



WHITFORD

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL REPORT: 2018

Embracing Catholic principles, our mission at Whitford Catholic Primary School is to educate, respect and nurture each child.

Our vision is to be a Catholic community where children thrive, enjoy learning and develop life skills to meet future challenges.

Each year we have much to celebrate, with this year being no exception. The 40th Anniversary of our school has been a fabulous opportunity to reflect on where we have come from, who we are and where we are heading. Realigning our priorities to meet the changing landscape of society has, and will continue to, influence current and future planning.

Celebrating the 40th Anniversary with a Mass during Term Three, was a fabulous opportunity to officially Open and Bless Stage 6 & 7 Learning Spaces and the Stage 8 Carpark Project. Our Anniversary Gala Dinner Dance at the beginning of Term Four was another important celebration and a fine example of our community, past and present, working together. Integral to these events was the recent Environmental Art Trail which showcased, not only the creativity of all students from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 6, but was also a demonstration of the positive energy that comes with combining our creative talents and working together as one.

We are very fortunate to have School Board Members who willingly share their skills, wisdom and desire to see our students and school flourish. Our School Board has continued to work diligently in supporting the school vision and ensuring that school facilities match the needs of our children. Significant difficulties faced in completing the Stage 8 Carpark Project earlier this year truly highlighted the commitment of the School Board. I take this opportunity of thanking our Board Chairperson, *Mr Brendan Long* for his expertise, advice, time and unwavering support in ensuring the construction and completion of this project.

The School Board has engaged Taylor, Robinson, Chaney, Broderick Architects to develop a clear masterplan of staging future renovations to our buildings, learning spaces and school security (fencing). This will ensure a strategic approach to future school refurbishments and maintenance.

It is with appreciation that I thank each Board Member for the many long hours spent in planning for the financially sustainable future for our school. You are a great team to work with and help to make the school what it is today. My sincere thanks must go to *Mr Brian Briscoe* who has completed his second term of office and will step down from the School Board this year.

The *Parent and Friends Executive* of our school needs to be thanked for their magnificent efforts in securing funding, supporting school activities, enabling extracurricular opportunities and in building a strong school community, including the launch of our new school logo. Their planning and commitment to ensuring this anniversary year would be a highlight to all has been instrumental in the success we have experienced. For this, we are truly blessed. The generosity of our families, as members of the Parents and Friends Association, never ceases to amaze me and I am grateful to every person who has contributed in some capacity to support the school.

Faith in God, Faith in Self

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I thank *Mrs Nadine Cooperwhite* who, as the Parent and Friends Association President for the past five years, will be finishing her tenure this year. Nadine has done an amazing job in leading her team and representing the Parents and Friends Association on our School Board. Her 'can do' approach and positive manner will be missed. We thank you for everything Nadine - a top effort, appreciated by all.

The Whitty's Dads Group has been moving from strength to strength and on behalf of all involved and those looking forward to participating in the future, I thank *Mr Andrew Dunlop* for his vision and commitment to the development of this program. An awesome job Andrew!

We are very lucky to be a parish school, where a close association between school and parish has always been an important part of our history and who we are as a community. We believe that working closely with the Parish Sacramental Co-ordinator is integral to maintaining a strong, parish based sacramental program and maintaining positive links between home and parish. We were truly blessed to have worked with both Mrs Donna Moxey and Mrs Tricia Starkie this year. A special thank you to Tricia for the way in which she has stepped into her new role and for so readily supporting the school.

I take this opportunity of thanking our Parish Priests, Fr Cyprian Malongo Shikokti, Fr Truc Nguyen and acknowledge our outgoing Parish Priest, Fr Joseph Tran who has been unwavering in his support of the school over the past twelve years. Our students are a real credit to this relationship. Based on the person of Jesus, may we together, with parents as the first educators of their children, continue to provide a rich Catholic education for all. It is through this partnership, that our core values of '*faith, community, service, trust and excellence*' become embedded in all we do.

We welcome the invitation from the Bishops to participate in the Plenary Council 2020 Listening and Dialogue process. As a school, we see this as an important opportunity to share our hopes and ideas about the Church's ministry and mission. We have been invited to speak boldly and with passion about our experience of Church and living our life in faith. Contributing and sharing our thoughts on the future of the Catholic Church in Australia is an important part of our journey and we thank the parish for bringing this opportunity to the attention of parishioners and giving them a voice to respond through the parish.

Earlier this year, Whitford Catholic Primary School underwent a School Cyclic Review. This review focused on the effectiveness of engagement, school improvement and the future directions for improving of student outcomes. The review occurs once in a five-year period and contributes to the compliance of school re-registration regulations in Western Australia.

I am pleased to report that the improvement conversations based around Learning, Engagement, Accountability and Discipleship reinforced the school's professionalism, dynamic nature, outstanding educational opportunities and commitment to excellence. It is truly heart-warming to witness the excitement that has been generated around teaching and learning in our school, whether it be in our classrooms, as part of our specialist programs or during lunchtime or before/afterschool clubs.

Engaging the children in STEM learning, the Arts (Music, Dance, Drama), Science, Languages other than English (Italian), Physical Education & Sports Carnivals, Information Technology, Community Festivals, Performing Arts, Extension and Support programs, Gifted and Talented programs, enquiry based practices, clubs and the provision of a differentiated curriculum are just some of the opportunities available to our students.

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Still in the early stages of development, the WCPS Idea Factory is a new collaborative workspace aimed at providing students with opportunities for hands on and creative ways to design, experiment, build and invent, using vital 21st century skills in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Taking an active role in their own learning, improving critical thinking skills and boosting self-confidence are all important by-products of involvement in this area.

It has been fantastic to see the development of our Rainbow Room in the Pre-Primary area. Catering for student diversity is a very important part of our role and having this great space is of huge benefit to many of our students. For children who may experience difficulties in regulating their emotions in the busyness of everything around them, it provides a calm environment, free of distractions and interruptions. Thank you to *Mrs Kylie Beveridge*, [Paint Me A Rainbow - Autism Awareness WA](#) for organising the WCPS Rainbow Day, which helped to fund this important facility and *Mrs Catharine Hughes* for helping to coordinate the development of this multi-sensory environment to support our students in their learning.

Another highlight this year has been our success in winning a Catholic Education LEAD Award of Excellence in the category of Student Engagement. This is a real testament to the great work that is happening on many levels throughout the school. We recognise *Mr Geoff Clarke* for his work in this area and thank our Social Worker, *Mrs Elaine Mahon* for her commitment in supporting the social and emotional well-being of all.

Book Week is always a hit with the students and serves to remind us of the incredible importance of books and reading to our lives. Many thanks to *Mrs Annette Lynch* and *Mrs Denise Gee* for their enthusiasm in giving life to this area.

As per the Annual School Improvement Plan for 2018, we have continued our focus on Numeracy, Spelling, Writing and the use of Technology across all areas of learning. We believe our academic rigor is improving outcomes for all students, regardless of where they sit on the learning continuum, as evidenced in school results. This year we have continued to work with teachers from Padbury and Liwara Catholic Schools as part of the 'Beyond Our Schools' network. This is an important partnership that we expect will support the development of highly able educators whilst at the same time, building a stronger Catholic community.

During Term Two, I was fortunate to be part of a study tour of Canada, looking at high performing schools and systems. It was affirming to see, as we unpacked what great schools and school systems look like, that Whitford Catholic Primary School is very well placed in terms of our deep and flexible knowledge of subject matter, pedagogical practices, resources and commitment to improving student outcomes. I commend our community on the positive learning culture of our school.

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2018 NAPLAN DATA OVERVIEW

We are pleased to share our school's 2018 NAPLAN results with you. All results are higher than the National Mean, with Year 5 results significantly higher. The results also indicate a majority of our students in 2018 were above the National Minimum Standard in both Year 3 and Year 5. As a school, we continue to analyse this data and, together with school based assessments, implement strategies to continue to improve our program provision for all students. Further analysis will be made available on the myschool website (<https://www.myschool.edu.au/>) in due course.

YEAR 3	National Mean	School Mean
Grammar & Punctuation	431.7	444.4
Spelling	417.8	429.0
Reading	433.8	451.8
Numeracy	407.7	411.8
Writing	407.2	423.3

YEAR 5	National Mean	School Mean
Grammar & Punctuation	503.6	548.5
Spelling	502.5	530.2
Reading	509.0	542.0
Numeracy	494.2	518.3
Writing	464.6	503.6

2018 YEAR 3 NAPLAN	Reading	Writing	Spelling	G & P	Numeracy
<u>ABOVE</u> National Minimum Standard in 2018	93%	98%	92%	91%	91%
<u>AT</u> National Minimum Standard in 2018	4%	1%	7%	8%	8%
<u>BELOW</u> National Minimum Standard in 2018	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%

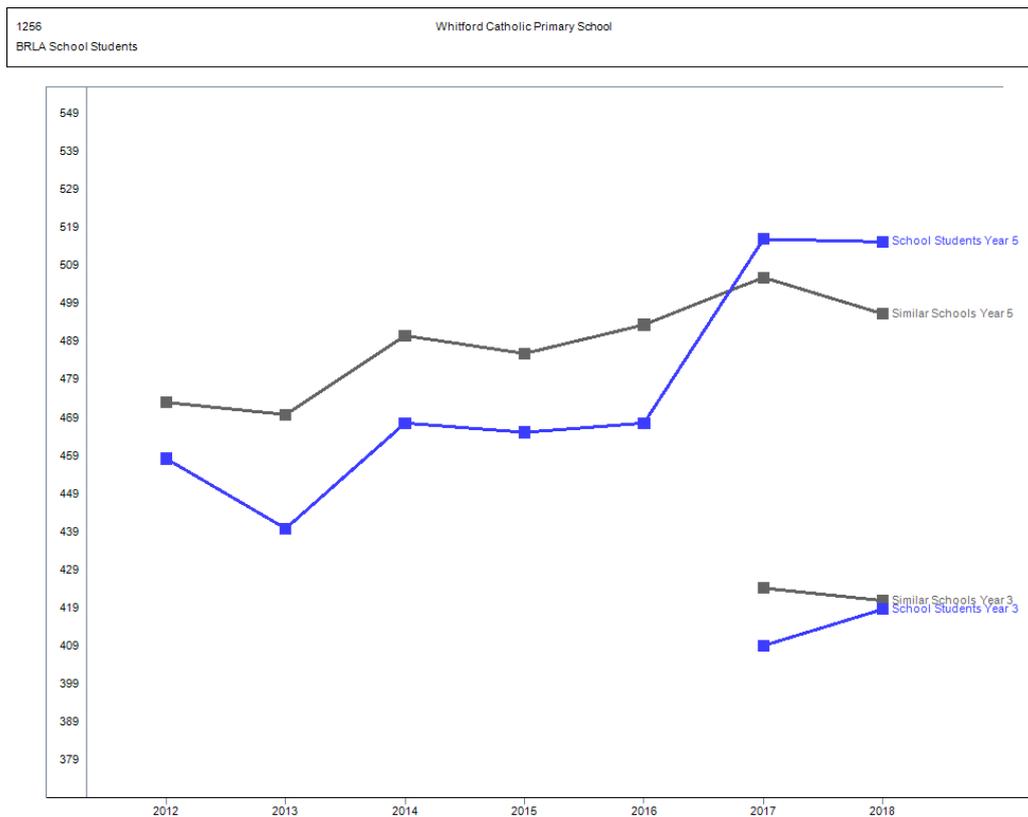
2018 YEAR 5 NAPLAN	Reading	Writing	Spelling	G & P	Numeracy
<u>ABOVE</u> National Minimum Standard in 2018	93%	95%	96%	98%	95%
<u>AT</u> National Minimum Standard in 2018	7%	5%	4%	2%	5%
<u>BELOW</u> National Minimum Standard in 2018	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

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BISHOP'S LITERACY TESTING: 2018

Results of the Year 3 and 5 Bishop's Literacy Testing were pleasing. The results include steady progress in Year 5 when compared to 2017, with a slight increase in Year 3. Year 5 results are above the similar schools in CEWA whilst Year 3 are just below. In line with consolidating the delivery of religious education, the same explicit strategies used in the teaching of literacy and numeracy across the school, will be employed to improve our students' knowledge of content.



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I take this opportunity to thank *Mrs Catharine Hughes and Mr Andrew De Maio*, who as Assistant Principals, have carried out their leadership responsibilities with energy and professionalism. Their commitment to the vision of our school is endless, and their support is very much appreciated. To *Mr Geoff Clarke and Mrs Tonia McCaughey*, who as Cluster Leaders, have coordinated and led the school on many levels – thank you.

Many thanks to our Administrative Staff – *Mrs Jane Hansen, Mrs Allison Falconer, Mrs Claudia Black and Mrs Michelle Elders* who embrace many roles in the administration of our school. Integral to this area is the support given by *Mr Phil Garner and Mr Trevor Briggs*, who together are doing a fabulous job in ensuring the school facilities and gardens are maintained and in great shape. Thanks to our canteen staff, *Mrs Kerry Craker and Mrs Nicole Waldmeier* who feed us and are always looking out for canteen volunteers. It is through their commitment that we are in a position to provide lunches for our children.

We have an exceptional staff and I am extremely appreciative of their professionalism, dedication and support. I take this opportunity of thanking all *teachers and educational assistants* for supporting the real work of the school – thank you for sustaining our learning community and facilitating the very best education possible for our children.

This leads me to the staff who will be leaving us at the end of this year.

- Mrs Toni Stritzke is moving onto another phase of her life by retiring after 12 years of teaching and engaging our students. Toni's creative energies, wonderful wit and keen enthusiasm will be missed by all. We congratulate Toni on her wonderful teaching career and wish her well for the future.
- Mrs Celeste de Rozario will be taking maternity leave for 2019. We wish Celeste and her family well as they have recently welcomed little Pippa Rose into their lives.
- To Mrs Jessica McArtney, Mrs Sonia Palmer and Mrs Sarah Knox, who have taught with us this past year, we wish you every happiness for the future. Thank you for fitting so seamlessly into our school – it has been fabulous working with you.

When changes to staffing occur, it is always our priority to engage high quality staff members who will share in the vision and direction of our school. We welcome the following teachers in 2019:

- Mrs Mellissa Hilton (returning from leave): Support
- Mrs Jodie Kelly: Pre-Kindergarten
- Miss Anita Baric: Year 2
- Miss Tarnica Golisano: Year 3

We are delighted that they join our community and look forward to welcoming each new member to our team.

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FUTURE FOCUS: 2019

LEARNING
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explicitly teaching knowledge of content as per Religious Education Guidelines• Writing (Brightpaths and Talk for Writing/Seven Steps for Writing)• Critical reflection on children's learning: inclusive, relevant and differentiated curriculum that include reflective practice.• Design indoor and outdoor learning spaces to enhance quality learning opportunities both inside and in the natural environment
ENGAGEMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promoting an increased awareness, understanding and respect of other cultures in line with 'The Transforming Lives 2025' Strategy
ACCOUNTABILITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of a School Strategic Plan, inclusive of a marketing strategy (Learning, Engagement, Accountability and Discipleship)• Staff Mentoring Program to ensure a school-wide team of highly able educators.• Implementation of Child Safe Framework and Positive Behavioural Intervention and Support Program
DISCIPLESHIP
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engagement with the parish community

On a finishing note, I would like to express my appreciation for the significant contribution that everyone has made to the lives of the children. I believe it is our positive relationships that are the ground from which all other activities grow and unfold. May we continue to do great things together!

"I can do things that you cannot.
You can do things that I cannot.
Together we can do GREAT things"
-Mother Theresa-

Thank you
Tamara McGougan.

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