



# ORANA CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING PRINCIPAL REPORT

## Introduction

2021 marks 200 years of Catholic Education in Australia and 50 years of the Catholic Education office in Western Australia. Orana Catholic Primary School celebrated the 42<sup>nd</sup> year of our story, culminating in the 4 Decades of Orana Reunion, a highlight for students and staff, both past and present.

It has been a pleasure meeting, joining and working with the communities of Orana Catholic Primary School and Saints John and Paul Parish this year. There is excellent collaboration within and between these communities to ensure that together we are focused on the development and growth of each of our members in a Catholic environment.

## Catholic Identity

During 2021, we have focused on the meaning of our school crest and our motto '*To give is to receive*'. As a school, we have looked at ways to promote the meaning of our crest and motto, along with increasing awareness and visibility of the motto. Ways to practically embrace our motto in daily school life has been the overarching focus. Time has been taken to ensure we had a common understanding of what our motto is calling us to do. We received a Quality Catholic Education Award of Merit for our "To Give is To Receive" in action. This award recognised for the work of the Social Justice Team in raising money for the staff homeless service and the Year Three classes care package project for vulnerable people. We plan to continue to embed a lived expression of our school motto in 2022.

At Orana, we are blessed to have three encompassing school Gospel values; Generosity, Respect and Excellence. This year's staff faith formation professional development focused on Pope Francis' teachings in the encyclical *Tutti Fratelli* and the relationship with our school values. Our staff started the year by collectively exploring the 2021 focus value, Generosity. Our parent leaders of the School Advisory Council also contributed to the collective understanding of *Generosity* from a parental perspective. During the year, the students embarked on class-based inquiry projects, to increase the students' understanding of *Generosity* and to address the essential question "How do we live a generous life?" Our Year 6 students demonstrated and promoted these values through the work of their leadership teams and staff and parent volunteers participated in Christian Service within our wider community. In 2022, our whole school focus will be on the school value, *Excellence*. We will also explore the Gospel links to each of the values and relate these to the model of Jesus.

This year there was a focus on enhancing prayer in the classroom. Resources were provided for class prayer tables and staff shared ideas on active participation in prayer.

The strong link to our parish was clearly evident through the Sacramental Program, our Community Masses, School Masses, Liturgies and priest visits. In 2022, our faith formation will include a Mass dedicated to each of the significant Catholic figures that our Sport Factions / School Houses are named after, so we can further embrace the charism of Mary Ward, Francis of Assisi, Bishop Rosendo Salvado and Mary MacKillop.

## Education

2021 is the third year in our Future Focused Learning initiative, in collaboration with the QOY (Queen of Apostles, Orana and Yidarra) regional network. Key takeaways from this year have been the opportunities for increased student engagement, through the inquiry learning process. Staff focused on utilising best practice to develop and deliver high quality learning experiences. This focus enabled us to implement inquiry learning and to share this across our school and beyond to the QOY year level cluster meetings. I would like to thank Lucy Gilbert and Nadia Lovelle for their leadership of inquiry learning and the Future Focused Learning initiative. In 2022, we will focus on developing aligned processes and structures within targeted curriculum areas to deliver differentiated learning programs. We will also review our Vision for Learning, by

using the Orana Learning Principles (Challenge, Engage and Connect) to enhance high-quality teaching practices and the inquiry learning approach.

This year, we also focused on the integration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives to relevant learning areas. Resources were provided and our Aboriginal Education Team led staff to explore ways to link learning to curriculum areas. In 2022, this focus will continue and extend to finding ways to embrace the diverse cultural heritage of our school community.

Our Early Years Team have worked together embed ways to use critical reflections, on children’s learning and development, to inform future planning. Staff have researched and trialled strategies, shared learnings and refined their practice. This focus area will continue in 2022. Early years staff have also worked together to maximise play-based learning opportunities. This is to encourage a sense of agency and a focus on children’s interests, to increase learning outcomes. Continued reflections based on the Early Years Framework and the National Quality Standards ensure we are striving to provide the best possible learning programs and experiences for our early years’ students.

NAPLAN results for both Year 3 and 5 were both significantly strong across the board. Results are well above the state and national averages. The school uses these results along with class observations and other assessments to cater for student learning and for whole school curriculum, teaching and learning planning. Results for each area and the percentage of students at or above the minimum standard are listed in the tables on the slide.

#### Year 3

Assessment Area	National Average	Orana Catholic Primary School Average	% of Students at or Above Minimum Standard
Grammar and Punctuation	433	477	98%
Numeracy	403	429	100%
Reading	437	466	100%
Spelling	421	465	100%
Writing	425	457	100%

#### Year 5

Assessment Area	National Average	Orana Catholic Primary School Average	% of Students at or Above Minimum Standard
Grammar and Punctuation	503	520	96%
Numeracy	495	514	96%
Reading	512	536	96%
Spelling	505	541	96%
Writing	480	509	96%

Orana Catholic Primary School continued to offer broad curricular learning opportunities including sporting, musical, dance, sustainability and wellbeing opportunities, catering for student interest and ensuring that students have a varied range of options to experience.

Orana Catholic Primary School was recognised for excellence during the Catholic Performing Arts Festival. Orana had 102 entries in the festival. This year the school won the Primary School Band Shield for the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. A trumpet duo won the Primary Duet Shield. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> time we have won this shield

in 5 years. We won the Zenith Excellence Award for the most outstanding primary school for the 5<sup>th</sup> successive year. This is now the record for the most consecutive wins for a primary school. Orana also hosted two sessions of the Performing Arts Festival. Our music students successfully participated and were awarded prizes in additional performance at the Fremantle Eisteddfod, Southern Suburbs Eisteddfod and the WA flute competition. An increasingly large number of students have completed Australian Music Exams, achieving to a very high standard. Several of our musicians have also gained scholarships and places in sought after secondary schools, including Corpus Christi College, Rossmoyne Senior High School and John Curtin College of Arts for 2022. These achievements are testament to the commitment of our students, parents, and our committed and experienced music teacher Ms Sarah Draper and music tutors.

We have also been awarded recognition as an Apple Distinguished School from 2021-2023 and have three staff members, Mrs Lyn Perrigo, Mrs Jodie Harrold, Miss Hallie Purio, awarded as Apple Learning Leaders.

Our Year 6 school camp, leadership lunch, swimming lessons, Catholic Performing Arts, multiple school and interschool sporting carnivals, the Make a Move concerts, the Kids' iPad Conference, the Regional Spelling Bee, the City of Canning Your Move Bike Education programme, the 4 Decades Reunion, Science, Book Week and Wellness Week activities, excursions, incursions and many more educational activities were highlights for our students.

## **Community**

We have had a dedicated team working on reviewing and updating our Behaviour Management Guidelines which are now referred to as our Behaviour Education and Support Guidelines. These draft guidelines reflect and encompass CEWA policy, our school motto, school values, our Code of Conduct, Restorative Practices and Catholic Social Teachings. The staff participated in a Restorative Practices Professional Development and the Social Emotional Highway Heroes program is used consistently across all year levels. In 2022, there will be opportunities for input from students and parent representatives prior to finalising the Behaviour Education and Support Guidelines. We will also focus on providing opportunities for partnerships between parents and school to enhance understanding of the learning process and child development.

Our community building initiatives led by the P and F have been a highlight to our students and families alike. The colour-run, disco, stargazing night, Mothers' and Fathers' Day events, to name a few examples, were memorable to all involved. Many thanks to the P and F Executive and their band of volunteers.

## **Stewardship**

High level collaboration and trust are key elements of our school culture. This enables us to grow professionally, building strong relationships among staff, with our students and with our families. The evidence from our Climate Survey support the positive culture at Orana. Staff wellbeing has been a focus with staff displaying a positive sense of self and solid cohesion as a group. Our teaching staff have individually set goals, assisted each other to achieve these and built collective capacity. In 2022, we aim to develop our collective pedagogy and provide growth plan opportunities for our education assistants.

Sustainability at Orana has remained a priority. Students, staff and parents have worked together to actively participate in sustainability initiatives such as the Waste Wise Initiative, establishment of the Vegie Pods and re-purposing household items for the mud kitchen, for example. In 2022, our goal is to individually and collectively embed sustainable practices in daily life, within the school and beyond.

Additional curriculum resources, storage and other resources were added to our inventory. New carpet and floor coverings have been installed in the library, staffroom and learning support room. The Sensory Room is in use and a rationale has been developed.

As a school, much maintenance and infrastructure planning has taken place, with procedures for safety, maintenance and upgrading works underway. These procedures will continue to be refined and embedded in 2022.

## Conclusion

Thank you to Father Thai, Father Anthony and the Parish Community for their spiritual guidance, partnership, advice and support. We are very fortunate to have Father Thai, and previously Father Anthony, who are involved and visible in our school and in the lives of our students, families and staff. Your commitment and efforts are very much appreciated. Thank you to Magdalene, the parish sacramental coordinator, for assisting our students to make the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Your collaboration with our team for the spiritual growth of our students is truly valued.

I would like to thank our highly engaged and innovative School Advisory Council (School Board) and Parents and Friends Association. Your vision for our school and ability to build and grow community is very much admired. Thank you to our very supportive, involved and committed parents and families. Particular thanks to Andrew Counsel for his leadership of the School Advisory Council. Andrew has been a member of the School Board / Advisory Council for the past seven years, treasurer for 1 year and chairperson for the last 5 years. His leadership and contributions have had a significant impact on our school. I echo Andrew's thanks to the Advisory Council members that conclude their terms of service; Mrs Amanda Walker, Mrs Yvette Mistry and Mrs Emma Monaco.

We also farewell Louie Sugiyanto (P & F President), Cory O'Kane (P & F Vice President) and Paul Hadley (Treasurer) from their respective roles. Thank-you all for your energy and commitment to the students, staff and families of Orana. Thank-you to the P and F for renovating the Harmony Garden, developing the Science outdoor area, installing the defibrillator, automated gate and outdoor blinds in Kindergarten, for providing literacy resources and furniture, amongst other smaller projects, to benefit our students.

During the year we also welcomed Mr Chris Edwards (Grounds person), Mrs Myra Monteiro (Education Assistant) and Mrs Shuri Sotokawa (OSHC Qualified Educator 2<sup>nd</sup> in Charge). Mrs Kathryn Alp was successful in gaining the ongoing Assistant Principal position. Congratulations to Kathryn who has had a significant impact on the leadership at Orana this year.

This year, we farewelled Ms Christine Walsh. Ms Walsh served the Orana community as principal for four and a half years. We wish Ms Walsh all the best in her future endeavours. At the end of 2021, we will farewell Mrs Jodie Harrold. Jodie has taught at Orana for eleven years. Her passion for creative thinking and the arts has had a significant impact on the learning of students in her care, over this time. We wish Jodie well as she continues to pursue her love of art through tertiary study. Mrs Dayana Lombardo is taking leave to study. We also wish Dayana well in these endeavours. Mr Jock McArdle has confirmed he will retire at the end of his leave period. Jock has contributed significantly over the last 13 years to our grounds and our community. Mrs Kirsty Byrne has extended her maternity leave for 2022. Best wishes to Kirsty and her family.

I would like to acknowledge our leadership team Mrs Kathryn Alp and Mrs Kirsty Byrne (Term 1), who are both strong leaders and have been an excellent support. Thank-you to our Leadership Hub; Mrs Lyn Perrigo, Mrs Caroline Mavrick, Miss Amy Dreyer and Miss Bonnie Power, for your leadership and for sharing your contextual experience throughout the year. Many thanks to Mrs Deb Goodwin, Ms Denise Mouttet and Mrs Ann Fissioli, for their tireless efforts and seamless administration of our school. Thank-you to the Orana staff who always go above and beyond for our students and our school. Your efforts, determination, example of Christ and the way you collaborate for the benefit of our community is remarkable. Most importantly, I thank our students for the joy, fun, friendship and learning they bring to our school. 2021 has been a very successful year and I am grateful for the privilege of being principal of Orana Catholic Primary School. I look forward to 2022 and beyond.

Best wishes and God bless

*Dee Johnston*

Principal

Orana Catholic Primary School

