

It is my pleasure to share with you the 2017 Annual Principal's Report.

2017 has been another wonderful year in the life of this amazing school community. It seems like a life time ago, but we launched our new logo, vision/mission and four new house colour teams at the start of the year. We welcomed many dignitaries including Brisbane Catholic Education Executive Director Ms Pam Betts, Director South Schools Mr Derek MacLean, Area Supervisors Trevor Doyle and Anne McKenny, representatives from Iona College and Lourdes Hill College as well as our wonderful parent body. It was a celebration of everything that we hold dear in our community, and an important moment in our community where we named our *strong faith*, our commitment to *dynamic learning* opportunities and our continual focus on being a *welcoming community* as our commitments to our community in moving this great school forward.

Throughout 2017, St Ollie's staff have been working towards developing a Vision for Learning, that incorporates our new school Vision and Mission. Staff have been involved in numerous staff meetings and collaborative discussions to formulate a collective understanding of the learning and learning spaces we vision for St Ollies, for the future.

Throughout 2017, our Year 5, 6 and Year 1 students have had the opportunities to learn in collaborative, flexible learning spaces. Our teachers have been involved in professional learning to support teaching and learning, that focuses on differentiating learning, to meet the needs of each individual student. The learning spaces have been differentiated for our students as well, with all eight classrooms having new contemporary furniture, which caters for the differing learning styles of all of our students. During the 2017/18 Christmas holidays, our Year 2 classrooms will also be refurbished, with new cabinetry, acoustic walls and contemporary learning furniture. We will endeavour to continue this process of refurbishment, on an annual basis, to work towards our vision of dynamic learning environments for all of our students.

Student Support

Throughout 2017, we have had the opportunity to grow our Student Support Team, with the addition of many talented and passionate individuals. Our new ST:IE, GC, SBSP and Literacy Support Teachers have all worked together to enhance the learning support at St Ollies, to ensure that processes are in place, and support is provided from a variety of sources, to ensure our students needs are always met. We have ensured that Enrolment Support Processes are in place for all of our new Prep students, and new enrolments from Year 1 – 6. Our students are being screened for vision needs in the early years. We have developed relationships with allied health professionals, such as Hear and Say, Vision Australia, SALDA, SPELD, who are regularly onsite, providing support to students with learning needs, or possible learning needs. Our SST are meeting regularly with parents to ensure concerns are understood quickly, and needs are met to support our students, both in the classroom, playground and at home. As a SST, the relationships that have been built with teachers and families has been the most valuable success of 2017.

High Quality Learning and Teaching in Religious Education

The Religious Education program at St Oliver Plunkett School has continued to be the cornerstone to framing learning throughout all year levels this year.

To assist with the implementation of the Religious Education program this year, funds have been made available to the Assistant Principal – Religious Education to provide the necessary resources. Priorities have been identified; plans and timelines have been determined and check points have been established to ensure that the best opportunities, and resources, are available for all our students.

Much has been achieved this year to provide for a contemporary, student focused program, supporting the vital work of teachers. Teachers have been supported by the APRE with their planning and work in Year levels to achieve consistency for all students. All RE Units have been uploaded to the school staff portal each term and weekly timetables have reflected 2 ½ hours of the classroom teaching of Religion as well as the RLOS. Teachers have regularly accessed ResourceLink, Learning Bytes, Weebly and other on-line resources to inform their planning and understanding of theological background.

The unit planning template and Scope and Sequence documents have required that teachers consider the Religious Life of the School and the learning context for the term to inform their planning.

This year, teachers at St Oliver Plunkett school joined together to engage in professional conversations around the consistency of teacher judgements.

Teachers explored samples of student work focusing on standards of achievement within the Religious Education Curriculum.

The aim of these conversations was to collaborate and consult with teachers to ensure that we are assessing and reporting in a consistent manner. This ongoing professional learning focuses on enhancing individual and collaborative practices as well as the capacity to improve student learning. Through engagement with this process, within our school community, teachers build capacity to understand the curriculum intent, identify evidence of student learning, determine and develop appropriate pedagogical practices and moderate teacher judgements about student learning.

Religious Life of the School

The following describes the school's extra achievements within the Mission and Religious Education dimension of the community in 2017:

- Holy Week liturgies
- School Liturgies
- School Masses and weekly class masses
- Prayer assemblies
- Sacramental Program
- Caritas and Mission Appeals
- Teaching and learning about Catholic Identity in Religion lessons
- St. Oliver Plunkett School Song and Prayer
- School Sacred Space and Classroom Sacred Spaces

Prayer and Worship

- The APRE has met regularly with the Parish Priest to review and plan for school and parish combined events, liturgical celebrations and prayer rituals in the school. These celebrations are outlined in the School Liturgy Policy.

- Prayer sessions have been timetabled into each classroom roster and have been an important part of our routine.
- Whole school roster outlining prayer assemblies has been created.
- Whole school prayer assemblies have been celebrated every fortnight with each class being involved in the planning and leading on a rostered basis.
- Each week classes from Years 2-6 have participated in the Friday Parish masses.
- The whole school has attended and participated in Holy Day liturgies, Feast day celebrations (St Oliver Plunkett and Nano Nagle) and the celebration of significant events (Mother's Day, Father's Day, beginning and concluding of the school year masses and Year 6 Rite of Passage celebrations).
- Opportunities and support have been provided for Catholic students to participate in the Parish Sacramental programs.
- The school music specialist has prepared children to sing songs at whole school liturgies and celebrations.
- Children have been encouraged to be involved in Sacred singing opportunities.
- Families have been invited to School Sponsored masses which have occurred once every term.

Our Parish Priest is very active in the sacramental life of St Oliver Plunkett School, celebrating weekly class masses and whole school masses and liturgies a number of times during each term.

Social Action and Justice

- The children and their families have been involved in a variety of social justice initiatives throughout the year including Caritas, Catholic Mission (Socktober) and St Vincent de Paul.

Spiritual formation opportunities contribute to the staff maintaining their Accreditation to Teach in a Catholic School. Some examples of the in-services offered to staff throughout 2017 include:

- Whole Staff PD with Sr Mary Franzmann on Iconography of Nano Nagle
- School led Staff meetings
- Whole Staff PD with Donna Power on Prayer and Spirituality (Mount Cotton Retreat Centre)

Primary Learning Leader (PLL)

At the beginning of the year, we formulated a SMART goal to improve the reading progress and achievement of all our students from Prep to Year 6. Literacy blocks were quickly established as part of our everyday as well as highly effective teaching practises i.e. BCE's Effective and Expected practises. With consistency in mind, a common language around decoding strategies, phonics and sight words was implemented. We participated in a range of valuable professional developments. These were centred around the explicit teaching of reading comprehension strategies (Sheena Cameron's work), teaching phonics in context (David Hornsby), guided reading (Literacy Solutions) and teaching students with Dyslexia

(SPELD). A list of rich texts ideal for teaching a range of comprehension strategies was developed and, as a staff, we created pamphlets to support our parents in understanding what reading looks like in different year levels. Each fortnight, reading comprehension strategies were explained in the newsletter, as well as students who were making great progress - Our Reading Champions. Our teachers have been supported in their engagement in the three High Yield Strategies - *Data Walls* (P-3 PM Benchmark; 4-6 PROBE) including data analysis and remarkable moments; *Review and Response* processes to collaboratively support the needs of various students; and *Learning Walks and Talks* - a strategy to provide purposeful feedback to teachers in regards to their impact on student learning.

Library Report

This school year, the library transitioned from a fixed, weekly library lesson to a more flexible schedule. This allowed our Teacher Librarian to collaborate with teachers to deliver information and digital literacy skills specific to the Australian Curriculum. Students continued to visit the library to browse, read and check out books.

Students were also given the opportunity to participate in the MS Read-A-Thon this year. Through the simple and enjoyable act of reading and fundraising, each student helped make a difference to the lives of people living with multiple sclerosis, their families and carers.

Total monies raised \$955

Book Week 2017 at St Ollie's was again filled with fun, humour, intrigue, inspiration AND books. Students were entertained by the creative team from Perform Educational Musicals showcasing the CBC shortlist books, were immersed in the literary world of Cameron Stelzer, participated in the magical book parade, where much loved book characters came to life and joined fellow students in shared reading experiences.

LEAP (Learning Enrichment Activities Program) Report

LEAP provides diverse extension and enrichment learning activities for individuals and/or groups of students from Year 3 – Year 6 to complement all other curriculum programs within the school.

A variety of enrichment activities and competitions available to challenge our students at St Oliver Plunkett School include; Tournament of Minds (TOM), RoboCup, Young ICT Explorers (YICTE), ICAS and Code Club. These programs provide students with the opportunity to develop critical and creative thinking capabilities as they learn to generate and evaluate knowledge, clarify concepts and ideas, seek possibilities, consider alternatives and solve problems.

RoboCup– Our Soccer & Rescue Robotics teams participated in the annual RoboCup Junior Australia Challenge. The students demonstrated an outstanding collaborative spirit and resilience throughout each challenge. Their hard work and perseverance has enabled them to exceed their own expectations and achieve impressive results.

TOM - Our Amazing Tournament of Minds Language & Literature, Engineering Mathematics & Science & Technology teams competed in their long term and spontaneous challenges in Term 3. All teams demonstrated their creative problem solving skills and talents and had a

wonderful time working & learning together. Congratulations to our Science & Technology Team who were successful at the regional event. The team went on to win the Spirit of TOM medal at the State Finals held at the Gold Coast.

YICTE - The Year 3/4 and 5/6 teams presented their ICT project, a voice activated 'Virtual Librarian' to a judging panel of ICT professionals at the University of Queensland. With the help of our wonderful 3/4 team, our 5/6 team won first place in over 60 Queensland schools and head off to the National Finals in Sydney at the end of the term.

ICAS - Students from St Oliver Plunkett School achieved outstanding results in the Science, Spelling, Writing, English, Mathematics ICAS this year.

Science: Total 19 students – 1 High Distinction, 1 Distinction, 7 Credits, 3 Merits

Spelling: Total 25 students – 6 Credits, 9 Merits

Writing: Total 18 students – 1 High Distinction, 3 Distinctions, 4 Credits, 2 Merits

English: Total 22 students – 2 Distinctions, 9 Credits, 1 Merit

Mathematics: Total 28 students – 1 Distinction, 9 Credits, 1 Merit

Well done to all our LEAPERS ... you are truly EXTRAORDINARY!!!

Sport and Physical Education 2017

St Oliver Plunkett has been involved in another big year of sport. The students have participated in our three Inter-House Carnivals, swimming, cross country and athletics. This then led into the Zone Carnivals against 9 other Catholic Schools. We placed 2nd in the swimming, 3rd at the athletics and 5th at cross country.

The students in Years 4-6 participated in two Gala Sport Days. These were most enjoyable days of great sportsmanship and skill development. The QC Netball Cup was held in May. The school entered three teams and the senior team was runner up after a day of very tough competition.

The Year 3-6 students danced their way into the dance fever competition held at Chandler in September.

District sport allowed for many of our students to test their skills against other students. Tia Richardson was our most successful in representative sport in 2017. She progressed to the State Titles for girl's cricket.

The school accessed \$5400 of Sporting School Grant money which gave students the opportunity to participate in golf, softball and tennis while providing the school with money to purchase equipment for these activities.

Swimming lessons in Term 1 and 4 and Physical Education lessons all year, have allowed our students to be exposed to a range of activities and to allow them to develop an understanding of what it means to be active and how they can achieve this in their lives.

Many before and after school activities have been available for our students to be involved in such as tennis lessons, swimming squad, cross county training, water polo, soccer, AFL/Auskick and Rookies 2 Reds.

Parent volunteers allow our sporting carnivals, Gala Days, cross country training and Prep Motor Program to be successful and must be recognised for their wonderful support of sport at St Ollies!

The Arts – 2017 Report

In the subject areas of Drama, Dance, Media Arts, Visual Arts and Music, students at St Ollie's have had many wonderful opportunities to create, view, respond and perform this year. All students from Prep-Year 6 took to the stage in early Term 2 to present "That We Might Live" a musical play for Holy Week and Easter. Terms 2 and 4 have seen students engaged in Artist Studies and Integrated Arts units based on picture books. Highlights have included the Year 1 directed drawing lessons, the Year 2 painted turtles inspired by the Indigenous Artist Bronwyn Bancroft, the Year 4 Modigliani inspired Grandparent Portraits and the Year 6 Stop Motion animations. Term 3 saw students turn our Library into an Art Gallery as we celebrated Book Week and prepared our Art Auction pieces for the Spring Fair. Our Junior and Senior Choirs celebrated more success at the Eisteddfods and we were once again victorious in the Dance Fever competition.

This report only just touches the surface of what we have accomplished as a school community this year. I would like to acknowledge the significant support of our two formal parent groups – the Parents and Friends Association and Pastoral School Board. Both groups have been of significant support to both myself personally and to the school community in general, and I thank them for their time and commitments in wanting to make a difference in our community. I would also like to thank the Fete Committee, Krystyna Kopanski in particular, for organising what was a wonderful, albeit slightly soggy, day back in October.

We wish our departing families all the very best for the future whatever that may hold, wish our returning families a safe and happy holiday and see you in 2018 and look forward to welcoming all of our new families beginning with us in 2018.

Wishing you every blessing this festive season,

Paul Blinkhoff
Principal
The Greatest School in the World!