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Infant Jesus School



Principal's Report

It is with a great sense of pride that I present the 2023 Principals report to the Infant Jesus School community. After all of the challenges over the last few years, 2023 has seen the return to a somewhat normal routine. Our school community has continued to grow in building upon its strong foundations and it has been an honour to join such a close and caring community.

In line with our School Improvement Plan, I would like to now like to highlight some of the ways that Infant Jesus School is providing a Quality Catholic Education.

Catholic Identity

Religious Education and faith formation are the primary purpose of Catholic schools. In partnership with all parents, the school and parish work together to assist the children to develop knowledge of their Catholic faith.

Staff participated in Faith Retreats Professional Development facilitated by Karl Brown at the commencement of Term Two. An optional overnight retreat was very well attended and further enhanced staff collegiality. This Professional Development assisted staff in deepening our faith through enhancing our knowledge of prayer and sacraments.

During the day staff were provided with valuable time for individual reflection and also shared ideas during whole group discussions which will be incorporated into future planning.

During the year we have continued to develop a greater understanding of our faith through our

knowledge of Catholic practices and beliefs and Jesus' ministry. Catholic practices and beliefs have been shared with all through gathering as community for Eucharistic celebrations throughout the year, especially during Easter and Lent – both at Infant Jesus Church and at the school. We also planned Eucharistic celebrations for both Mother's and Father's Day with all invited. Fr Greg and Fr Ad have also continued to visit classes which has further strengthened the relationships with the staff, the students and the community. They have worked with class teachers weaving through and including the gospel stories with their discussions. Their welcome, presence and flexibility with all aspects of supporting the faith journey of everyone at Infant Jesus School is deeply appreciated and contributes significantly to enhancing our Catholic Identity. I would also like to thank the Infant Jesus Parish Team for their dedication and support in facilitating the Sacramental Program, which is truly a Family Focused, Parish-based and School Supported program.

Staff have continued implementing the CEWA Religious Education Curriculum ensuring the planning, teaching and assessing is consistent with all learning areas. CEWA continue to enhance the resources to assist all schools with the curriculum implementation. The teaching of the CEWA Religious Education Curriculum has been shared each term by all year levels through letters to parents every five weeks highlighting the learning concepts, the digital portfolio on Seesaw (PP – Year 6) and portfolio (K), parent-teacher interviews in Term One and learning journeys in Term Three. Achievements



and progress in Religious Education is also included in the semester reports.

Our Year Three and Five students participated in the Religious Education Assessment in Term Three, with both Year Three and Year Five averages being above the CEWA and Perth Diocese averages.

	School Mean	CEWA Mean	Diocese Mean
Year 3	434	402	408
Year 5	503	466	478

support the needs of others including IJs Got Talent, Socktober and the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. Infant Jesus Day also included many aspects of Power of One and Christian Service with stalls prepared and organised in preparation for the day. In class, parents have also volunteered in many ways sharing their gifts and talents.

Another focus for this year was to further highlight our Carmelite and Dominican traditions and charisms, This was achieved through class learning and by highlighting Eucharistic Celebrations such as the Feasts of St Domenic and St Teresa.

Education

There have been many opportunities for students to excel both academically and creatively. Our school choir attended the One Big Voice concert this year which was a huge success. We have also provided further opportunities in performing in the School Band; Performing Arts, participating in the ICAS testing; Chess Club; Have Sum Fun; Spelling Bee; Numero, The Speak Up Awards; Chinese speaking awards and before and after school sporting activities. I would like to personally thank all the staff involved in these extracurricular activities, as it is a big commitment on top of their teaching load.

In 2023, the NAPLAN tests were held in Term One, which was earlier than previous years. Another major change was that NAPLAN results were reported against proficiency standards, with student achievement shown against four levels of proficiency. There is a standard for each assessment area at each year level. This replaces the previous numerical NAPLAN bands and national minimum standards. The NAPLAN measurement scale and time series was also been reset which meant that comparisons to previous years was not available.



Embracing the Power of One and Christian Service has been evident across the whole school this year. All classes enthusiastically organised a range of events for Project Compassion including market stalls, guessing games, bringing toys to school, lucky dips, icy poles. Our Christian Service Ministry have given of their time in organising events to

YEAR 3	School	CEWA	State	National
Reading	420	400	394	404
Writing	422	413	411	417
Spelling	405	401	399	404
Grammar	409	403	400	409
Numeracy	415	401	401	407

YEAR 5	School	CEWA	State	National
Reading	506	495	490	496
Writing	514	484	478	483
Spelling	511	494	488	490
Grammar	409	403	400	409
Numeracy	488	483	484	488

Staff have continued to improve classroom practice and outcomes for all students in English through using the whole school process where a consistent approach is evident in the planning and documentation, teaching and assessing. To further support the improvement of outcomes in English staff have reviewed the implementation and resources throughout the year to identify optimum strategies for collection and use of data and resources to support the SCSA outcomes in the English Learning Area and teacher planning. Due to the whole school approach our NAPLAN data demonstrates above

national, state and Catholic Schools. This focus developing best practice will extend into 2024.

Staff have continued to improve classroom practice and outcomes for all students in Mathematics through using whole school processes for planning and documentation, teaching and assessing. During Term One CEWA consultants provided further information for both the teaching, assessing, data collection and ongoing planning for improving outcomes in Mathematics. The consultants also worked in the classrooms with each teacher demonstrating a variety of

learning strategies to further enhance classroom practice engagement for students. The school leadership team also attended Numeracy PD to further develop knowledge of strategies to support staff in the planning, teaching and assessment of mathematics outcomes and progress. This focus on mathematics will be extended into 2024.



The development of a staff efficacy through more cohesive approach across the early years has been supported with PLC meetings (at least once a term) to share planning across these year levels. The Infant Jesus School Early Childhood Philosophy was revisited and information added from each year level to support and align understandings and practice. In addition, the evidence and collection of NQS documentation which is added to a digital platform, has been organised to further support collegiality, collaboration, flexibility and the whole school approach. Across the



year levels planning for outdoor learning has been documented and implemented for each week. Incorporated into the outdoor learning and planning is agency for every child and flexibility in supporting spontaneous play and learning. Access to the outdoor learning areas is also included in additional curriculum. Each ECE year level has also implemented practices that support sustainability.

In 2023, Technologies has continued to be a focus through both the position of a Technologies teacher and fortnightly team teaching to further consolidate and improve classroom practice in Innovation and Technologies focusing on the Technologies Learning Area (Digital and Design). This approach has required collaborative planning and integrating learning, knowledge and skills across curriculum areas. Students have been challenged, at their individual level, with



many engaging and open-ended tasks where they were able to work in groups or individually and present their learning using a variety of platforms. Staff have also been provided with the opportunity each term to share their planning, outcomes and

samples and to view the planning, outcomes and samples of all year levels. As our students from Year One to Year Six has access to their an ipad at school, students and teachers are able to share work with parents through the digital portfolio, homework tasks (Year 3 – 6) and Seesaw.

Individual teacher professional development to support the needs of students and our school improvement plan has been encouraged. Staff have attended professional development in the areas of Religious Education (accreditation), Literacy (Science of Reading), Wellbeing (VIA Character strengths), EAL/D in the Early Years, Intervention (Heggerty Intervention & ADHD), Phys Ed (Kiddo) and Technology (ADS: Apple Coach)

Opportunities to enhance Aboriginal Education have been provided through a variety of incursions and all classes and students have also visited and used resources in the Bush Gardens.

In 2024 every student in Catholic Education WA will be included in the CEWA Academic Journey. During the time they are in CEWA schools individual student learning will be tracked with common assessments across the system. The data for each student will also be transferred from CEWA school to CEWA school and support us in selecting initiatives/priorities for whole school planning and provide additional data to cater for the individual needs of each student.. We will also be targeting learning across the school through the use of ELASTIK so that as a staff we are able to tailor classroom learning and support to areas of need.

Community

Throughout the year our staff have continued to focus on supporting the wellbeing of all children to ensure that the Wellbeing for children is visible, measurable and improvable. We have continued to collect voice of the children information through customised year level and class surveys and whole school surveys where students, staff and families were given the opportunity to participate. The Leadership Team and all Staff continue to work with all updated responses and needs throughout the year. Children

are also supported with Zones of Regulation strategies, i-Relax (meditation) and the Principal's Mailbox (Ask Allen).

Selected staff and students have also been trialling resources from the URStrong Professional Development. The URStrong Friendology resources have also been shared with parents of the trial year levels and next year parents will be invited to an online workshop. URStrong will be implemented across the whole school next year to further support the visibility, measurement and improvement of wellbeing. To further assist students and staff the 24 Character Strengths have been presented to staff and also shared with students.

The character strengths also support the wellbeing focus for students and align with the URStrong program.

The introduction of Oakley once a fortnight, a trained wellness dog, has also supported the wellbeing of many of our children. We continue to be very aware of the changing needs of children in our school and provide support for all children, whatever their

need. In 2024, we will have a permanent Wellness Dog on site. The purpose of introducing a Wellness Dog at Infant Jesus School is to reduce the number of children who may be experiencing anxiety and stress at school. Studies have shown that the mere presence of a dog can lower stress and anxiety levels and promote relaxation. Our Labradoodle puppy is hypoallergenic and should arrive at school at the beginning of the school year. Further information is being sent to parents this week.

During the year we have continued to provide opportunities for staff to make wellbeing visible, measurable and improvable

and enhance staff efficacy. Through planning staff events at and away from school team building and enhancing staff efficacy has been promoted and supported. Members of the Staff Wellness Team planned for ongoing wellness activities throughout the year including casual Fridays, walking Wednesdays and bookswap available throughout the year.



New staff are supported through the induction program which includes initial meeting with the leadership, on going daily communication with partner teacher. The leadership team are very available and accessible and adjust and provide mentoring and ongoing support for all staff, including new staff. All staff, including new staff, select goals to work towards throughout the year and are supported to achieve these to improve classroom practice and outcomes for all children.

During the year many parents have regularly volunteered to assist in a variety of ways throughout the school. Special thanks to our P&F Committee and our School Advisory Committee who have worked behind the scenes supporting our students and community. Parent help rosters have been available on a very regular basis throughout the year in Kindergarten and Pre-Primary. There have also been opportunities during the year to assist with class activities both at school and during excursions. All parents wishing to volunteer have to complete the mandatory Infant Jesus School Volunteer Workshop. This workshop will continue to be offered as we recognise the substantial value of all the parents who generously give of their time to assist our school.

Early in Term Two we sent home the Climate Survey, where 53 families

participated across the school. The Climate Survey is used to guide school improvement and will be completed every two years. The figures highlighted are an average of the responses out of five. While this data is positive, we are always looking to improve across all areas and will reviewing and republishing how we deal with student behaviour early in 2024. The parent survey results are below.

Staff Support	4.29
Satisfaction with Child's Progress	4.04
Engaging Environment	3.96
Dealing with student behaviour	3.85
Communication	4.13
Assessment and Feedback	3.96
Satisfaction with the School	3.93
Affirming Diversity	4.27
Welcoming School	4.41

Stewardship

This year there were a number of Catholic Education WA compliance requirements to address risk including an extremely comprehensive Incident Management Plan for Infant Jesus School and the appointment of Occupational Health & Safety positions in the school. To meet the requirements and ensure safety for all Infant Jesus School staff will be inserviced on this plan. To meet these requirements we have also completed a playground audit and a separate playground risk assessment, a working at heights audit, classroom risk assessments, an update to our chemical registers and testing and tagging.



At the end of 2022, the new CEWA Terms of Reference for the P&F were implemented, with the P&F finances moving from their own CDF accounts to under the umbrella of the school accounts. This change has been a challenge and has impacted some of

the important parent run groups in the school that are not school or P&F events. To continue to be run as they have been, these need to be run as their own separate identity with independent bank accounts. Parents will be free to organise their groups as they have done so in the past without the constraints placed upon the school. We look forward to supporting the various sporting groups and parent/child camps in 2024.

In continuing to enhance the learning spaces in our school the furniture in both the Pre-Primary and Kindergarten classes has been upgraded. Together with enhancing the learning spaces the furniture also supports the opportunity to create greater options and flexibility as it can all be easily moved to provide many more options within the classroom.

Continue to care for the earth as our common home though further supporting sustainability practices including recycling paper, coffee pods, ring pulls and juice cartons; staff, parents and guests bringing own mug to work or to school (for special days including Mother's Day, Father's Day and Grandparents Day); vegetable gardens; the bush garden and solar panels. We also recognise the work of the Sustainability Ministry and Year Four who have nurtured the worms and have begun the process of introducing compost bins through the guidance of Mrs King.

The lift project was finally completed this year and is operational. There were a number of delays due to lack of trades and the manufacturing of some of the final parts of the project. The lift was also registered with Work Safe. In the 2024 budget, we have plans to add shade to the basketball court area. An expression of interest for this project was submitted to the CEWA Capital Development Team, although we have yet to hear if it has been approved to begin next year.

In 2024, we will be using the data gathered this year to create our strategic intents moving forward. I look forward to working with the staff, students, SAC and parents at the beginning of the year to continue to build upon our strengths and guide the school in continuing to reflect a Quality Catholic Education.

At this time of year we sadly say farewell to some members of our community. I would like to thank our Year 6 students for their enthusiasm and leadership this year. I hope that your years at Infant Jesus School have been full of learning, friendships and memories and that they hold you in good stead as your journey continues in high school.

We sadly say farewell some of our families that are leaving our school, especially the families of our Year Six students who have their last child graduating this year. Thank you for your commitment and support of our school community over the years and for being a part of the Infant Jesus Community.

Throughout the year we had some staff movement and I would like to thank Mrs Lauren Jenkins, Miss Chelsea Meborn-Hubbard and Ms Angie Spadaccini who have all moved to different opportunities during the year. We also farewelled Tuan our grounds person who moved to a full-time position earlier this term at another school. Sadly, at the end of this year we farewell Ms Maureen O'Neill and Mrs MaryAnn Limerick who are retiring after many year of service. We also farewell Mr John Haydon and Miss Sarah Kelly who are moving to new opportunities in other schools. We wish these staff all the best in their future endeavours,

I would also like to wish Ms Clare Moffatt and Ms Leanne Griffin all the best as they take well-deserved leave for 2024. We also wish Mrs Rebecca O'Connor and Mrs Fei Liu all the best as

they begin their Maternity Leave at the end of this year. During the year we welcomed Mrs Lina Jeon to the Finance Officer role and Miss Claudia Napoli, Mrs Fiona McDonald and Miss Kerrin DeToit to teaching roles.

Miss Kate Wilkowski accepted a full time role with the addition of Phys Ed to her specialist role and Miss Jovana Naumovski came on board as an EA in Pre Primary. In 2024 we also welcome the addition of Miss Ariana Russo who is joining us from Holy Cross College, Miss Terry Loo who has been teaching at St Felix's in NSW and Ms Renee Byrne-King from Sacred Heart in Highgate to our teaching team. I would also like to congratulate Miss Sandra McMullen as she takes on the temporary Assistant Principal role for 2024.

Finally,
Thank you to Father Greg, Father John and Father Ad for your support and guidance throughout the year. The Parish and School relationship is a positive model to others and is one that we are fortunate to have.

Thank you our School Advisory Council (Joanna Brisbane, Dharshan Elikewia, Tanya Davis, Nicole Mammone, Jemima Saunders) for their commitment to our school. The support and collaboration of the Advisory Council, along with their generosity of time, is appreciated, as is their willingness to be involved in such a vital role within our school community.



To our P&F Executive – Vanessa Gatti , Giulia De Rizzo, Karen Holden and Josie McDonald; thank you for all of your hard work throughout the year and your support of our staff and students. Thank you also to all of our parents who have attended P&F meetings or supported the executive at events. Our P&F would not be as successful as it is without your support. Thank you to all of our parents and students for your support and kindness as you welcomed me into the Infant Jesus Community. I am truly blessed.

Special thanks go to our amazing staff. Thank you to Clare Moffat and Frank Colangelo our Assistant Principals. Thank you for your support and for helping make my job just a little easier. Thank you to Irene Baginski, Lina Jeon and Lucy Siciliano for being the face of the front office and for making sure that everything is running smoothly. A big thank you to each and every one of our Infant Jesus Staff. Your dedication to our students, your support of each other and your friendship have helped make my first year at Infant Jesus such an enjoyable one.

On behalf of all our Infant Jesus School staff, I wish you and your families an abundance of joy this Christmas. May this be a time to find rest and a peacefulness for

you, so as you are able to care for self and others with the gentleness that comes with the celebrations of the birth of Jesus and the fresh beginnings of the New Year.

Mel Allen
Principal





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