

## **Principal's Message 2023**

*As part of our required reporting procedures for Catholic Education WA I will use the four headings of Catholic Identity, Education, Community and Stewardship to present our achievements for this year 2023.*

### **Education**

This year our major curriculum focus has been in the Maths learning area with a specific focus on assessment. We have worked our Maths team to improve our understanding of the Maths content and the pedagogy we use to teach it. The ongoing Mini Lit and Math's Lit has continued to consolidate children's knowledge in small groups and the progress of the children in the lessons has been excellent.

This year's NAPLAN was taken in term one for the first time and used a different set of benchmarks for assessment. Overall, our children achieved the expected standards and performed well in all areas of assessment.

### **Community**

The P&F have done an amazing job this year, without much fan fair. Our usual Mother's Day and Father's Day stalls were well patronized, and the disco was well attended, and the children had a wonderful time. The junior playground refurbishments began once the extensive planning phase was completed, new bike tracks were installed, mud kitchens made cubbies for the Kindy Pre Kindy have been purchased. A big thanks to Mrs. Young and Miss Francina and the P&F committee for all of their hard work. We will now move into phase two next year.

This year the P&F held a very enjoyable and successful Quiz night. Special thanks to Mrs. MacCuspie, and Mrs. McQueen with her family for all of the organization. Thanks also to all of our families who contributed to the prizes for the night.

We now have a regular coffee van coming to school on a Friday morning so that during running club parents can join together with a hot beverage. Thanks to Chloe and the warm welcome we all receive on our Friday mornings.

The last event for the year was our wonderful Carols Night. The committee was comprised of members of the P&F and staff who put on a great show for all. Special thank you to all of the work Mrs. Royal put into teaching the songs to all of the children during her music lessons.

### **Stewardship**

With many schools in WA finding it hard to balance their budgets, we have been fortunate this year to have been able to work with a small negative budget and complete some major works needed around the school. We had the first part of the power upgrade completed in the junior school. Numerous ongoing maintenance items fixed during the year. A lot of this has been

because of the careful and meticulous work of Mrs. Henderson, our school Finance office supported by Mr. Rafferty, our School Advisory Council treasurer.

Our online presents on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter have been a big focus once again this year and has really put our information out in the community in a very positive way. We teamed up with Prendiville College and St Simon Peter Primary school again this year in a social media collaboration which saw the schools profile spread throughout the community. Special thanks Mrs. Admans who have implemented all these continued improvements.

A huge thank you to all of School Advisory Council members. The support with many ideas in many quarters from our other Council members during the year, thank you.

## **Catholic Identity**

Once again, this year the sacramental process has aligned itself with that of the Perth Diocese Guidelines by being Parish based, school supported, and family focused. With the support of Fr Francis, Fr Marius, and the parish we were able to complete all of the sacraments by the end of October. Through the hard work of Mrs. Woodall and the sacramental years teachers all of the meetings, workshops and retreats were well received and patronized. We have been very blessed this year in having Fr Francis and Fr Marius as our school priests sharing the role through the year once again. Both priests have been regular participants in all activities at the school, being whole school masses, reconciliation, class masses, sacramental talks, and playground visits. Their presence has helped us by giving spiritual and moral guidance as well as support. Sadly, we wished Fr Francis farewell at the end of term three as he was appointed to the Nalamara parish.

I sincerely thank all our **staff**. I acknowledge both the collective and individual contributions that you each bring to our school as you work alongside our students. Each day you touch the lives of our students in so many ways. Building on the foundations from family, your kindness, patience, dedication, and genuine care for our students, contributes significantly to our students 'blossoming' as they grow into polite, considerate, and hardworking young individuals, who represent the spirit of Francis Jordan Catholic School so well. Thank you for the time you give to provide this valuable support to our students.

Teaching is one of the most rewarding professions in that it gives teachers an opportunity to make an impact on a future generation, however it is also extremely challenging and never easy. No one with actual teaching experience would tell you otherwise. Being a teacher takes patience, dedication, passion, and the ability to do more with less. It is a journey often filled with just as many valleys as mountains. There is the perception that teachers only work from 8-3 each day and have way too many holidays! Our teachers at Francis Jordan are dedicated and go over and above on many occasions throughout the year.

Finally, our students, you constantly impress me with your love of learning, joy of friendships and attitude to life. To our Year 6 cohort, you will be missed next year, and I am sure that once the high schools you are going to realize the quality people, they are welcoming you will flourish like you have here at Francis Jordan.

To all the staff leaving us at the end of the year I wish them well in whatever life has before them. We thank you all for your dedication and hard work over many years.

We also say **farewell** to those families who are leaving or relocating away from our school, we wish you well as you embark on your journey to new places and new communities. I pray that the Holy Spirit will guide your onward journey.

As always at this time of year, I wish everyone a Christ filled Christmas and safe journeys over the break and look forward to seeing everyone back safe and refreshed for 2024.

Thank you. Chris

Dunning Principal

