

COMMUNITY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2020

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Good evening to the Catholic School Advisory Council members, Friends of Salvado Executive and Committee members, Parents/Carers and Staff. I am pleased to present to you my Principal Report for Salvado Catholic College for 2020. It has been another very busy, and needless to say, interesting year at Salvado Catholic College as we come to the end of our 5<sup>th</sup> Year.



Good **N**ews of Jesus Christ  
CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Although somewhat different in 2020 to previous years, we have continued to celebrate many Prayer Services and a couple of Masses at Salvado Catholic College throughout the year, mainly with only our students in attendance, due to restrictions. We have ensured that our Catholic social teachings and values have been areas that we continue to develop in our students and the community, with the continuation of many of our initiatives in raising funds and awareness for our students of the vulnerable and marginalised in our society and providing support for them wherever we can in different ways. We have embedded in our tradition at the College of supporting Project Compassion and Caritas, Socktober and the Catholic Missions, LifeLink and Vinnies.

Our House Days of Benedict, Frayne, MacKillop and Vincent were all celebrated again in 2020 and we continue to grow in our understanding of the charism of each of our House patrons. We look forward to continuing to develop further our House days throughout the College as we continue to grow. Thank you to the staff and students for their efforts in preparing and celebrating our House celebrations throughout the year.

Our Year 5 students again attended a Retreat to New Norcia and it was wonderful to expose the students to the Benedictine community that Dom Rosendo Salvado established all those years ago. Unfortunately, New Norcia is no longer catering for overnight student camps as of 2021, however, we will continue to visit New Norcia with certain year levels for day trips into the future as we are very keen to continue the connection we have with the Benedictine community.

Our Catholic Year 4 students celebrated their First Eucharist and our Catholic Year 6 students celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation with other children from the Parish this year. Our current Year 3 students are looking forward to having their First Reconciliation in 2021 as are the Year 3 students of next year.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our Sacrament teachers this year, Mrs Clare Jeeves, Mrs Mary Tierney Dusenbergh, along with Mrs Marissa Munro, our Head of Early Years, for their time and commitment in supporting the Parish of St Francis Xavier in preparing the students for the Sacraments and assisting with the Sacrament celebrations.

As a College community, I would like to thank Fr Mark for his time and commitment to his ministry as our Parish Administrator and Fr Matteo as Assistant Priest. We are appreciative of their presence in our College when they were able, and their support and prayers for the College community.

This year the staff came together for a Professional Learning Day to learn more about the Sacrament of Eucharist with Sr Kerry Willison facilitating the day. A great opportunity for all our staff to continue to develop their own faith knowledge and spend time reflecting on the importance of the Sacraments in our lives. We also visited the MacKillop Centre in South Perth to learn more about St Mary of The Cross and her life, particularly important in our faith life at Salvado Catholic College as St Mary of the Cross is one of our chosen House patrons. As a staff we also did a small part of the Camino Salvado from St Joseph's Church on Salvado Road in Subiaco, an opportunity to reflect and acknowledge the journey that Salvado himself started many years ago. The staff continue to be exposed to opportunities that assist us in developing our understanding of the Catholic Faith and practices, to support us to enact our School Improvement focus in regard to further developing the students' knowledge of the Catholic traditions and Gospel values.



## Education & Learning

### EDUCATION

We continue to hold ourselves accountable as a staff in ensuring that we plan and teach engaging, collaborative learning experiences for all our students and cater for their individual needs.

In 2020 the Bishops' Literacy Assessment and NAPLAN were cancelled, however, as we always have done at Salvado Catholic College, we continue to put in place various data gathering tools as part of our assessment schedule across the year levels to ensure we gather useful and informative data that assists our teachers with the teaching and learning programmes they develop to cater for our students' needs. We continue to work collectively as a staff as part of our focus in our School Improvement Plan to differentiate teaching and learning from the data analysis we undertake with the evidence we collect from student assessment.

In 2020 we continued to look at the National Quality Standards in the Early Years as a focus of our School Improvement Plan and continued to develop practices to ensure play-based learning is alive and well at Salvado Catholic College. Our Early Years staff, along with all the teachers continued to meet to share programming and planning ideas. This year we purchased additional resources in our Incidental Spaces to provide our younger students with new play-based resources and our older students with areas that further promote collaborative learning.

We are very pleased to be able to continue providing the MiniLit and MacqLit programs for students from Year 1 to Year 6 requiring literacy support this year. This extra support has been embedded in our planning at the College and continues to complement the wonderful work of our Teachers and Education Assistants in Learning Spaces. We plan on extending these support programs even more as we continue to grow as a College in 2021 and beyond.

Aboriginal Education remained a focus for us as a staff in 2020 as part of our School Improvement Plan, and we continue to provide opportunities to upskill staff and embed their knowledge of Aboriginal Education. It is wonderful to have a graduate Aboriginal teacher in Chloe Collard join us this year, who has shared her knowledge, experience and ideas with the staff and we thank her and the Aboriginal Education and Multicultural Team for their efforts.

Our Specialist classes of Languages, Music, Physical Education and Science we have had in 2020 will continue into 2021 in the Primary Years. Thank you to all our Specialist Teachers for their efforts in ensuring their subject areas are engaging and enjoyed by all our students.

The continued implementation of the 1:1 iPad Program for our Year 4 to Year 6 students, we believe has continued to be very successful across these year levels and the students continue to develop their skills using various platforms in the digital world. We have continued to promote digital citizenship and cyber safety with our students as a key strategy of utilising and integrating digital technology at Salvado Catholic College.

With the introduction of Remote Learning this year, due to a period of school closures, our staff did an amazing job of co-creating and implementing our Education Continuity Plan to ensure that students were able to continue their learning from home. I would like to acknowledge all our staff for their tireless efforts during these uncertain times and the extra workload that many of them had to take on to ensure they continued to deliver a curriculum to all our students. Their efforts were once again exceptional and is a credit to their work ethic, commitment and value to education and the students in their care. I would like to also take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the parents/carers for their efforts and support during this time to work in partnership with the staff to assist the students from home. Finally, I would also like to acknowledge the students themselves. Their resilience and participation in a new learning environment was exceptional and we are very proud of their efforts.

Although disrupted this year, we still managed to have a number of incursions and excursions at Salvado Catholic College, as well as get involved in extra-curricular activities. As we continue to grow, we will continue to involve ourselves in even more activities which will be enriching experiences for our students in various aspects of College life.

Our Year 6 students experienced the inaugural Year 6 Adventure Camp this year, even after having to reschedule due to restrictions and being postponed. It was another wonderful opportunity and experience that we were able to provide for our students. One that will continue on into the future.



## **W**orking together as a College Community COMMUNITY

This year has shown more than ever before, the importance of a strong home/school partnership with the implementation of Remote Learning and the restrictions that followed which unfortunately did not allow us to promote the community aspect of our College as much as we have previously. It is hoped that as we move forward our parents/carers continue to get involved as much as they can when the opportunity arises, to ensure that our students continue to experience many of the activities and events that we have held previously, and the new ones that we implement into the future.

Communication channels at Salvado Catholic College have continued to be one of our strengths, and this has not been any less evident this year with all that has happened. Thank you to all our parents/carers who have cooperated in ensuring protocols put in place this year were followed through. Your support and patience was very much appreciated.

We were once again able to hold Parent Information evenings this year, as well as a Child Safe Framework and Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum Information session, along with a Surf Online Safe Cyber Safety presentation. We still strongly believe promoting these importance opportunities and encouraging parent/carer participation and attendance is vital so that we can work together to share the same important messages with our students.

Thank you to the parents and carers that have assisted around the College in some way this year, even though with minimal opportunities. It is still very much appreciated!

Our Friends of Salvado Executive Committee of 2020 have done a great job in this unusual year! Thank you Kylee Nastasi, our President, and to the rest of the FoS Executive Committee for your ongoing efforts, time and commitment. We appreciate all that you have done in fundraising this year and organising events for our students and College community. Thanks also to all those who assisted in some way at the FoS events. Particular mention of Nicole Green and the many parents who had done an amazing job in preparing what was going to be an awesome Community Fair. Unfortunately, this community and fundraising event was one of the first major events to be cancelled due to COVID-19.

With limited opportunities, it was still great that we have been able to put funds this year towards various resources that will directly benefit our students. The Book Fair and Run4Fun Colour Explosion Day were 2 of the most memorable events for the year. Thanks again to all those involved!



At Salvado Catholic College we continue to focus our attention on student and staff wellbeing. With all that has gone on in our world this year, there is a real need to ensure that we focus on the emotional needs of our students and staff alike, as well as where we can, our families too.

We have continued to look at ways we can provide support for our students and this year we have continued with the Rainbows program coordinated so effectively by Kerry Browne. Her role has also included being our Student Wellbeing Coordinator, checking in on individuals throughout the College. As part of extending our focus on wellbeing in 2021 as part of our School Improvement Plan, we endeavour to develop a wellbeing framework for our College community. I am very excited to announce that in 2021 we will have Mrs Jenny Mair-Wieman join us on staff in a part-time capacity as our School Psychologist. As we continue to grow as a College I know that our amazing staff will continue to embrace a whole College approach to wellbeing.

This year we introduced House Captains and various Teams in Year 6 that gave our Year 6 students responsibilities in different aspects of College life. I would like to acknowledge our Year 6 students for their efforts and congratulate them on coming to the end of their Primary schooling at Salvado Catholic College. With the majority of them commencing in 2021 as the first cohort of Year 7 students, a new and exciting chapter awaits them!

Our Catholic School Advisory Council (formerly the College Board) has once again been very supportive of the College and myself in the stewardship of resources in 2020. There has been much happening behind the scenes as we continue to grow as a K-12 College and develop plans for future building development and growth as we move in to having our first Secondary students in 2021 and growing our Primary student numbers too.

Thank you to James Moles as Chair and to all the Advisory Council. I am very grateful to them for their time, listening ears and advice. I would also like to personally thank Pat Kellett who is going to continue on the Advisory Council next year as our Parish Representative. We are very appreciative of your commitment to getting involved Pat and being a part of our team.

Our grounds have always looked great and I would like to thank Nathan Phillips for his time and efforts in maintaining them, particularly this year with the added challenges such as the tank becoming decommissioned for the time being and watering of our lawns and gardens needing to be done manually without reticulation. We are very appreciative of Nathan's efforts and the pride that he takes in his role as our grounds person.

As part of our continued focus on sustainability, our Staff and Student Sustainability Teams have done a great job this year to further promote sustainable practices across the College and have started to develop further our sustainably garden with the inclusion of compost bins and our waste throughout the College continuing to decrease. A great thing, as Pope Francis shared a clear message in his 2015 encyclical 'Laudato Si' where he writes about the importance of committing ourselves to sustainability as we all have a responsibility for others and the future of our planet.

During 2020 we introduced 2 classes of Pre-Kindergarten due to the high interest in the community. We had 2 streams through to Year 3 and single classes of Year 4, 5 and Year 6, with over 400 students and 250 families in the College this year. We continue to grow as a Catholic College of choice in the Byford and surrounding area. We have healthy waitlists in all year levels in our Primary years.

In 2021 we will welcome another double stream Kindergarten cohort and have added a second class of Year 5 in 2021, which will make us double stream up to Year 5, with 1 class of Year 6. We will be welcoming 3 streams of Year 7 as we commence our Secondary education at the College. We will have over 500 students in 2021 from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 7. Our specialist learning areas of Languages (Italian), Music, Physical Education and Science will continue into 2021 in Primary and we look forward to the many new educational opportunities that our Secondary students will be offered. We will be welcoming many new students, families and staff to the College next year.

We are very blessed to have such an amazingly hard working and committed teaching staff here at Salvado Catholic College. With the added challenges of Remote Learning part way through this year and having to implement learning experiences for all our students in a new learning environment, it became even more evident the quality of the Teachers and Education Assistants that we have here. I would like to personally applaud their professionalism and dedication and acknowledge the staff for their added workload in the uncertain times that were had by all. Thank you!

Thank you to our wonderful Administration Staff of Kasey Atwell, Judy Schwarz and Julie Gibson for all that you do to ensure that our very busy administration and systems are running smoothly at Salvado Catholic College. Thank you also to Sam Chapman for the way you have continued to manage the finances of the College, along with all things buildings and preparing for Secondary. We have a great Admin Team that I am ever grateful to have around us.

I would also like to make particular mention of the Leadership Team of Marissa Munro (Head of Early Years) and Keith Gilbert (Head of Middle School) for your commitment and professionalism to your roles. There is so much work that goes on behind the scenes each day at Salvado Catholic College. It has been a privilege to work alongside an amazing young leader in Marissa, whose work ethic and dedication to her role has been exceptional. Keith has joined our Leadership Team this year and the work that he has done in preparation for our first Secondary students has been awesome. I am very thankful for both Marissa and Keith's support and commitment to their roles and our College community. In 2021 we look forward to welcoming Mrs Christine Pitman onto the Leadership Team as Head of Junior School (Year 3 to Year 6).

At the end of this year we farewell Miss Tanya Cross, Miss Chloe O'Callaghan and Miss Georgia Laird (who will not be returning from her year's leave). I thank Tanya, Chloe and Georgia for their contribution to Salvado Catholic College over their time with us and wish them all the very best for their futures. Mrs Jess Hanretty will be on Parental Leave in 2021 as she and her husband are expecting their second child, and Mrs Lucia Scales remains on Leave for 2021.

In 2021 we welcome to the Staff Team of Salvado Catholic College the following new members along with Mrs Christine Pitman. We will also welcome Miss Sierra Ostle, Miss Taylia Kenny, Miss Annie Hughes, Miss Olivia Bell, Miss Sarah Hegney, Mrs Hayley Weaire, Mrs Melissa Mackay, Mr Liam Carle, Mrs Jenny Mair-Wieman, Mrs Leone Murphy, Mrs Ashleigh Burrows, Mrs Christy Thomas and Mrs Rebecca Furfaro.

### ***Staffing in 2021***

Refer to Slideshow

As I reflect on the last 5 years and the journey we have been on with the Foundation Staff of 2016 when we started with Kindergarten to Year 2 and 105 students and 13 staff, fast forwarding to 2020 with over 40 staff and 400 students, I try to stop and reflect on all that we have accomplished now that we have completed our 5<sup>th</sup> year as a College and have gone through from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 6 for the first time. I think of the Prayer to Oscar Romero which beautifully summarised his philosophy.



## **A FUTURE NOT OUR OWN**

***It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.***

***The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,  
it is even beyond our vision.***

***We accomplish in our lifetime  
only a tiny fraction  
of the magnificent enterprise  
that is God's work.***

***Nothing we do is complete,  
which is another way of saying  
that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.  
No statement says all that could be said.***

***No prayer fully expresses our faith.  
No confession brings perfection.  
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.***

***No programme  
accomplishes the Church's mission.  
No set of goals and objectives  
includes everything.***

***That is what we are about.  
We plant a seed that will one day grow.  
We water seeds already planted,  
knowing that they hold future promise.***

***We lay foundations  
that will need further development.  
We provide yeast that produces effects  
far beyond our capabilities.***

***We cannot do everything,  
and there is a sense of liberation  
in realising that.***

***This enables us to do something,  
and to do it very well.***

***It may be incomplete,  
but it is a beginning,  
a step along the way,  
an opportunity for the Lord's grace  
to enter and do the rest.***

***We may never see the end results,  
but that is the difference  
between the master builder and the worker.***

***We are workers, not master builders,  
ministers, not messiahs.***

***We are prophets of a future not our own.***

I wrote last year that we were all excited about what the next journey brings in 2020 and beyond at Salvado Catholic College. Just as Dom Rosendo Salvado was on a journey, we too will continue to be on a journey at Salvado Catholic College. We have begun to revisit our Strategic Direction for Salvado Catholic College and further work will be done on this plan in 2021 as we involve various stakeholder in our College community to assist in developing our Strategic Direction for the next 3 years. I encourage everyone in our College community to be a part of the journey and assist in ensuring that we continue to guide our students in the right direction, together. Our students are the reason we do what we do, and we are very proud of all of them! We look with optimism towards 2021. Wishing you all a Peaceful and Merry Christmas. A safe and happy holidays and Joy in the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Peace & Happy Days!

Mr Santino Giancono  
*Principal*