



SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Principal: Steve Miranda

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

### **Introduction**

Sacred Heart Catholic School is a school with great pride and culture. This is something that is ingrained in the children, staff and community and I wish to acknowledge the great leaders, the dedicated staff and the supportive parents that have developed this culture over the past 100 plus years. This year our school celebrates its 105<sup>th</sup> year.

Our school has a great history and legacy that the Presentation Sisters established many years ago. A good school will withstand the test of time, withstand change and withstand the many external pressures. Sacred Heart is a testament to this and will continue to live the vision that our Presentation Sisters initiated in 1912. My role as principal is to continue this legacy and further enhance the wonderful supportive and caring school culture that exists and further develop the educational opportunities and achievements of our students.

In 2016 we have been able to maintain our student enrolments, maintain 4 teaching classes and relevant staffing, provide specialist support programs and provide our students with programs in Science, Art, Music, History/Geography and PE. Although enrolments are steady, as a community we need to be mindful of this and continue to put our best foot forward in being united in supporting Sacred Heart Catholic School.

### **SCHOOL AND PARISH RELATIONSHIPS**

I value the school's cooperative relationship with Fr Ken and I take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of Fr Ken in our community. Fr is very generous in the opportunities he provides for us to gather to celebrate mass and there is depth, sincerity and insight in the way he breaks open the word and proclaims God to the school community.

There is a developing close working relationship with the parish and school. Our School Parish Masses have also been a positive experience for our community, involving students and staff in these celebrations and in particular our school choir led by Cherie Broadhurst.

The school continued to develop the Making Jesus Real program through our school to connect our values more closely with the actions of daily life.

I also take this opportunity to welcome Fr Patrick to the Sacred Heart and Goomalling community and know that Fr will continue to strengthen and build our school and parish with his faith development and leadership and we look forward to working closely with father.

## Teaching and Learning

Our curriculum focus in 2016 was to improve our Numeracy outcomes and in the area of Grammar and Punctuation. A new school based scope and sequence profile was created and becomes part of our school curriculum documentation. In complimenting this focus, staff have continued to embrace a culture of continuous improvement in all learning areas.

Staff were also in-serviced in both reading and comprehension strategies to enhance our literacy dedicated sessions. We have also continued to provide for the specific learning needs of students requiring further support in various learning areas. We have continued to offer individual tuition to children using the Reading Tutor Program and in 2016 we implemented to full Minilit literacy program run by Tanya Forward as well as still providing extra support for children requiring differentiation in all classes.

After close analysis of all school data, conversations with staff, observations and discussions about effective instructional strategies, there are a number of key improvements and modifications to enhance the quality of our teaching and learning programs. These strategies will be in the key areas of literacy, numeracy and effective pedagogical practices as well as developing visible learning practices in each of our classroom.

The Sporting arena has had many highlight in 2016. The students participated enthusiastically in swimming, cross country, athletics and cricket interschool carnivals. We acknowledge the collective talent of our students in the sporting domain and look forward to their development in 2017.

Year 3	Grammar and Punctuation	Numeracy	Spelling	Writing	Reading
	50% Well above the Benchmark	50% well above Benchmark	38% well above Benchmark	25% well above the Benchmark	50% well above Benchmark
	50% above the National Standard	50% at Above the National Standard	38% Above the National Standard	75% above the National Standard	50% Above the National Standard
			24% at the National Standard		
Year 5	34% Well above the Benchmark	50% well above Benchmark	34% Well above the Benchmark	34% Well above the Benchmark	50% well above the Benchmark
	66% above the National Standard	35% at Above the National Standard	66% Above the National Standard	66% Above the National Standard	35% above the National Standard
		15% at the National Standard			15% At the National Standard

## **STAFFING**

I acknowledge the contributions of all our staff during 2016, both teaching and non-teaching. The dedication and commitment to our students and school are very much noted.

I would like to make special mention of Deanne and Lesley in the front Office. Their knowledge of our school is outstanding and I thank them for the dedication and support you give our staff, parents, community and of course myself.

In 2016 we farewelled Donne Holmes who completed a short term contract in 2016 and Bronwyn Smith who took maternity leave. With this, we were able to welcome back Bonnie Norrish who re-joined us after a year at Loretto Nedlands and also welcome Catherine Mills, also from Loretto and brings a wealth of experience and energy to our school.

The level of experience our new staff bring to our school community provides exciting opportunities as we take our teaching and learning programs to a new level in 2017. In total our four classroom teachers have a combined total of 24 years experience which provides a new level of education for our students.

## **SCHOOL BOARD & P&F**

Our School Board plays a pivotal role in the development of our school and I extend my sincerest gratitude and appreciation to the School Board members, led by Chairperson Glen Quartermaine. This year, Glen will be stepping down from the school board after 6 years and on behalf of our school community I would like to thank Glen for the quality leadership and direction he's provided to our school. Your leadership on the school board has enriched our school in so many ways and we will always be grateful for this.

With this, I would also like to thank the members of our board for their commitment and also for their support, knowledge and understanding of the school context in which we work in.

I would formally like to acknowledge the 2016 P and F association. Your contributions to the school, through community building events and fund raising have been fantastic. From cake stall to football tipping, catering and organising key events. I am staggered that such a small group of dedicated parents can do so much to raise money and support the wider community. I thank the executive and members for the many tireless hours they have spent for the betterment of all our students.

## **OUR STUDENTS & PARENTS**

John Hattie is the world leader in educational research and he identifies the biggest contributing factor to student achievement is quality teachers. I would also add that you can have quality staff, quality teaching programs, good resources and good facilities which all lend themselves to creating a good school. But to have a great school, you need great students. I believe this is what we have here at Sacred Heart. Our students give so much, so that we can give to them. Our school wouldn't be what it is today without our students and I thank each and everyone one of our 66 students for what they bring to school each day.

Our great students are a testament to our parents and community and with this I thank all our parents for their commitment to our school and for their crucial support of all the children and staff. Without this support we would not be able to achieve all that we do achieve as a school community.

We farewelled two of our graduating students and their families at the end of 2016 and we wish them every success as they continue with their education. We sincerely hope that the values instilled in them at Sacred Heart will continue to provide the benchmark for their interactions with others into the future.

I look forward to working with the parents, staff and students of Sacred Heart School to continue providing the very best we can for our children in 2017 and beyond.

Thank you.

*Be it known to all who enter here that CHRIST is the reason for this school.*

*CHRIST is the unseen, but ever present, teacher in its classes,  
the model for its staff, and the inspiration for its students.*

*Christ with us, Christ before us, Christ beside us,  
Christ within us as we finish 2016 and step into 2017.*