

PRINCIPAL'S 2022 ACM REPORT

It is an honour and a privilege to be a part of the St Peter's school community, and to be inspired by the love of God that is experienced through all members of our community. This year was another year where we, as a community, have faced the challenges incurred by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, there have been many changes and pivoting required of us all, but what has not changed is our commitment to nurturing, supporting and educating every student, and working together under the umbrella of TRUE.

The COVID-19 pandemic has taught all of us that we cannot take our stability, unity and all that we have worked hard for as a school, for granted. The pandemic has also heightened the need for all of us to cultivate an attitude of continual learning and improvement. This continual striving for improvement, or Growth Mindset, has been a key driver of St Peter's success. It is why we keep seeking ways to ensure our pedagogy remains relevant and innovative, despite the volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous world we live in; and this directly impacts our students.

'The TRUE Inquiry Model' has been a focus throughout this year. This model permeates all our planning and lesson development from Kindergarten to Year Six. Our students need to be resilient, adaptable and global in their outlook. They must feel a sense of curiosity, and eagerness to learn, as they pursue learning throughout their lifetime. We have continued the Inquiry pedagogy in Mathematics, and ensured that there is a focus on launch, explore and summarise across the school. Launch the problem giving only the information students need, explore through enabling prompts and summarise with explicit teaching and reflecting.

At St Peter's, we seek your support and partnership in your child's learning journey. We work together to ensure that our St Peter's students learn to be organised, self-discover and self-monitor, have fun, and bounce back from failures as they discover their interests and talents. Most importantly, never cease to believe in themselves as they navigate their way through the crests and troughs of school life.

Our whole school wellbeing program, coupled with our community building initiatives such as Run Club, have been a deliberate act on our behalf to serve our community with heart, care and respect. The response has been overwhelmingly positive, and many stories have been shared about students and families enjoying fun and fitness together. We believe that, with a Growth Mindset, self-regulation strategies and Inquiry skills, our St Peter's students will be ready for life as they embed TRUE in their daily living and learning.

Our NAPLAN data once again is significantly higher than the national average and like Catholic schools. Whilst managing online learning and student absence due to isolation requirements, along with the development of our Inquiry pedagogy we have managed to maintain our strong results. A true credit to a staff who is clear in our school improvement strategies and cohesive in planning and delivery. All data can be accessed through the My School website and is also accessible on our school website.

I am grateful that all our Teachers and Education Assistants have continued their best efforts in ensuring quality teaching and learning in both face-to-face and online learning. Students are provided with as many opportunities as possible for holistic development and a quality school learning experience, despite the various restrictions and disruptions due to Covid. To help our staff cope with the additional teaching/work demands and administrative tasks, we have spent much effort in ensuring adequate staffing, optimising staff deployment/workload, prioritising school programmes, and organising staff development and wellbeing programs.

This year, we have created new collaborative spaces and upgraded learning areas. Our commitment to the performing arts is reflected in dedicated music tutor rooms and a refurbished Music Room. Our Library space has now been refurbished to cater for Collaborative and Inquiry learning. We are now able to house the school indoors for assembly, if required. Something we have been unable to do on this school site. We are sincerely grateful for the support of our P&F in purchasing the furniture for this new area in our school. After an extensive planning process, we will see the building begin on our new Early Childhood Learning Centre in the coming year. We are very excited by the new opportunities provided by this new capital development to meet National Quality Standards and deliberately ensure the footprint of our play areas remains the same. I sincerely thank our SAC who has worked alongside leadership for the past two years on this project.

It is my heartfelt privilege to serve as the Principal of St Peter's. I sincerely believe that our school environment, that is collaborative and draws on the strength of all stakeholders, fosters a positive school climate that makes a difference in the lives of all our students at St Peter's. We remain the school of choice in our region because of this. As I embark on my new role at CEWA for two years as a School Improvement Advisor, I know I will very much miss this great community and I wish all students and staff all the very best in their future endeavours.

To the staff and students, I thank you for the high standard of work produced in the classrooms, your commitment to work together to make a difference, your friendship and laughs throughout our wonderful year together. I will truly miss the fabulous team we have co created to achieve success.

I express my deep thanks to all within our school community for your warm and supportive contributions to the success of our school. To our School Advisory Council and dedicated Parents and Friends goes my sincere gratitude for your astute counsel, ready assistance and unfailing support in striving to meet our school's goals for the children. Your efforts to continuously improve the school's facilities and equipment are truly appreciated.

My gratitude and thanks also to Father Jeronimo Flamenco Castilo and Mrs Marina Tassone for your spiritual stewardship of our students and all in the parish is truly remarkable. Our wonderful Parish has worked alongside us in supporting initiatives to resource those needing support locally and overseas.

I am always astounded by the work ethic and commitment of the two Assistant Principals Courtney Caputi and Paul Brennan. They are truly effective leaders in which they model daily intelligence, determination and vision. I thank both for their devotion

to the role of Assistant Principal. They both give students and staff the gift of their boundless energy and incredible organisational and leadership skills. I also acknowledge the School Improvement Team Matt Nettleton, Bianca Flamini and Angela Seal who have lead learning with commitment and enthusiasm. Your intelligence and work ethic are extraordinary.

To the Directors of First Impressions Georgie Bertoldo, Kelly Dalton, Tracy Arnold, Bronwyn Ryan, Liz Cunningham and Sarah Roberts - I thank you for your wonderful service to parents, students, staff and visitors. It would not be possible to run such an organised and professional school without the sincere dedication, conscientiousness and multi-tasking abilities of these wonderful ladies. Their support, encouragement and sense of humour are a true asset to our school and to me, as Principal.

Heartfelt thanks and warm wishes go to all the staff at this wonderful school. For all that you so willingly and caringly bring to the welfare of our students and our school - I sincerely thank you. I feel tremendous pride when I reflect on the outstanding commitment you have all made to enliven our school core values of 'TRUE'.

The end of a school year always comes with mixed emotions as we farewell our graduating class of Year Six students. All our Year Six students are to be congratulated on the mature way they have conducted themselves as leaders this year and for their high level of academic achievements and sporting pursuits. All the leadership committees have fulfilled their roles with great diligence and determination. The way in which the students have facilitated assemblies, along with their ability to highlight the core values and sharing how they can be enlivened in our school community through their leadership ministries, has been excellent. We say farewell to our Year Six students, and we wish them the very best as they enter secondary education.

As 2022 draws to a close, we take time to farewell staff who have contributed to our school over many years and now move into new challenges and learning.

Rita Panebianco, Carol Armstrong and Vicki Stillisano will be members of the new Catholic school Emmaus opening in Dayton. An exciting adventure for these ladies and a sad exit for St Peter's. Rosey Martin will continue her work at St Luke's in Woodvale and we will now train a new EMU teacher for the 2023 year. Nadia Martin will be moving to Mexico with her husband and Katarina D'Agostino will enjoy spending more time with her family. Victoria May is relocating to Melbourne and Holly Allen is excited to take on a leadership role in the Early Childhood at Trinity College in 2023. Sarah Roberts will be returning to her primary place of employment in a promotional position. We also farewell Robyn Moore and Alicia Randazzo. On a year's leave for 2023 will be Kirsty Maher and Paulette Aquino. To all these amazing educators and staff members, we thank you for all you have done so willingly to create a school of excellence and a culture of support and love for the students in our care.

On behalf of the staff of St Peter's School, I want to thank our wonderful students and families for being part of our community, where we build on traditions of the past and meet the challenges of the future, in exciting and innovative ways. Our students are a gift to all of us and their enthusiasm embodies our vision and God's love.

As stated by Randy Pausch: *"Showing gratitude is one of the simplest, yet most powerful things, humans can do for each other"*

To those families leaving our school this year, we thank you for your involvement and support, and wish you well.

Class placements are now finalised and our children will enjoy their transition day on Tuesday, 6 December. Factors which will be taken into account when balancing classes include academic ability, gender and social and emotional needs. In addition, children with any specific needs are also accommodated. Parents are not privy to this information and therefore entrust the staff and their professional judgment to make the best decisions for the individual children and the class as a whole.

Meeting new and different people is a fact of life, and it is our role as parents and teachers to support our children through change rather than protect them from it. I am confident that the teachers put a great deal of thought into the class lists, which includes feedback from the students themselves. I ask you to trust that the environment your child is going to next year is one in which they will flourish.

To everyone at St Peter's School, may your Christmas celebrations with your families be joyous and safe, and the holiday break bring you peace and pleasure.
Thank you.