PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

It is my pleasure to present the Principal’s Report for 2015.

ST PAUL’S SCHOOL BOARD

I would firstly like to acknowledge and thank the members of the 2015 St Paul’s School Board, Emma Crean (Board Chair), Emma Gregory (Deputy Chair), Simon Borck (Treasurer), Jill Baroni (Secretary), Olga Biundo (P&F Rep), Milaika Jordan (General Member), Nola McIntyre (Parish Rep) and Fr Tim (Parish Priest), for their support this year. I would especially like to acknowledge our Board Chair, Emma Crean, for her ongoing support and valued advice.

I would like to express appreciation and thanks to Emma Gregory, Jill Baroni and Olga Biundo, whose time on the Board has now come to an end. I look forward to continuing to work in 2016 with Emma Crean, Simon Borck, Milaika Jordan, Nola McIntyre and Fr Tim.

THE PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION (P&F)

The vision of the P&F Association is, “Parents working together for strong Catholic school communities”. Involvement in the P&F is a wonderful way to meet other parents and get involved in the school. The work carried out by the P&F is important for community building as well as their much appreciated assistance with school initiatives.

We are grateful to the P&F for their contribution to the school this year. Everyone has enjoyed the many “fun” and fund-raising activities organised by the P&F this year. Among them were the P&F Welcome Night, the Book Fair, Mothers’ Day Gift Stall, Fathers’ Day Breakfast, Sports Day Cake Stall, St Paul’s Day Sausage Sizzle & children’s entertainment, Parish/School Mass morning teas, the children’s P&F Disco and the recent Family Fun Day.

Our appreciation is extended to the 2015 P&F Executive, Clare Salfinger (President), Suzanne Woods (Deputy President), Rebekah Hampson (Secretary) and Kellie McElligott (Treasurer), for so generously giving of their time and efforts to the school community. Our sincere thanks go to Clare, Rebekah and Kellie, who are stepping down this year after the wonderful contribution they have made to the School. They are certainly ending their term of office on a high note, with the memories of the fantastic Family Fun Day fresh in our minds!

The role of the Parent Class Representatives is vital in distributing important information among parents and rallying the troops to support school activities. The Parent Reps play an important role in uniting parents and nurturing a caring community within the school. I thank them for their efforts this year.

Thank you to all the parents who have coordinated and supported events around the school. In particular, our thanks go to the Year 3 parents, for co-ordinating the First Holy Communion Breakfast; the Year 5 parents, for organising the Year 6 Graduation Dinner Dance; John Bryson, for coaching the chess club; Emma Gregory, Bernard Mackin and Jill Baroni, for coaching St Paul’s Netball team; Juliet Bruining, for organising the Scholastic Book Fair; Lisa Battalis and May Ling Ryan, for their tireless work in the Uniform Shop; and all the parents who helped with the Family Fun Day.

PARISH SCHOOL RELATIONSHIP

Once again I would like to thank our Parish Priest, Fr Timothy Deeter, for his active interest in and support for the school. Not many schools could boast a parish priest who is so constant in his commitment to the school through class visits, Masses, special celebrations and preparation for the Sacraments. Again this year, Fr Tim took the children for weekly hymn practice and directed the Select St Paul’s School Chorale, which performed admirably in the Catholic Performing Arts Festival, receiving a Certificate of Merit.
In 2015, we continued with the highly successful monthly Parish/School Sunday Masses, which have greatly strengthened the link between the school and the parish. The parishioners have commented on the ability of even the youngest children at St Paul’s to present the Readings with confidence and expression. The children from Year 4 onward at St Paul's are encouraged to train to be altar servers and assist in this capacity at Parish Masses.

This year the school has continued to build on the Archdiocesan focus for parishes to run the sacramental programs with support from the school. Families have attended the sacramental information evenings facilitated by Fr Tim throughout the year. Many thanks go to Irene Pangestu, Catherine Nguyen and Jesse Yock for facilitating sacramental workshops for the parents and children. We are very grateful to Alessio Loiacono, Nick Dabbs and Julia Waller for their assistance with the music for Sacramental and other celebrations.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Bearing in mind how lucky we are, the children have been encouraged to help those who are less fortunate than ourselves. The children visit the elderly residents at the RSL Village and each term we have a special social outreach focus, such as Project Compassion, Caritas, the charities of Our Lady of the Missions, LifeLink and St Vincent De Paul. Throughout the year, we engage in a variety of fundraising events for people in need in Australia and around the world. Once again, one of our major fund raising efforts this year went towards supporting the Holy Angels Hostel in Kalyanpur, India. The Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions (the School's Founding Order) have specifically asked us to form a relationship with this hostel to assist them in their missionary work.

QUALITY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS PROJECT

The Catholic Education Office has established a school improvement model called the Quality Catholic Schools Project. Each year the school selects a few of QCS components as part of a self-review and improvement cycle. In 2015 we chose to focus on the following components:

- An Expert Teaching Team
- An Explicit Improvement Agenda
- Systematic Evangelisation Planning

As part of the Catholic Education WA LEAD Strategic Direction 2014 -2016, we chose to work on the following focus areas:

Learning (Education):
- Enhancing student achievement and well-being through the design and remodelling of the Year 1 and 2 learning areas
- Reviewing of current IT resources and the creation of a new IT Plan

Engagement (Community):
- Engaging parents to become active in their child’s learning through parent information sessions, with a focus this year on Spelling and IT

Accountability (Stewardship):
- Use of SEQTA Program to record student academic data and generate reports

Discipleship (Catholic Identity):
- Review and update of St Paul's Evangelisation Plan

THE EARLY YEARS – National Quality Standards

A comprehensive program is provided in Pre Kindy, Kindy and Pre Primary to develop the children’s conceptual learning, skills, attitudes and behaviours across all learning areas. This year the Early Childhood Team continued working towards the implementation of the Early Years Learning Framework. We have focused on our compliance with the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care in the Early Years and have been carrying out assessments to ensure that St Paul’s early childhood education meets the new regulations.
THE BISHOPS' RELIGIOUS LITERACY ASSESSMENT FOR YEAR 5

In 2015, St Paul's students again performed extremely well in the Bishops’ Religious Literacy Assessment for Year 5. The graph below shows our school’s mean, relative to the all schools’ mean and the overall distribution of student scores over time. The range of scores in the lightly shaded areas indicates the middle 50% of all students’ achievement scores.

NAPLAN TESTING

Once again, St Paul’s achieved outstanding results in the 2015 National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) completed by Years 3 and 5. Our student averages were above the National Mean in all areas.

Bearing in mind that it is only a snapshot of a child’s performance on one day, the NAPLAN assessment tests can be a useful tool to plot whole school trends and developments over time. Used in conjunction with the results from school-based assessments in all year levels, standardised tests and the PIPS tests, it provides us with data that shows strengths and assist us in identifying areas of need when planning future school focusses. An overview of the 2015 results reflected the great learning and teaching that is taking place in the school.

2015 NAPLAN RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 3</th>
<th>READING</th>
<th>WRITING</th>
<th>SPELLING</th>
<th>GRAMMAR &amp; PUNCTUATION</th>
<th>NUMERACY</th>
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<table>
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<th>READING</th>
<th>WRITING</th>
<th>SPELLING</th>
<th>GRAMMAR &amp; PUNCTUATION</th>
<th>NUMERACY</th>
</tr>
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<td>498.1</td>
<td>503.8</td>
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<tr>
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<td>541.9</td>
<td>599.3</td>
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ST PAUL’S CURRICULUM PLAN

Each year we strive to raise our standards of achievement. Teachers are supported to investigate new ideas and make the changes in their teaching practice that will be most beneficial for the students. The teachers engage in collaborative professional conversations (PLC Meetings), professional development, visits to other classrooms, school visits and community partnerships. As part of this endeavour, we regularly review our existing plan, analyse our student performance data and decide on the areas that most need focus in our school.

In 2015, after analysing the 2014 NAPLAN data, we reviewed and updated our Whole School Literacy & Numeracy Plan for 2015 and decided to have a major focus on Spelling, with the introduction of the “Smart Words” study program, which emphasises spelling rules and patterns.

After discussion and analysis of the 2015 NAPLAN and standardised testing data, the Professional Learning Community at St Paul’s has decided that a Literacy focus on Writing and a Numeracy focus on Measurement would be beneficial for the whole school in 2016.

Next year, along with the focus on Writing and Measurement, we will continue to dedicate time during PLC meetings to embed the spelling strategies and practices already established.

PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES IN 2015

At St Paul’s our students are encouraged to attain high academic achievement. Programs are offered in the specialist learning areas of Science, Physical Education, Italian and Music.

- **Science Program**: In our efforts to place an emphasis on the Science learning area, students from Pre Primary to Year 6 continued to learn Science as a specialist subject this year. Julia Waller coordinated the “Primary Connections” Science program throughout the school, which develops students’ knowledge, understanding and skills in both science and literacy.

- **Physical Education program**: The comprehensive program at St Paul’s is varied, with a varied selection of activities taking place over the year. Along with the weekly specialist PE lessons and fitness sessions, the children participated in several ‘Sports Clinic’ incursions, the Edudance Program, Year 6 formal dancing lessons, running club, swimming lessons, swimming training, after school tennis lessons, netball training, the Year 5/6 Milo T20 Blast Cup Round-Robin Cricket Carnival, ‘Walk to School Days’ and St Paul’s School Fun Run.

  The students competed in the annual house and interschool carnivals for swimming, cross country, team games and athletics. A highlight of the sporting calendar this year was our involvement in the national “Sporting Schools Project”, which provided an opportunity for the children from Years 1-6 to focus on sports such as, soccer, footy and basketball, for an hour after school.

- **Italian Program**: At the end of 2015 we will be ending our relationship with the Italo-Australian Cultural Centre and coordinating the Italian Program within the school. In 2016 the Italian program will be carried out by Mac Callisto (Years 3-6) and Connie Mezzatesta (PP-Year 2). We are hoping that this change will inject new energy into the Italian program.

- **Music Program**: The Music Program at St Paul’s, under the direction of our music specialist, Nick Dabbs, continues to grow, with many students excelling in St Paul’s Middle and Senior School Choirs, St Paul’s Select Liturgical Chorale and the School Band. Once again, as part of our commitment to developing St Paul’s School Band, we were pleased offer Music Scholarships for students to learn the flute and clarinet.

  We had a wide range of entries in the **Performing Arts Festival** this year and were delighted that the efforts of the following participants were recognised with awards of excellence:

  - Year 3/4 Choir (Primary Choral Singing): Honourable Mention
  - Year 5/6 Choir (Primary Choral Singing): Honourable Mention
  - St Paul’s School Band (Instrumental Ensemble): Certificate of Merit
- St Paul's Liturgical Chorale - Primary Select/Auditioned Choir: Certificate of Merit
- Year 6 - Choral Speech Upper Primary: Certificate of Merit
- Anders Phan (Piano Solo section): Honourable Mention
- Isabella Mackin - Instrumental Solo (Acoustic/Classical Guitar): Certificate of Merit
- Alexandra Carson - Instrumental Solo (Primary Strings): Certificate of Merit
- Sophie Gregory - Instrumental Solo (Primary Strings): Honourable Mention

Our thanks go to to Fr Tim, Nick Dabbs, Natasha Flexman, and the music tutors who helped these students to reach their potential.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

In 2015, we continued to integrate technology across the learning areas to enhance student learning. This has been assisted by the increased number of iPads available throughout the school, with a ratio of 1:2, which has meant a greater use of iPads and the benefits that various apps bring to the teaching and learning environment. All classrooms from Kindy to Year 6 are equipped with interactive whiteboards or TVs. Students have access to a number of laptops and a set of chrome books, mainly used by the Year 5 students. This year, the Year 6 class was housed in the decommissioned computer laboratory, allowing a 1:1 computer program. The school's IT program keeps progressing and, after much research and parent consultation, we are excited to be introducing a 1:1 Macbook program in Year 4 for 2016.

In 2015 we have continued to provide a range of excellent programs, to cater for the individual needs of students, including:

- **The Whole School Intervention Program**, coordinated by a Literacy Coordinator/Support Teacher, identifies and addresses the needs of children experiencing learning difficulties. The Reading Recovery Program, Toe by Toe and ‘MiniLit’ programs assist children experiencing reading or writing difficulties.

- **Extension Program**: The school continues to offer a comprehensive extension program to selected students from Years 4-6 to provide them with academic challenges. This year, extension students participated in many activities, including:
  - ‘Have Sum Fun Face to Face’
  - ‘The Tim Winton Writing Competition’
  - Year 5 Academic All Stars Competition: Competing in Chess, Engineering, Poetry, Art, English, Maths, General Knowledge and Drama, our team gained first place overall.
  - GoZone Interschool Debating: St Paul's gained one Platinum Award and two Silver Awards.
  - Tournament of Minds (TOM): We entered teams in the Social Sciences and Applied Technology sections
  - Maths Olympiad Challenges: Three of our students rated in the top 40%
  - ICAS UNSW Competition
  - Australian Mathematics Trust (AMT) Competition
  - SciTech Challenge Day
  - Solar Boat Competition with OLGC.

VALUED ADDED ACTIVITIES

A further range of learning experiences and extra opportunities offered, such as involvement in the Chess Club and Checkmate Interschool Chess Competition, ‘Speak Up Award’, the ‘Write a Book in a Day’ competition, and the School & Interschool Spelling Bees. One of the highlights of Year 6 is the Leadership Camp at Bickley Reserve.

- **Speak Up Award**
  Our students competed well in this competition, especially Isabella Bruining, who gained a place in the Finals of the ‘Speak Up Award’ with her speech, “Ballet Versus Football”. Out of 145 entries Isabella made the top 12!
- **Spelling Bee**
  In Term 3 we held our fourth St Paul's Spelling Bee competition for students from Years 3-6. We also competed in our third Interschool Spelling Bee with students from St Columba’s, Trinity, St Peter’s and Our Lady’s Assumption. It was a great success and our students performed well.

- **Edudance**
  This fun-filled dancing program is very popular and everyone enjoys the concert at the end of the program when the children perform their dances for the parents.

- **Year 6 Formal Dancing**
  Lessons were conducted with Kaye Gilkison again this year, in preparation for the Year 6 Graduation Dinner Dance, when the students showcase their dances.

- **Year 6 Camp**
  The Year 6 camp at the Bickley Recreational Centre was a tremendous success again this year, with challenging activities, including the flying fox, raft building, canoeing, crate climbing, search & rescue, wall climbing and orienteering. The camp supervisors were once again very pleased with our children's behaviour and level of participation.

- **Swimming Lessons**
  During Term 4, the children from Years 1-6 participated in swimming lessons at Bayswater Waves Swimming Pool.

**IMPROVEMENTS IN 2015:**

Once again, we have continued to enjoy many improvements around the school, including:

- The remodelling and refurbishment of the Year 1 and 2 classrooms, resulting in an amazing transformation. The dividing walls between the rooms on both floors were removed and the ceilings replaced, creating two spacious classrooms with wet areas and glass-panelled withdrawal spaces, ideal for small group work. The Year 1 classroom now takes up all of the ground floor and the Year 2 classroom is spread over the entire upper floor. Both rooms have been turned into 21st century learning spaces, decked out with colourful, new furniture and interactive TVs.

- The classrooms on the upper floor of the heritage building have also been refurbished with bright, new furniture. The operable wall between two of these rooms has allowed them to function as either individual classrooms, or one large learning space or ‘Learning Pod’, enabling the teachers to plan exciting team projects.

- The early childhood block was painted throughout, and the Kindy floorboards were sanded and polished, giving this area a refreshing makeover.

- Two large ceiling fans were installed in the Barbier Hall, thanks to the generosity of the P&F. These fans have proved to be invaluable during the hot weather.

**FUTURE PRIORITIES**

In 2016 we plan to carry out improvement in the following areas:

1. **Primary Toilet Block**: Re-tiling of the roof, ceiling repairs, painting, the installation of a skylight and exhaust fans and an upgrade of the urinal.

2. **Current Year 3 Classroom**: Installation of an Apple TV, new pin-boards, construction of a door between this classroom and the classroom next door to facilitate a flow between the two rooms.

3. **Early Childhood**: Upgrading of the furniture in the Kindy and Pre Primary rooms.
Proposed Building Project:

Phase 1:
Upgrade of the Junior Primary Block – completed in 2015.

Phase 2:
Administration Block: Extension and renovation of the administration building, to upgrade staffroom and increase office space.

Phase 3:
Early Childhood Block: Renovations to the Early Childhood Block, to comply with new National Quality Standards.

STAFF

I would like to acknowledge our wonderful staff at St Paul’s for their dedication and hard work in 2015. Our staff members are to be commended on their commitment to providing a quality Catholic education for our students. Their attendance here tonight is an indication of their willingness to give of themselves over and above expectations.

My appreciation goes to our two Assistant Principals, Mac Callisto and Jesse Yock, for their assistance in the planning and day to day running of the school. The role of Assistant Principal is extremely demanding, requiring work beyond school hours to cover the ever increasing administrative demands of our system.

During the year, we were excited to welcome Sonia Todaro back to school, after recuperating from her illness. Sonia more than capably took up the position of Literacy Coordinator/Support Teacher and will be continuing in this role in 2016.

Special mention must be made of Virginia Thomas, our Bursar, and Maureen Quin, our Administration Assistant, for the great work they do in the office. They are often the first point of contact in the school and I appreciate their hard work in the background ensuring that all goes smoothly in the school.

FAREWELLS

At the end of this year, we will be saying farewell to three of our valued staff members. We thank these departing staff members for the great work they have done at St Paul’s and wish them all the best for the future.

Donna Andrews, our Reading Recovery teacher, has done amazing work with the Reading Recovery students and will be sadly missed. Donna is returning to New Zealand for the first part of 2016 to care for a very sick friend. Our current Year 4 teacher, Catherine Nguyen, has been seconded for a year to work with the Catechist Team at the Catholic Education WA. We congratulate Catherine on this secondment and look forward to her return in 2017. Our Physical Education teacher, Kristy Wise, has accepted a teaching position at another Catholic school in 2016. We thank Kristy for stepping into the breach to take over the PE position this semester.

NEW STAFF IN 2016

- Donna Robins (Reading Recovery): I am delighted to announce that Donna Robins, an experienced Reading Recovery teacher, will be taking over this role in 2016.

- Loretta Kerse (Phys Ed): Loretta is a very experienced PE teacher who comes to us highly recommended.

- Mark Fitzpatrick (Year 4): Mark, an experienced and highly regarded teacher with a passion for IT, will be taking the Year 4 class and coordinating the 1:1 Macbook program in Year 4.
PROPOSED STAFFING FOR 2016

Principal: Joanna Noonan
Assistant Principal: Mac Callisto
Assistant Principal: Jesse Yock
Admin Assistant: Maureen Quin
Bursar: Virginia Thomas

Pre Kindy Teacher: Michelle Sims
Pre Kindy Assistant: Rebecca Glynn
Kindy Teacher: Mac Callisto
Kindy Assistants: Mary Kerrigan, Rebecca Glynn & Connie Mezzatesta
Pre Primary Teacher: Helen Mason
Pre Primary Assistant: Melissa Townsend & Jeanette Casey
Year 1 Teacher: Chiara Triscari
Year 1 Assistant: Morena Bonotto
Year 2 Teacher: Christina Connolly
Year 2 Assistant: Christina Miller
Year 3 Teacher: Irene Pangestu
Year 3 Assistant: Helen Chatzimichail
Year 4 Teacher: Mark Fitzpatrick
Year 5 Teachers: Natasha Flexman
Year 6 Teachers: Jesse Yock (4 days) & Julia Waller (1 day)
Library: Shelley Antoni
Science: Julia Waller
Physical Education: Loretta Kerse
Music: Nick Dabbs
Support Teacher: Sonia Todaro
Reading Recovery: Donna Robins
Extension: Julia Waller
Italian: Mac Callisto and Connie Mezzatesta

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I would like to thank the parent community of St Paul’s for your continued support and partnership in the education of your children. Working together we can assist your children to reach their full potential.

Joanna Noonan
Principal

24 November 2015