



SCHOOL COMMUNITY REPORT 2022

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

ALLEN MCMAHON

This year, schooling has been affected by many highs and lows brought about by the East Coast Floods, the war in the Ukraine and also the continuing effect of the Covid Pandemic. As a school community, a nation and internationally these events have challenged everyone and meant that we have had to draw on a strength deep from within ourselves to make sense of what has and is happening in the world around us today. Throughout these ups and downs the school has continued to offer a stable and secure environment for our students. 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 normal a school year as possible.

St Columba's has continued to work closely with the Parish. We thank Monsignor O'Loughlin for his support and help throughout the year. This year our Parish celebrated the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation and School Prayer Services. Many thanks to Monsignor O'Loughlin, Mr Yock, classroom teachers and the Parish Liturgy representatives for organising and participating in these celebrations. Also throughout the year, classes have been able to celebrate classroom prayer services that have involved inviting family to attend, the first time in nearly two years. Well done to all involved. I would also like to this opportunity to thank Rebecca Clarke for looking after the school in 2021 while she was the acting principal.

I wish to acknowledge the staff for their support of me in my role and for the work they do for the children and families of St. Columba's. I not only commend them for their work and energy, but for the way they go about their work. They are a strong community within themselves, and this has brought many positive comments from parents. I am very proud of the culture of professional respect that they hold for each other. Their passion and commitment to the profession of teaching and more importantly to the children in their care, makes them a very committed staff. I thank each of them for their part in this. I would like to thank Mr Yock in his role as Assistant Principal. He has been exceptional in the role this year.

2022, has seen a number of School initiatives being implemented by the staff at St Columba's. These were, delivering lessons online due to the COVID virus and the implementation of the Science of Reading in Years 3-6. Classroom teachers have continued to use whole school testing and NAPLAN results to plan and deliver curriculum to students. Implementation of The WA Curriculum continues and staff will continue to use it as a basis for planning classroom strategies during 2022. We have also employed a School Counsellor who has been a wonderful addition to providing students with advice resiliency and relationship skills.

Our Year 6 students are moving to high school and we wish them well with their future studies. May they grow in the love of Jesus and exhibit the values St Columba's strives to develop in its students. I am sure that they will be great ambassadors for our school. Thanks must go to our student leaders for their great examples of leadership throughout the year. They have continued to work hard to make our school a better place for all of our students. As the year closes we say good bye 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 has once again continued to carefully monitor school finances throughout the year. Our school finances are very sound. The School Board will invest a significant amount of time in 2023 in developing a new three year Strategic Plan. Implementation will begin early in 2023 and will involve staff, students and families of St Columba's. All School Advisory Council members are to be thanked for their time and dedication they give to school activities.

A new executive on the P&F has seen a busy year in 2022. Our parent community is generous in contributing to the growth of the school through the untiring support and assistance in every aspect of school life. Many of our parents contributed greatly to the growth of our school through helping in wide and varied ways throughout the year. Their assistance and support is immeasurable in the benefits the school gains both in work, resources and in community spirit. Much personal time is given to organise these and 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 and 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.

In conclusion thanks must go to all the parents, carers and supporters who have so willingly given their time to the day to day activities here at school. If it were not for this help many activities simply would not take place. It is this help, that gives St Columba's its reputation of having such a great sense of community.

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

God Bless

Allen McMahon

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIR REPORT 2022

PHIL HORNER

Another year has almost come to a close, and with it comes a time to reflect and acknowledge some of the achievements of the school and those that have contributed to them.

The start of the year we welcomed back Allen McMahon from his year in Geraldton Catholic Education Office. Mr McMahon performed an integral role in supporting the community through not just their education requirement but also other impactful community challenges, I'm sure he will be heavily missed but we are grateful for his return.

Just when we thought we were getting back to "normal", the start of the year was hit by further disruptions due to COVID. This resulted in another round of contingency plans being executed to ensure the learning for the students had the least amount of disruption. It meant deferring some events we would normally have in Term 1 but credit goes to the leaders of the school who have managed to reschedule each event to run later in the year, ensuring all students could still participate and the senior students did not miss out on these in their final year at St Columba's. It does make for a very busy Term 4 but something I'm sure we all appreciate for the benefits this has for our children.

With COVID restrictions lifted, it enabled the P&F committee to resume activity with our school community and the activity planned and delivered in 2022 has been unbelievable to see. Return of favourite events such as Mothers, Fathers and Grandparents Day celebrations as well as the Colour Run were all thankfully back on the agenda and the support from the school community to make them a success has been great to see.

The School Advisory Committee would like to say a big thank you to this year's P&F Committee and all Class Reps, for their efforts to make each of these events happen. They have overcome challenges early in the year that restricted the ability to meet face to face, and still manage to deliver an exceptional year of activity for the school. In addition to our P&F events, the Class Reps have done a fantastic job of coordinating activity for each year group, "Friend Raising", to ensure our community is even stronger for the future, thank you.

In 2023 the School Advisory Council's main focus will be developing the schools next three year School Strategic Plan. This will involve parents, staff, students, the P&F and SAC.

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 of 2022.

Phil Horner

School Advisory Council Chair