



Principal's Annual Report 2015

It is with great pleasure that I present the 2015 Annual Report for St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School. This year has been marked by many triumphs and challenges. It is a wonderful testament to our school and parish community. We have faced and overcome these challenges and been so triumphant in our school and community life.

We started 2015, with the blessing of our new Grotto on March 15th by Bishop Gerard Holohan. It was part of Bishop's Canonical visit to St. Patrick's parish and was a special moment historically, for St. Patrick's School, the Sisters of Our Lady of the Mission and the parish community. Mary has a place of prominence between the school and the church, peacefully watching over our students every day.

Our new buildings and refurbishment of the Pre-Primary, Year One classroom and toilets were finally completed and our new junior primary entrance is absolutely wonderful and has added so much to our school. Our official opening of the new rooms and blessing of our school was a very special and memorable event. Fr. Tony Chiera, Vicar General of the Bunbury Diocese spoke of the superb partnership between the school, parish, community and Bunbury Diocese through the Catholic Development Fund. Fr Tony blessed crucifixes in every room in the school, and spoke briefly to the students in the class.

Our school and community were shaken by the accident to one of our students, Hamish Bolto. Anzac Day was a pivotal moment for our school and community in 2015. It highlights the power of prayer and of a community coming together to support Hamish and his family. "Hamburgers for Hamish," was a very successful fund raiser by the P&F and the community, with a substantial amount raised to support Hamish and his recovery. It was really a triumphant moment for the school and community. Our Parents and Friends have had such an active role to play in events such as Hamburgers for Hamish and our wonderful Ram Sale. The many volunteers worked tirelessly for our school community. A very big thank you to our P&F executive and a huge thanks to our Ram sale committee headed by Tania Edwards and Tania Wolfe. The main

focus for our P&F has been ‘friend raising and fund raising’ both goals checked off for 2015, through hard work and dedication to our school. The school has acquired Apple TV devices, equipment, toys and games for our students through the great support of our P&F committee. We are very grateful for the support we receive.

I would like to thank all the members of the School Board. Their support with our build and refurbishment is greatly appreciated. The advice and support provided by the Board has been invaluable. A special thanks to Tania Wolfe as School board chair. She works tirelessly for our school and for the whole community. It is amazing the dedication and time she gives for our school. To our new board members for 2015 and board members who have served their term, a special thank you for the commitment to supporting St Patrick’s school and community. Our school appreciates their dedication and service to the school and community.

I would like to thank Fr Peter for his work in the school this year in supporting the sacramental programs and visiting classes. Fr Peter is a great advocate of our school and of the good works that are happening at St. Patrick’s. We thank him for his continued support of our school and parish.

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to a number of staff members in 2015. To Mrs. Sharon Marino, who will take on the role of Assistant Principal in Assumption Primary School in Mandurah. I thank her for all of her support and her 11 years of service at St. Patrick’s and wish her every blessing at her new school. I would like to thank Mrs Denise Bowen for her hard work in Reading Recovery and as Literacy coordinator. Denise has requested a year’s leave to continue her studies. She will also be taking on a Reading Recovery role at Loreto School in Nedlands. Miss Emily Newman is moving to Perth to continue her Early Childhood studies at University. I thank Emily for her effort and commitment to St Patrick’s and the organisation of our carnivals and sport in 2015, and wish all the best for her studies in 2016. Miss Julia John Allil has stated that she will not be returning to St Patrick’s in 2016. I thank Julia for her hard work in Year Three and supporting the students with their sacrament of Reconciliation program in 2015. The school and community wish Julia every success in 2016.

In 2016 we welcome three new staff members to St Patrick’s. Ms Debra Bearcroft will be the new Assistant Principal at St Patrick’s. Debra comes to us from St Joseph’s school in Queens Park and has extensive skills with performing Arts. Debra currently coordinated the dance and vocal section of the 2015 Catholic Performing Arts festival with over 3000 participants. Debra is sorry she is unable to attend tonight as she has commitments to her old school, but she is very much looking forward to making the trek to Katanning. We welcome Miss Emma Ackland as Physical Education teacher and Information

Technology teacher to St Patrick's. To her credit Emma just completed her honours in Physical Education. She is looking forward to supporting the students, parents and staff at St Patrick's in developing their physical gifts. Finally, I welcome Miss Tess Cohen, who will be working in Year Three. Tess has been at Notre Dame University developing her skills in supporting literacy development. She is an excellent tennis player and tennis coach and she loves playing piano.

A huge thank you to our staff at St Patrick's. Their long hours of dedicated service and extra-curricular support of our students is admirable. A special thanks to the staff that have taken on leadership roles in the school and have offered support to other staff members. Thanks to Mrs. Denise Bowen who is our literacy coordinator and coordinator of professional learning. Your hard work is greatly appreciated by the staff and by the community. A very special thank you to our education assistants, Mrs. Julie Poett, Mrs. Paulette Sugg, Mrs. K.J Willey and Mrs. Steph Pontillo. These wonderful people work behind the scenes supporting teachers and parents and ensure that students are cared for educationally and pastorally. A huge thank you to Helen Robinson, our Administration Officer. Her support of the staff is amazing and her patience and care is greatly appreciated by our parents, students and staff.

In concluding my Annual Report, I would like to say a huge thank you to the students of St. Patrick's. It has always been a pleasure to hear of the awards that so many students have achieved at assembly. Our students have improved academically and developed important social and emotional skills throughout the year. Congratulations to our graduating Year Six students. They have taken on their leadership roles so well at assemblies and at carnivals. I wish them every blessing for 2016 and to be brave in taking on their new responsibilities. To our new Councillors, Captains and Committee members – we will find out who they are on the concert night, good luck with the challenges that you will face in 2016 and we are looking forward to the great things that you will accomplish at St. Patrick's.

I wish all our students, staff and families a very peaceful and Holy Christmas. Stay safe over the holiday period and have a joyous New Year.



Christopher Smith
Principal