

St Luke's School Annual Principal's Report 2017

Good evening everyone and thank you for attending the school community AGM. My report will be a brief overview of the important academic achievements we have made this year in terms of educational programs and outline our direction and initiatives planned for 2018.

I will provide a brief snapshot of the progress our school and children have made over the past 12 months beginning with the areas of numeracy and literacy.

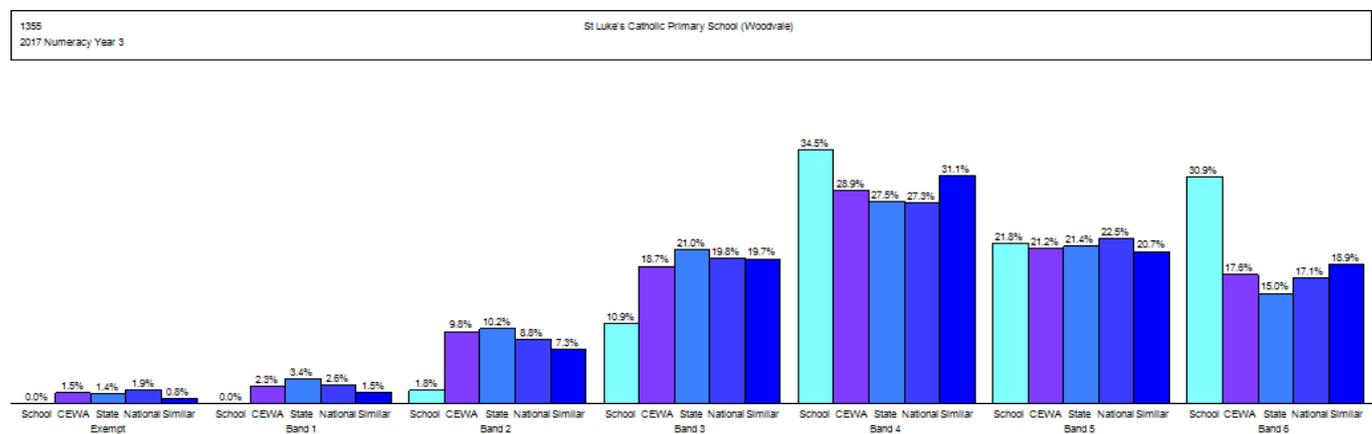
School Improvement – Achievements

Numeracy

A significant aim of this year's improvement plan was to improve our approach to numeracy through a whole school approach to numeracy dedicated time. This focused on the teaching and learning of this area of the Curriculum to drive improvement in student outcomes. After much analysis of existing standardized testing data, we agreed on a 5% improvement across the area of numeracy throughout the school,

To support this goal, in 2017, the school and staff were part of the CEWA initiated Numeracy Project. The leadership team, along with Mrs Lister and Mrs Cobern as our Numeracy Leaders, worked alongside half a dozen other schools in a project headed by CEWA's Numeracy Team. We examined the data of our children in the area of numeracy and began shifting our thinking in how numeracy is taught, to develop a more inquiry-based approach. Whole staff professional development, along with shoulder to shoulder coaching and classroom observations has seen staff begin to embed the structure and language of numeracy dedicated time throughout the whole school.

Whilst these are only two forms of data we collect, the 2017 NAPLAN and Standardised Testing Data displayed on the screen, demonstrate some significant improvements in the area of numeracy:

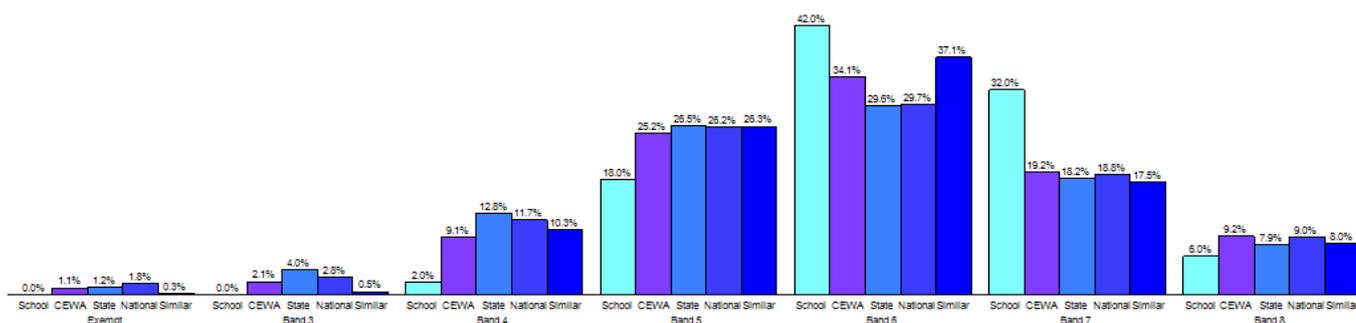


1. YEAR 3 NAPLAN (Band 4 or above)

St Luke's CPS: 87.2% of our Year 3 children are Band 4 or above.

CEWA: 67.7%

Similar: 70.7%



2. YEAR 5 NAPLAN (Band 6 or above)

St Luke's CPS: 80% of our Year 5 children are Band 6 or above.

CEWA: 62.5%

Similar: 62.6%

Year	Maths		
2	2016	2017	Growth
	93.6	104.6	11%
3	Maths		
	2016	2017	Growth
	107.7	119.6	11%
4	Maths		
	2016	2017	Growth
	117.9	117.5	-0.3%
5	Maths		
	2016	2017	Growth
	118.8	126	6%
6	Maths		
	2016	2017	Growth
	124.2	130.1	4.7%

3. Standardised Testing Results – Year 2-6 (There is no comparison year for Year 1 as this is the first year the children sit the test)

The third table shows an average improvement across all year levels in our Standardised Testing results. These tests are administered from Year 1-6 across the school in Term 3 each year and reflect an average of 6.5% growth in the past 12months across the school.

In 2018, our focus in numeracy will continue to explore the inquiry-based learning approach with renewed focus on open-ended tasks and questioning to differentiate for the children. The use of technology in maths will continue to assist us in how we can create engaging, problem-based learning with the children. With this in mind, we believe another 5% increase in student achievement across standardized testing is a realistic goal.

Literacy

Whilst as a school, we have focused on the teaching and learning in the area of Numeracy. This has not been at the expense of the Curriculum Area of Literacy. Once again, our embedded literacy practices have continued to show strong growth in results across Reading, Grammar and Punctuation and Writing.

Our Reading Recovery program continues to be extremely successful. While in class, our explicit teaching of reading strategies and guided reading programs have ensured the children have excelled. Spelling, Writing and Grammar and Punctuation programs are continuing to see strong student growth in all areas. The tables on the next slide outline the 2017 NAPLAN:

Percentage of Students in Band 6 or above – Year 5

NAPLAN Assessment	Similar Schools	St Luke's Primary
Spelling	67.4%	67%
Reading	63.7%	80%
Grammar & Punctuation	60.3%	72%
Writing	39.8%	66%

Percentage of Students in Band 4 or above – Year 3

NAPLAN Assessment	Similar Schools	St Luke's Primary
Spelling	73.1	87.2%
Reading	73%	87.3%
Grammar & Punctuation	73.9%	89.1%
Writing	88.8%	98.1%

Standardised Testing Results - Reading

	Reading		
Year	2016	2017	Growth
2	79.6	98.7	23%
	Reading		
3	2016	2017	Growth
	102.8	116.9	13%
	Reading		
4	2016	2017	Growth
	116.9	116.6	-0.2%
	Reading		
5	2016	2017	Growth
	122.6	127.6	4%
	Reading		
6	2016	2017	Growth
	125.9	133.8	6.2%

The results in both NAPLAN and Standardised Test Data in the past 12 months continue to demonstrate that the children at St Luke's are experiencing academic success in Literacy. Effective programs are in place which will continue to be consolidated in 2018.

NQS – National Quality Standards Audit

Along with strong literacy and numeracy results, 2017 saw our school undertake the National Quality Standards Audit. This audit is conducted at system level every 5 years and this was the first time St Luke's were subjected to the Early Years Learning Framework aspect of the audit. The purpose of the audit is to ensure there is accountability of our school in meeting the requirements of the National Quality Standards, particularly in the Early Childhood teaching and learning area. Thanks to the wonderful work of our teachers and the collaborative nature of which our teachers work, we excelled in the audit and have been identified as a school with exemplary practice in meeting these NQS standards.

Collaborative Learning Spaces – Year 1 & 3

As mentioned earlier by John, this year has seen the continued rollout of the collaborative learning spaces in Year 1 and 3. These spaces are now in place in Year 1,2,3 with a continued rollout planned for 2018 and beyond in the upper years. Parent information nights, along with open classrooms has seen the communication between home and school increase. Whilst consistent, educational furniture has now been fitted out each of the 1/2/3 classrooms, 2018 will see staff continue developing their practice in the teaching and learning that takes place in these spaces.

Technology

Teacher confidence with mobile devices has continued to increase exponentially in integrating new skills into the facilitation of learning. Miss Zoe Lynch as our Digital Transformation Lead Educator has been released one day per week to work with the PP/1/2 children in exposing them to STEM learning activities both in and out of class.

The increased use of mobile devices in classrooms has seen the introduction of tools such as SeeSaw to facilitate the parent/home relationship and develop skills for the children in using digital technology moving forward.

2018 – Programs/Initiatives

So as a school, what are we focusing on in 2018?

Mandated Curriculum – Technologies Curriculum/

In 2018, the Technologies Curriculum will be mandated to be introduced across all schools in WA. With our strategic focus over the past 3 years on digital transformation, we are well placed to teaching and assessing this technologies curriculum at the beginning of next year.

Along with the Technologies Curriculum, 2018 will also see the introduction of the Keeping Children Safe: Child Protection Curriculum. This program is a CEWA approved protective behaviours program which will be introduced across the whole school in 2018. More information on this curriculum will be sent home at the beginning of next year.

Numeracy

As mentioned, next year will see a continued focus on the teaching and pedagogy of inquiry-based learning in numeracy. Through structured, dedicated numeracy time we will be looking to further consolidate an open-ended approach to questioning and problem-based tasks. Staff will continue to work shoulder to shoulder and use peer observations to improve teaching practice with a commitment to a further 5% improvement across the numeracy learning area.

Technology

The official opening of the learning hub will take place at the beginning of next year. Miss Lynch has been integral to developing this space as a creative, problem-solving area where children will be immersed in STEM learning activities. As the new Technologies curriculum is implemented from 2018 onwards, this space will allow some multi-media opportunities previously unavailable. Also, will be the introduction of the first 1:1 BYOD iPad Program in Year 4. To support this, continued staff development on integrating technology into purposeful learning experiences will continue through both internal and external support.

Thanks to the school board, a further increase in access to mobile devices across the school will take place, continuing our commitment to support the digital transformation as a school and the impact this has in preparing our children for the future.

The development of the Leading Lights Platform across the CEWA system will continue with the vision to provide a single parent, teacher and student access system coming to life in 2018.

Collaborative Learning Spaces

To support the teaching and learning will be the continued rollout of the collaborative learning spaces in Year 4, and possibly further year groups. As we have often said, it is not about the furniture, but providing rich learning experiences in an environment that will complement our teaching. The library will also undergo a change in environment to support the teaching that is happening in classrooms. It is our vision to see the library and learning hub become an engaging central place for the children to read, create, discover and learn.

Thanks

Board Members

This year the school board has again been proactive in ensuring our children receive the best possible facilities and opportunities our resources will allow. I thank all our board members for their time and continued support of educational programs at St Lukes. I wish to particularly thank Mr John Mason in his role as the School Board chair facilitating the board in being effective in its planning and resourcing of our school this year. I wish to thank all board members for their time and commitment to advancing our school by volunteering their expertise and thank and farewell 3 longstanding members of our school board.

Paul Murphy, Remy McGavigan (our Secretary) and John Mason (our Board Chair).

On behalf of our school community, I would like to say thank you to each of you for the past 6 years' service you have given to the parents, children and staff of this wonderful school. Over the 6 years, your achievements as a school board has been many and we have been very fortunate to have 3 individuals who have dedicated their expertise and time, always putting the priorities of the whole school community first. Personally, thank you for welcoming me onto the board and whilst your tenure on the board has come to an end, I am sure you will still be an integral part of our school community. To show our appreciation, we would like to present you with a small gift.

Paul Murphy
Remy McGavigan
John Mason.

Please join me in a show of appreciation for our outgoing board members.

Parents and Friends Association

In addition to the fundraising role it plays, the P&F has been instrumental in providing opportunities for parents to develop a real sense of community in our school. To all the parents who have contributed to the success of the P&F events; on behalf of my staff, I thank you most sincerely. In particular I wish to acknowledge the efforts of the team, who for most of them have been in their first year coordinating the P & F. President - Lillian Truglio, Vice President - Alana Metaxas, Secretary – Hayley Tait, outgoing Treasurer – Antony Vlahov, Board Rep – Jessica Stojkovski, Karen Cadd and Georgia Millad. I think you will all agree, in their first year they have been outstanding. I know Mr Kelly will be looking forward to working with the P & F Executive next year.

Parents

On behalf of the staff, can I thank you as parents for your support of the staff and the programs they have put into action this year. Our school relies heavily on the generous support you provide and the input you have in the many services our school provides and the events we run. To those who have helped out in the uniform shop (Particularly Jodi Lyra as the manageress) I thank you sincerely. To the volunteers in the school banking program, parent helpers on excursions, as sports-day officials, as rostered class helpers, visual arts helpers, costume makers for performing Arts, at Busy-bees and in the kitchen on pie days, I thank you for your generosity. To all parents in general, I thank

you for the help and guidance you have provided to your children together with the generosity of your time in assisting implementation of school and class based programs throughout the year. Our staff looks forward to your continued support again next year.

Parish

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Father Francisco, our parish priest, and parish council, for their involvement and support of our school this year. The inclusion of school representatives at parish council meetings and the parish council's representation at school board level have no doubt facilitated communication between church and school and enhanced the understanding of any issues. Similarly, I extend my thanks to all parish workers including Michelle Dastalik- the parish catechist leader for her work with our teachers in preparing children for sacraments throughout the year.

Staff

Finally, to our dedicated and passionate staff of teachers, education assistants, administration staff, Telethon Speech and Hearing and of course groundsman. A school's performance is very much determined by the ability of its staff and its members' commitment to their roles.

In a year where we farewelled David Hunter as our Principal, welcomed Andrew Kelly as our new Principal and in between, transitioned two Acting Assistant Principals and myself as Acting Principal, it is fair to say it has been a year of instability and transition. Having said this, the staff should be commended on never wavering from their purpose – that is to provide the best educational outcomes and pastoral care for your children. I'm acutely aware, that each year, more and more is asked not only our parents and children, but also our staff. Despite the ever-increasing workload and expectations, the staff here at St Luke's have continued to meet every challenge head on, knowing they do it because they want the best for the kids. I sincerely thank you all for the commitment you display in and out of school and thank you for everything you do in making this the fantastic place it is for the children.

It is with sadness that at the conclusion of this year, we will farewell some longstanding staff members, Miss Fiona Rea, Mr Darran Scattini, Mrs Marian Fenton and Mrs Nicole McDonough and also to Miss Rodi, who is taking a well-deserved 12month break from teaching. We will have the opportunity to formally thank all of them for their contributions to our school community at the Thanksgiving mass at the end of the term.

I would like to say a special thanks to Jackie Hunt and Lisa McClue, who, as the Assistant Principal's this semester have been a phenomenal support to me in my Acting Principal role. The workload of managing a classroom as well as the demands of the Assistant Principal role is a very delicate and stressful balance. Many of the things they both have done, go on behind the scenes unnoticed, but I wish to thank you for your continued support and express my appreciation of the way you have led the school this semester.

Finally, I would just like to say a personal thank you. This past 6 months has been an absolute pleasure as Acting Principal of St Luke's. I have been told many times by more experienced colleagues, including David Hunter, that being Principal is the best job in the world. Whilst on the odd occasion, I may have questioned that, there is no doubt in my mind that being Principal of a school community like St Luke's is the most rewarding time I have had in education. Getting to know children and their parents, seeing the school grow and change and experiencing the success of teachers and the kids, all far outweigh the administrative burden odd challenging time.

Thank you to the parents, children and staff for being so supportive of me in this role. I have been very fortunate to have had this opportunity. It has been an absolute pleasure and only further consolidated my desire to one day lead a school community. I look forward to Mr Kelly sharing his expertise and experience and continuing to foster this wonderful school community of St Luke's.

Thank you
Jason Baker
Acting Principal