

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

The Annual Meeting of the School Community Tuesday 19 November 2024

School Advisory Council Chairperson's Report

It is my honour and privilege to present the annual report for 2024, on behalf of the whole school community of St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School.

Alongside Janelle Prunster (Vice Chairperson), Craig Grantham (Finance Officer), Laura Hampson (Secretary), Stephenie Kunder (P & F Representative), Jacinta Lynton, Jevita Nilson and Father Dariusz (Darek) Krzyształowicz SDS, we resumed our Advisory Council roles, supporting the school's Leadership Group to begin 2024.

There was a great start to the year with the gates opening to a capacity cohort of students in all year levels, including a firmly established 3-year-old Program.

Additions to the campus throughout the year include a bike track which all Kindy and Pre-Primary students can utilise, a Senior Nature Play area, new bike shelters and an amazing mural which adorns the Prayer Garden, beautifully reflecting the charism of St. Francis of Assisi and his love of the environment. These initiatives have enhanced the existing resources, contributing towards a physical space which lends itself to a collaborative and conducive ethos, in which a committed staff and students eager to learn can flourish, thereby generating a positive working culture for all stakeholders.

An aspect of education very close to my heart is the wellbeing and engagement of all community members and I am delighted that this continues to be a focus at St Francis. The Leadership Group maintain a forward-thinking philosophy, always striving to address the betterment of the school, promoting positive initiatives which challenge all of us to respond accordingly. A wellbeing program called RULER will be implemented next year, encouraging our children to become more resilient and face challenges with a greater mindset. You will hear more about this program in 2025.

We continued to strengthen our relationship with the Parish, once again hosting the Mayflower Mass at the end of May, which as always, was very well attended by staff, students, and family members from our school. Many thanks to Father Darek and Father Marian for their continued dedication and support throughout the year.

And we continue to boost the Altar Serving Ministry with new servers now well established within the school and Parish, and I am confident that many more will follow in their footsteps over future years.

Of course a major highlight of this year was the recent 20th anniversary of St Francis, formerly Brighton Catholic Primary School. I had the pleasure and privilege of attending the celebration, marking a significant landmark in its history. I have watched the school grow since 2005 and it is an honour to maintain a connection with its development into 21st century learning. The immediate future is exciting – earlier this month, a collaborative STEM project, involving Year 5’s and 6’s with Year 7 and Year 8 students from IMCC was established. You will be able to follow their progress in forthcoming Newsletters.

On a personal note, I would like to acknowledge the staff who will be leaving the school at the end of the year, and I wish you all well in the next phase of your career. However, I would like to make special mention of Dee Campbell, with whom I have worked directly for many years, in my dual capacity as both chairperson of this school and St Andrew’s Pastoral Parish Council. Dee has been the primary link person between the school and the church and it has been an honour to work with such a dedicated, passionate and incredibly knowledgeable person. Her loss to our community is a major gain to St Brigid’s Catholic Primary School and I am confident that Dee will shine an amazing light in the Swan Valley as she has in our Northern Suburbs. Good luck Dee and thank you from the bottom of our hearts – you will be missed.

For those of us remaining, it goes without saying that my colleagues and I are eternally grateful for the care and education provided to all students, from our 3-year-olds to the Year 6’s. The primary goal for all parents and guardians is the safety and happiness of their children and this school delivers ten-fold. It has been another terrific year in the life of the school, which continues to go from strength to strength, and we look forward to 2025 with excitement and promise. The long-term autonomy of St Francis of Assisi may be a little uncertain, however there is no doubt that our short-term future remains as positive as ever, with student numbers thriving. We are confident that our school will continue to flourish and prosper under strong leadership and a passionate body of teaching and non-teaching staff who constantly strive to provide an environment which fosters personal, social, spiritual and academic growth.

On behalf of the School Advisory Council, I would like to wish you all, staff, parents, guardians and your families a very happy, safe and blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Thank you for your attendance this afternoon and for your continued support of our school community.

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Tony Summers

School Advisory Council Chairperson

..... Tuesday 19th November 2024

Date