

LEADERSHIP TEAM ACM REPORT

JUSTIN TUOHY, PRINCIPAL

Good evening and thank you for taking the time to attend the Annual Community Meeting of St Peter's for 2024.

Firstly, I wish to thank everyone for your warm welcome and support I have received as I have started my role at St Peter's this term. Moving into a new environment late in the year comes with challenges, but the patience and understanding from both staff, parents and students have made the transition much smoother. I would like to acknowledge the remarkable contributions of Courtney Caputi and thank her for her significant handover. I look very much forward to my time at St Peter's. The sense of community is a recurring theme in conversations with parents and staff. This spirit of commitment and support truly permeates every aspect of St Peter's Primary.

2024 has been an exciting and rewarding period for our school community! We have seen significant changes, with numerous initiatives and projects launched to enhance the school experience for our students. I want to extend my sincere gratitude to every member of our community for their contributions. Education is a shared responsibility and collaboration between parents and the school is essential to equip our students with the knowledge and skills necessary for future success.

One of the highlights was the second year of our Grandparents' Morning Tea. Recognising the significant role grandparents play in our students' lives, we wanted to celebrate their unwavering love and support. Our Year Five students began the day with a special Mass alongside their grandparents, followed by morning tea for all grandparents and their grandchildren. The turnout was incredible, underscoring the deep bonds that enrich our school community.

Next week, we'll be hosting our End-of-Year Concert. Families are invited to bring a picnic dinner at 5pm, with the concert beginning at 6pm. Hosting the concert in the evening allows us to welcome all families, grandparents and loved ones in a single, joyful celebration.

This year also marked a new chapter with the completion of the Early Childhood Learning Centre. A special thank you to Mr Matt Nettleton, Mrs Tanya Holland and Mrs Bianca Flamini for their hard work over the last two years, in co-ordinating new duty rosters and organising split lunch breaks to ensure ample play space for all students during construction. These thanks are also extended to all staff who assisted with moving furniture, enduring numerous changes to timetables. These new facilities will no doubt greatly enhance the learning environment for our Kindy and Pre Primary classes for years to come, reinforcing our commitment to providing a high-quality education for all our students.

MATT NETTLETON, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CDP - In what has been one of the biggest projects we have undertaken here at St Peter's in the last 20 years, the Capital Development Plan to build a brand-new Early Childhood Centre - comprising of three Kindy and three Pre Primary classes - was completed at the end of Term Three this year. This great new infrastructure will support the school's mission to provide a contemporary learning environment where students have the opportunity to flourish in a high-quality 21st century Catholic educational setting.

Not only do we have brand new classrooms, but we also have the addition of a redeveloped play space for our students in Kindy to Year Two. The addition of this play space, coupled with a well-developed and structured timetable, has allowed flexibility for students in all year levels to have access to their own oval spaces, along with the playgrounds, basketball court and quiet area.

Students are enjoying the expanded areas for outdoor activities, fostering creativity and physical fitness. To enhance this experience further, provisions are in place next year to upgrade playgrounds and equipment, along with the installation of shade sails in key areas. These shade sails will provide much-needed protection from the sun, ensuring our students can play comfortably throughout the year.

We have been extremely fortunate to go through a Capital Development Plan that was built on time and within budget. I would like to extend my thanks to everyone that was involved in the process:

To Nick, Sean and all the crew at Metricon, and to Chloe and Luis, our architects from EIW.

To all the school leaders and finance team involved in the project. The vision to build a much-needed Early Childhood Centre, combined with their hard work and extensive hours dedicated to the project, ensured that the build had minimal impact on the teaching, learning and daily operations of the school.

And to all the teachers and students for being so flexible throughout the build. At times, it required changes to timetables and play spaces, but it was done with little fuss.

It was a TRUE testament of UNITY.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM - As Assistant Principal of Religious Education, I was extremely fortunate to oversee the Sacramental Program this year.

St Peter's Primary School works closely with the Parish to support the students and their parents by providing knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith, so they are fully prepared to receive the Sacrament. The Sacramental Programs begins with Reconciliation (Year Three), First Holy Communion (Year Four) and Confirmation (Year Six).

This year, we had 237 students participate in the Sacramental Program, along with 15 students who joined from the Parish. This is a testament to the number of Catholic students we enrol here at St Peter's Primary school.

A huge thank you to our Sacramental Co-ordinator, Marina Tassone, for the time and effort she puts in to ensuring each child has a memorable sacramental experience in the presence of God. Marina always has the students' best interests in mind. Together with her husband Mario, they work tirelessly to bring the church to life for each Sacrament.

Each Mass was a delightful opportunity to gather as a community. We enjoyed celebrating with the candidates and their families, sharing in their joy, and expressing our support and congratulations.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Father Jeronimo and the teachers involved for their contributions to the success of these celebrations. To the volunteers who helped with preparations, the choir for their inspiring music, and everyone who attended to offer their support—your efforts made these events truly special.

To our Sacramental candidates, may they continue to grow in faith, love, and wisdom.

TANYA HOLLAND, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL - ADMIN

NAPLAN - In 2023, the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) reset the NAPLAN measurement scale. In both 2023 and 2024, student achievement in NAPLAN has been reported using proficiency standards for each assessment area at each year level. The four proficiency levels are: exceeding, strong, developing and needs additional support.

St Peter's Primary School consistently demonstrates a high performance across all assessments. In 2024, we are proud to celebrate NAPLAN results which show that, in both Years Three and Five across all areas which are: Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar & Numeracy, St Peter's Primary School is above CEWA schools, State schools and the National average in all areas.

LITERACY SUPPORT - Although we maintain our consistently strong results, we are always refining what we do to ensure the best outcomes for our students. In 2024 we re-structured our literacy support programs to include Heggarty, MiniLit and MacqLit. Heggarty is a whole class synthetic phonics program currently run in our Early Years classrooms which supports the development of both reading and writing skills. For children who are experiencing challenges with reading progress, best practice is early intervention. MiniLit and MacqLit offer frequent, structured intervention lessons for identified students in Years One to Six.

EMU - St Peter's currently runs numeracy intervention programs under the leadership of Mrs Emily Welsh. Our EMU (Extending Maths Understanding) program is accessible for those students in Year One who have shown signs of mathematical vulnerability. This

program targets Counting, Place Value, Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division. The focus is strongly on solving “Hard Thinking Tasks”, encouraging students to use efficient mathematical strategies. In 2025, we are looking to increase the number of children who can access this program.

BOND BLOCKS - In 2025, St Peter’s also looks forward to launching the Bond Blocks Program – This will be implemented with students from Years Two to Six. Bond Blocks is a research-informed intervention program that incorporates high impact teaching strategies such as Multiple Exposure and Explicit Teaching. The program builds on maths skills such as doubling, halving and Bonds to 10 and 20. Students will have short, sharp, targeted sessions with the focus being on basic facts used for addition and subtraction.

AQUINAS - The AQUINAS program is a wonderful opportunity designed to meet the advanced learning needs of students who demonstrate high academic or creative abilities. AQUINAS aims to provide more challenging and enriching learning experiences beyond the standard curriculum. This often includes advanced coursework, creative projects, critical thinking activities, or opportunities to pursue individual interests in depth. The students identified for the AQUINAS program are withdrawn from the classroom for two lessons a week across Years Three to Six. AQUINAS is available to students identified as high potential students based on various criteria, such as standardized test scores, teacher recommendations and academic performance. Students are identified for the AQUINAS program at their point of need, ensuring support is provided when they demonstrate advanced learning abilities or require additional challenges. I thank Julia O’Meara for the incredible work she does with these students.

SPECIALISTS - Throughout 2024, our specialist programs in Music, Italian, Visual Arts, Dance/Drama, Science and Physical Education have continued to enrich our students’ education. These classes provided our children with skills and diverse learning experiences, sparking a love of learning and exploration.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL - Social emotional skills are an important area of growth at St Peter’s. This Year, two new programs have been introduced at St Peter’s: the URStrong Friendology program across the whole school and Kimochis in our Early Years. These programs help to develop students’ emotional literacy, friendship skills and resilience. I would like to thank our wellbeing team, led by Mrs Shelley Gaglia, for their commitment to supporting students and staff with the implementation of these programs and look forward to seeing them continue to flourish into 2025.

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In the final week of term, class placements for next year will be confirmed, and all students will participate in Transition Morning on Thursday, 5 December. Many factors are thoughtfully considered when balancing classes, including academics, gender, social dynamics, and emotional needs. We aim to support each child’s growth into a confident and adaptable individual, and meeting new classmates is a valuable experience that broadens their perspectives and enriches their lives. Our staff carefully

consider each class composition to foster positive, nurturing learning environments where all students can thrive. Together, let's encourage our children to embrace change, make new friends, and flourish in their educational journey.

As we say goodbye to 2024, we also bid farewell to several members of our school community who have contributed immensely over the years. These individuals have not only impacted our students' lives, but have also played vital roles in our school's growth and success. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours as they embark on new journeys.

We officially farewell Bianca Flamini, Emma McHardie, Saroya Powell, Beth Tavani, and Conor Hunter who will all be joining other CEWA schools in 2025. We also farewell Giulia De Rizzo who concludes her contract at St Peter's and Dimitri Bakarozos who has taken up a position in New Norcia. We thank them for their dedication to St Peter's parents and students, and wish them well in their future roles. Paulette Aquino will be taking leave in 2025, and we extend our warmest wishes to Margaret Warrener and Tracy Marrapodi for a happy and fulfilling retirement at the end of 2024.

In 2025, we welcome several new staff: Teachers - Aleshia Procopis, Brett Webb, Kate Ellery, Nicole Gibbs, Leah Volikov. Education Assistants - Natasha Cicanese-Baldwin. We are still to appoint a Social Worker and Learning Support Coordinator – interviews conducted today and tomorrow.

To members of the Parents and Friends Association, you are to be congratulated for your efforts in community building and fundraising. My thanks especially to our office bearers Marie Armstrong, Karla Benitez, Christine Williams, Steve Catania and General Members Dave Dawes and Michelle Broadbent who, along with the invaluable support provided by other parent volunteers, have ensured that our P&F had another successful year. I thank all for their effort, time and commitment to the school.

I express my sincere thanks to our School Advisory Council (SAC) – Deanna Exeter, Brett Blanchard, Nicole Edwards, Keith D'Sa, Matt Ferrinda, Fiorda Kule, Marie Armstrong (P&F Representative), Father Jeronimo Flamenco Castillo (Parish Priest) and Hilda Tansley (Parish Representative).

Also, thanks to Matt, Tanya and Tony Hunter for your attendance and support at SAC meetings. I wish to thank them for being willing to support the school and me in my role as Principal.

I acknowledge and thank all our parents for their commitment to our school family and for their crucial support of our home/school partnership. Without this support, we would not be able to achieve all that we do achieve for our children. We are excited to continue working together to bring even more enjoyable and rewarding opportunities for our students in 2025!

My gratitude and thanks also to Father Jeronimo for his support and welcome to St Peter's. I look forward to working with Father and the parish in 2025 and beyond. I

would also like to thank Marina Tassone, the Sacramental Co-ordinator, for her continued support in the Parish-based Sacramental program. We are blessed to continue our strong, positive and collaborative partnership with the Saint Peter the Apostle Catholic Church.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Tanya Holland and Matt Nettleton for their steadfast dedication in their roles as Assistant Principals. Their organisation, commitment and sense of humour have been invaluable to the success of our team. To our Cluster Leaders, Michelle Glanville and Jo Carbone, thank you for your classroom insights and your efforts to unite us in achieving our school's goals. A heartfelt thanks also goes to Bianca Flamini for her work in co-ordinating learning support and supporting students with special needs. To our administrative team—Tony Hunter, Liz Cunningham, Kelly Dalton, Georgie Bertoldo, Sharon Zanotti, and Tammy Hunter—your energy, dedication, and support are deeply appreciated.

To all our Teachers and Education Assistants, I extend my sincere gratitude. You are true professionals who consistently go above and beyond to support our students, ensuring they have the best possible learning experience. I am honoured to be part of such a dedicated and inspiring team.

In my first term as Principal at St Peter's Primary School, I am deeply grateful to the staff for their support, collaboration and hard work. Their dedication, professionalism and passion for education have been truly inspiring, and their commitment to our students' well-being and growth is at the heart of our school community.

I wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May this festive time be filled with joy, love and laughter as you gather with your families and loved ones.