



St Thomas' Annual Report
2015

Principal: Justin Tuohy

St Thomas' Primary School
Annual Report
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The Annual Report provides the school community with fair, reliable and objective information about school performance measures and policies, as determined by the Minister for Education.

The Report also outlines information about initiatives and developments of major interest and importance to the school community during the year and the achievements arising from the implementations of the School's Annual Improvement Plan.

The Report demonstrates accountability to regulatory bodies, the school community and the Catholic Education Office of Western Australia.

Further information about the school or this report may be obtained by contacting the school.

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SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

2015 Goals	Success Measure
By the end of 2016 90% of St Thomas' students will be in the top 4 bands of NAPLAN in Spelling	As of the end of 2015, we are currently on track to achieve this goal. 93.6% of our Year 3 student's achieved a spelling result that placed them within the top four NAPLAN bands. 95.9% of our Year 5 student's achieved a spelling result that placed them within the top four NAPLAN bands. We will continue to track the progress of this goal in 2016.
By the end of 2016 90% of St Thomas' students will be achieving at least 10 months growth within the school year based on South Australian Standardized test.	In 2015 using the South Australian Standardised test, 72% of our students achieved at least 10 months of growth. This data forms part of our spelling PLC meeting discussions for 2016.
All teachers will implement the 'Words Their Way' spelling program by end of Term 1, 2015.	The Words Their Way Spelling Program was successfully implemented in 2015. This program now forms an essential part of the literacy dedicated time in every classroom across the school. Spelling continues to be a discussion topic at our PLC meetings and will continue to be in the future.
Early Childhood Education staff to complete the Quality Improvement Plan for 2015. Early Childhood Education staff to work collaboratively on the QIP.	Goal was achieved. In Term 2, 2015 The Early Years staff developed an Early Years Philosophy, outlining our beliefs about our learning environment for the early years PK-2. Next we developed a Charter, identifying the aspects of Whole Child, Inclusive and Supportive Learning Environment, Literacy and Numeracy, Equity and Diversity and what these would look like in each Early Years classroom. Together with the help of Jan Flemming and Stephanie Jackiewicz from CEWA the staff created a Quality Improvement Plan. We identified areas of strengths and weaknesses in all National Quality Standards. Finally, we looked at one of our areas of weakness and developed a goal to complete over the year. The Early Years staff would meet every fortnight to discuss progress, pros and cons. In

	2016 we are continuing to work on these goals and develop further goals.
<p>By the end of Week 4 (Term 2) all class teachers will have created and commenced a class blog using the EduBlogs website. 3 blog entries will be posted each term.</p>	<p>Goal was achieved. Throughout the year staff spent several PD sessions on blogging in the classroom. Each classroom from Pre-K to Year 6 established and maintained a classroom blog throughout the year, for the purpose of informing parents, in written and picture form, of the learning that was taking place in classrooms. At the end of the year we conducted a parent survey regarding communication and as a result of this survey we have made alterations to the way we have implemented class blogs in 2016. The only issue was with the number of blogs this was not consistent but was revised for 2016.</p>
<p>By the end of 2015 all teachers will have demonstrated improved practice (move one career stage in the AITSL standard) using St Thomas' evidence file to record documentation to support/evidence their development.</p>	<p>Goal was unsuccessful. The major reason for this was that moving from one AITSL stage to the next can take considerably longer than one year. The staff are continuing this journey. The Leadership Team in consultation with all staff members are developing an Appraisal Policy and procedure linked to AITSL that will be ready for use late 2016/early 2017.</p>
<p>By the end of Term 4 the staff, school board and parent body will have reviewed and revised St Thomas Evangelisation Policy/ Plan</p>	<p>The Evangelisation Plan was revised and updated for 2015-2018 by the Leadership Team. The goal of presenting to staff, school board and parent body was not met due to other priorities at the time. In 2016 the Evangelisation Plan was presented to Staff at the PD day (Term 1) at the start of the year. The staff spent time reading and reflecting. The goals and target areas will be targeted over 2016. The Plan will be presented to the board at a Board meeting in Term2 and then presented to the parent body and community in Term 3 2016. At the end of the year the document will be reflected on to</p>

	assess if the outcomes have been achieved and to set direction for 2017.
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2016 Priorities

In 2016 the Quality Catholic Schooling Component that will be reviewed are:

- Engagement with the School Community
- An Explicit Improvement Agenda
- Analysis and Discussion of Data

All Catholic schools are required to have a Curriculum Plan in place. Using our data collected from across the school to drive our planning the major curriculum priorities for 2016 will be:

- Literacy with a focus on Punctuation & Grammar in Years 3 -
- Numeracy in the Early Year.
- Spelling will continue to be an ongoing focus.
- NQS instructed by the schools QIP will also be an ongoing focus.

FINANCIAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT

2016 Budgeted Income

OTHER MATTERS DETERMINED BY THE SCHOOL

Principal's AGM Report

St Thomas' is proudly and unapologetically a Catholic School. We learn and work within a community where God's message of love and forgiveness is shared over and over again. Each day we hear the message of how God, through the life and death of His son Jesus, established a new and perfect relationship with each of us. We live and understand that God wants us to reflect on the great love He has for us. The opportunity to live and love, the privilege to share and reflect God's love is what makes St Thomas' a special place to be.

The 2015 school year has been filled with many highlights. Education at St Thomas' is stimulating and inspiring. I am very proud of the fact that all our children have been given every possible opportunity to be challenged achieve success and feel valued.

Our focus is always on the whole child whilst recognising that each person who comes through our doors is not an empty vessel waiting to be filled up, but has a myriad of talents which we acknowledge and develop. Our aim is to gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of each individual and continue to develop their self-esteem, a true sense of belonging and an understanding of their unique talents and abilities.

As we come to the end of the 2015 school year, it is always important to stop and reflect on a year that has been rewarding in many ways, as well as being a time of personal growth for those within our community. I present this report on the school's achievements over the past twelve months with a strong sense of pride in the work that has been undertaken.

Discipleship - Catholic Identity

St Thomas' is a place where every individual is welcomed, cherished, respected and valued. Our Catholic ethos ensures that a Christ-centred approach is at the heart of all we do. We live and learn within a community that is caring, loving, compassionate and forgiving. Meaningful relationships form the basis of all our interactions.

Our purpose is to compliment the work of parents, as the first educators of their children and recognise the primary role played by the family and the parish in the faith development process. The full benefit of our school occurs when the school, the family and the parish work in harmony to create a loving environment with each child as the primary focus.

Prayer is an integral part of school life at St Thomas'. Opportunities are provided for staff, children and parents' to nurture our Catholic Faith through meaningful Class Prayer, Liturgies, Assembly Reflections, Whole School and Class Masses. Staff Prayer is held on a regular basis and provides active witness to our community of the importance of our faith. Overall our aim is to provide prayerful experiences for the community in order to give opportunity for each person to further develop their personal relationship with God.

The school has continued to provide each child with the opportunity to contribute to a meaningful liturgical life. In particular, the whole school community shared with the Year 3, 4 and 6 children their preparation and special celebration when they received the Sacraments of Penance, Eucharist and Confirmation. We have shared many prayer, liturgical and Eucharist celebrations including Mother's Day and Father's Day gatherings and Holy Week liturgies. In particular the community came together to celebrate St Thomas' Feast Day.

The school implements the Archdiocesan Religious Education Curriculum. In addition to developing children's knowledge and faith through strong curriculum, the school demonstrates an active partnership with the local parish and is actively involved in the broader life of the Church. Children in Year 3 and 5 sat the Archdiocesan Religious Education Test that is held in August each year. Results of this test are analysed by staff and are used to inform teaching and learning from Kindergarten to Year 6. We have again outperformed the State mean.

I am appreciative of his efforts and those of the staff in whole school masses, sacramental celebrations, charitable works and the teaching of the religious education curriculum. The introduction of regular class attendance at Wednesday lunchtime Parish masses this year has also strengthen the Parish/School relationship.

St Thomas' Parish

I sincerely thank Father Wayne and the Presentation Sisters for the support and guidance they offers to the staff, students and the community of St Thomas'. I extend my personal thanks to Father Wayne for his support and for his continuing efforts in maintaining such a positive and healthy parish/school relationship.

Learning - Education for the Future

St Thomas' provides students with an education that will prepare them for life. Our learning community fosters confident, independent and life-long learning with an attitude that promotes achievement of the full potential of all individuals in an environment embedded in our Gospel values. We utilise technology as a tool to aid our learning and develop critical thinkers who are able to access information and communicate effectively, thereby enhancing their potential as life-long learners. Assessment tasks are explicit and meaningful catering for the children's varied learning styles and provide diagnostic information for future planning. Reporting to parents is purposeful, varied and reflects the child's development.

We are privileged each day to participate in the children's learning journey. We recognise and applaud just how hard our children try with their learning and celebrate their achievements and share with pride their progress. What a privilege it is to be able to witness the joy that comes with understanding, or the wonder of living new adventures through the world of literature, or the marvel of mysteries revealed through science and personal discovery. We are truly blessed to walk this wonderful journey with the children.

Within each classroom, teachers continue to diversify the curriculum to meet individual needs of all students. The overall emphasis in our classrooms is on self-directed learning where the children take responsibility for themselves and are motivated to achieve at a high level.

The success of our program was evidenced by our NAPLAN results for children in Years 3 & 5. All our children are above the National benchmark in Reading, Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation, Writing and Mathematics. The school mean is above the National mean in every area and in some cases well above. This is a credit to our staff and to the total dedication they show towards the children's learning and well-being.

Engagement - Our Community

At St Thomas' we provide a nurturing learning environment where students feel happy and safe. Our students respect themselves and others in a non-judgmental manner and show tolerance and respect toward all cultures, both within the school and in the wider community.

We ensure that all within our community are treated with dignity and respect. All classrooms are open, welcoming and include all children regardless of needs.

St Thomas' Board

St Thomas' is indeed very fortunate to have so many people who have contributed to our many achievements during 2015. I extend my sincere gratitude to the School Board members, led by Chairman David Edwards and Treasurer David Wrigley who has ensured once again that the school finances and strategic directions remain well-managed and secure. Thanks also to Andrew Graham for the considerable work he has completed on behalf of the school in regards to his Maintenance brief.

Our Parents

Parents are an integral part of their child's learning experience. Over the years the school has introduced a range of initiatives to strengthen the partnerships between parents and school. The school newsletter, parent nights, parent information sessions, teacher/parent interviews and all our formal and informal interactions with parents, are examples of communication strategies in place. Our school Webpage continues to ensure that we are also communicating with the wider community. School policy is constantly updated to ensure the latest information is available to all parents.

Our P&F Meetings have been happy occasions. Throughout the year, we have operated from the single purpose of people coming together to develop positive relationships with each other and every person in our community. I thank all the committee members for their commitment and hard work to ensure that our events were first and foremost aimed at gathering our people. In particular thanks must go to this years executive: Ann Johnson, Alex Gavranic, Ayomi Perera & Linda Foot.

I acknowledge and thank all our parents for their commitment to our school family and for their crucial support of our home/school partnership. Our volunteer workers in the Canteen, Uniform Shop and Classrooms have all demonstrated commitment to our school through action and enthusiasm. Without this support we would not be able to achieve all that we do achieve with our children.

Accountability - Stewardship

We have a very dedicated team at St Thomas' with the children's development being the focus at all times. Our staff are dedicated, qualified, innovative professionals who receive ongoing training in current pedagogical practices. They are committed to supporting each child to achieve personal excellence and as a consequence our children have a real love of life and learning.

All teachers have been involved in professional development activities during the year. These activities are designed to develop the skills and understandings of staff to improve student outcomes. Professional development can take many forms including whole school staff days, subject specific in- service, meetings and conferences.

During 2015, school personnel undertook a range of professional learning activities related to improving student outcomes and to grow personally and professionally.

Professional Development opportunities include:

Information Technology - using iPads to enhance learning for all children
Extending Mathematical Understanding - Number Reading Recovery
Professional Development National Quality Standards for Three Year Old Kindy to Year 2
Early Years Learning Framework

Sacramental Team Meetings

Western Australian Catholic Primary Principal Conference

Catholic Primary Assistant Principal Conference

Literacy Support Development

2015 School Improvement

Strategic Planning:

St Thomas' Strategic Plan (2016 – 2019) was developed during 2015. Mrs Carlyn Dyer (Strategic Planning Officer) facilitated a Community Meeting on Tuesday 28 July at which 30 parents attended, still the State record, so Carlyn tells me. Following this meeting where numerous ideas, actions and procedures were suggested a committee of 10 (5 parents, 5 staff members) was formed to complete the planning. The final document will be handed out tonight and will form the Strategic Direction of the school for the next 4 years.

Goals:

- To ensure all staff demonstrate best practice in teaching and learning, whilst remaining cognisant of evolving educational practices and trends.
- Support students on their journey to develop independent and life long learning skills.
- Communication to be a strength of our school.
- Provide opportunities for our students to be engaged in contemporary issues to enhance their world view.
- Harness the talents and knowledge of the parents for the benefit of our students and the whole community.
- Enhance Early Childhood Education to ensure National Quality Standards and the Quality Improvement Plan are attained.
- Create a physical environment that is well maintained, inviting and conducive to effective learning.
- Ensure the ongoing financial administration of the school continues to be conducted in a prudent and responsible manner.
- To ensure that we demonstrate a consistent level of Christian Service by supporting the marginalised, both vulnerable and poor, within and beyond our community.
- Engage students, staff and parents in their own learning and faith formation.

Annual Improvement Plan 2015

All staff are to be thanked for their role in the school improvement process and their ongoing commitment to the Annual Improvement Plan. This plan is a new accountability measure and the staff have embraced the decisions and outcomes of the 2015 Plan under the LEAD acronym.

- Development of whole school spelling scope and sequence using the Australian curriculum by the end of 2014 for K – 6.
- The Words Their Way spelling program & Word Work scope and Sequence will be implemented in the first 20 minutes of each class literacy block from PP – Year 6.
- There will be a finalised Early Childhood Charter by the end of term 2 2015 that will be published and saved in staff share.
- By the end of term 3 a draft will be presented to Justin.
- By the end of the 2015 school year the QIP will be published and saved in staff share.
- Teachers will upload a minimum of three blog entries per term.
- 50% of classroom families are accessing and viewing blogs on a regular basis.
- Teachers will have moved one career stage on AISTL continuum.
- Survey parent body and St. Thomas' staff to see if they can identify the 4 Evangelisation goals of 2015.

Quality Catholic Schooling

The Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) tool was modified by CEWA this year from 24 components to a more manageable 14. The review of these components over a 5-year period will also provide data in regards to whole school improvement. This year we reviewed 3 area:

- Systematic Evangelisation Planning
- A Culture that Promotes Learning
- Targeted Use of School Resources

The associated renewal process from this review helps us to challenge each other in ways, which to best support our students. As a staff we have continued to strive for excellence in a community where the values of truth, inclusivity and compassion underpin all that we do. There is a genuine endeavour for an understanding of present and future trends in our practice and to have a thoughtful influence with our professional conversations on best practice.

The iPad program in year three to six continues to thrive with enthusiastic parents attending the Parent evening for incoming year three students earlier this term. Throughout the school there is a strong focus on using digital technology not as a substitution tool for pen and paper, rather as a teaching and learning tool to transform and redefine learning. My thanks to the teachers in all years for their enthusiastic work in ICT and especially to Lila Gibbs and Ryan von Bergheim for their ongoing leadership in this area.

At the same time, we have been working to deliver strong benefits for children in Early Learning with:

- A continuation of the Three Year Old program at three sessions per week
- Kindergarten at 3 days per week
- Pre-Primary as the first year of compulsory schooling.

Maintaining a focus on the National Quality Standard ensures that the educational program and practice is stimulating and engaging and enhances children's development. Our PK-year two learning programme is working well and delivering strong benefits to our children. The three-year-old programme has been embedded this year. We have increased hours within this program; in 2016 it will run two full day sessions. Maintaining a focus on the National Quality Standards ensures that the educational program and practice is stimulating and fully engages our children and their development. The Quality Improvement Program in K-2 or QIP has been part of our teachers planning. Currently we

have Reading Recovery in the early years to support our literacy development especially for those children needing support. In 2015 we added the EMU (Extending Mathematical Understanding) program, which will run again in 2016 and be extended throughout the grades.

Lisa Keatch will continue to teach Science in 2016 and maintain her involvement in enrichment classes with obvious support from others to allow her to teach the Science classes in years 1-6. Val Dragon will work in years four as Administration relief to allow Nicky to be released for her Assistant Principal duties and Val will also teach Health in Year 1,2,3 & 5. The school board through sound budgeting has approved the employment of a two part time teaching assistant in year one and two to support Kelly Pilling and Lila Gibbs. We welcome on to our staff Angela Rowe and Heather Riley into these roles. With this team in place I believe the children will be taught by a first rate group of teacher.

In terms of academic achievement St Thomas' continues to perform very well and in the words of one senior executive in head office continues to "punch above its weight." Children in years four to six did very well in Oracy competitions in term three. The Year 5's were involved in Debating and the Interschool Challenge was one of my personal highlights of the year. Our NAPLAN results were very pleasing with nearly all of our children performing above the National Minimum Standard and quite a few achieving results in the highest bands possible for years three and five.

Children chosen from years 4-6 through the E-Challenge program again participated in the regional Tournament of the Minds competition with one of the teams making this years State Final, prepared for the Night of the Notables and participated in the regional All Stars Competition, Philosphon at the WA Art Gallery, The Australian Mathematics competitions, ICAS English, Writing, Science and Maths, Science Day of Excellence, the Readers Challenge and Science days at Scitech. Numerous children were involved in Chess and Debating Competitions throughout the year. My thanks are extended to all staff and especially Lisa Keatch for her co-ordination of the E-Challenge and upper school extension programs.

In addition to state and national assessments, the school conducts other external and internal standardised testing to ensure that a rigorous approach in measuring student progress is maintained. All data collected is integral to planning and teaching.

Our cultural program has been highlighted by the Edudance concert after dance lessons held in second term and by the Performing Arts Festival where many of our children and their classes performed with great distinction. Our instrumental program has flourished and I am sure our Christmas Concert will again be an occasion the school celebrates and remembers. All this has been driven by Beth Bryce with great support from all staff. My thanks to her.

The school once again competed very successfully in a range of sporting endeavours at the school, interschool and regional level. Early morning surfing, tennis, swimming coaching, running club, Friday afternoon sport, Faction Cup team coaching were once again a real hit with the students. It is important that our strong emphasis on healthy and active lifestyles is maintained. Thank you to Helen Baron-Hay and Sally Ramsay.

This year we won our first trophy in soccer with the school team winning the Shield for our division. We also won the 'Most Improved' Shield at the Interschool Cross Country in 2105. The children also look fantastic in their soccer, netball and football uniform and their Athletics singlets. The school performs with varying degrees of success but never with anything but a wholehearted effort in all their endeavours.

Let me conclude in the normal way by thanking the many people who contribute to the wonderful enterprise we call Catholic Education and the superb school we call St Thomas'.