. The Welcome Back Picnic, Disco, Retro Bingo and St Columba's Christmas Fair were highlights of the year. Additionally, the very well organised and supported Mother's Day Breakfast, Father's Day Breakfast and Grandparent Morning Tea demonstrated the fantastic work that the P&F does for our school. Thank you to our P&F President, Lara Tulett, and her team for their support and generosity that simply enhances the wonderful community spirit at St Columba's. I wish all those that are not continuing on as members of the P&F all the best and thank you for your hard work.

At the end of 2021, a number of staff will be taking leave to start (or continue) a family and I wish them all the best as the next exciting chapter of their lives begin. On top of

that we have a number of long-standing staff members who are leaving our community. Special mention must go to Mrs Lorraine Jenaway who is retiring after a long-standing association with St Columba's. I wish them well with their future careers and thank them for the support and dedication they have given to St Columba's over the years. You will be missed! I would also like to formally welcome Mr Jesse Yock to our Leadership Team for 2022.

Finally, I farewell this remarkable school community and take this opportunity to thank staff, students and parents for the support that you have given me throughout 2021. It has been an absolute pleasure to lead this amazing school community for the past year and I wish each and every one of you continued success in the future.

## SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIR REPORT

### NATALIE LOW

What a year 2021 has been. The beginning of 2021 led by Mrs Rebecca Clarke, saw St Columba's navigate through the ongoing impact of COVID-19. Fortunately, the impacts of snap lockdowns and restrictions did not impact the teachers and the children significantly and the school community were able to continue to enjoy majority of the school year with little interruptions.

This year has seen a continuation in stability and growth in our school community, with a number of significant projects being fulfilled this year. We have seen the new multi-purpose classroom being utilised, along with significant renovations and upgrades in our early learning years area. These renovations and upgrades will continue into next year, which we anticipate will be completed in early 2022. We also saw our Pre-Primary students enjoying the benefit of the new nature playground, with special thanks going to the Parents and Friends of St Columba's who have supported the school and funded this.

As 2021 draws to a close, I would like to thank all the members of the School Advisory Council for their time and commitment in serving together. However, the School Advisory Council would not be the same without the ongoing support and trust of Monsignor O'Loughlin, Mrs Clarke, the school staff, the P&F committee and the school community. On behalf of the School Advisory Council we would like to thank each and every one of you for another excellent year to ensure that we are committed to our

School Vision of *“valuing each individual child in a nurturing and inclusive environment which empowers lifelong learners”*.

The School Advisory Council would also like to make a special thanks to Mrs Clarke for her leadership during her year at St Columba's. I am sure that most of you would agree that Mrs Clarke's transition into St Columba's was a very smooth transition and she took over the reins with a strong commitment to ensuring that the School continued to operate in line with the vision, values and strategic plan of St Columba's. We wish her all the best in her new role as Principal at St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School. At the same time, we also welcome back in 2022, Mr Allen McMahon from his secondment at the Geraldton Catholic Education Office.

The School Advisory Council would also like to extend a special thanks to Mrs Lorraine Jenaway for her 14 years of service at the St Columba's, who has been serving at the forefront of the school and continually supported the staff and the school community. We wish you all the best in your retirement. We also wish well the staff members of St Columba's who are leaving us this year and thank you for your commitment and service.

To the P&F committee, what a remarkable year it has been for you. Thank you to those parents that have tirelessly dedicated themselves and rallied to work and organise a significant number of events (with the highly anticipated Christmas Fair to come) to meet the St Columba's strategic focus of engaging and bringing the school community together.

On behalf of the School Advisory Council, thank you again for your ongoing trust and support and may God bless you and your families. We hope you all have a safe and healthy remainder of 2021.