

## 2016 PRINCIPAL'S ANNUAL REPORT

*In 2016, the Francis Jordan Catholic school theme was to **Shine Like Stars**, and as a school we can confidently say that we did just that!*

The Vision Statement for our school states:

*Francis Jordan Catholic School prepares students for a lifelong journey by nurturing a passion for learning and excellence while remaining centred on Jesus and His teachings.*

**JESUS PASSION EXCELLENCE JOURNEY**

The four key words in the Vision Statement provided a focus for our school's endeavours during 2016 in an environment where our students flourished.

### **JESUS**

The celebration of liturgies continued to be a central focus for the school and its community. These have also been a central link with our school community. Liturgies for Mother's Day, Father's Day, Anzac Day, Francis Jordan Feast Day, Remembrance Day and All Saints' Day to name a few, were excellent examples of the school's commitment to ensuring that the students participated in meaningful liturgical celebrations.

During 2016, our ties with the Salvatorians continued with the appointment of Fr Francis as our new Parish Priest along with Fr Darius as our Assistant Priest. Our Year 4 to 6 classes celebrated a class Mass in the Chapel at Salvatorian House. We celebrated our Parish Feast Day - Francis Jordan Day in June. We transported all students from Kindergarten to Year 6 to St Simon Peter Parish Church for Mass and followed this with a day of celebration and a Year 6 Mini-Fete. The proceeds from the Mini - Fete were donated to a Salvatorian Mission.

The celebration of the Sacraments of Penance, First Communion and Confirmation provided a focus for the school as a Catholic community and as a part of the wider Parish Community. The Parish took a leading role along with the School to support the students in their preparation for the reception of the sacraments. The School will continue to support the Parish and its staff in this task. Sacrament preparation workshops took place, where parents and students attended together at St Simon Peter. These workshops provided an opportunity for families to grow together in faith at a critical time in their child's life.

Staff members continued to implement the Religious Education Programme mandated by the Bishops of Western Australia with witness and dedication. The efforts by our entire staff who work together, across the many aspects of organising events, make the religious dimension of our school come alive for the whole school community in a creative way at masses, liturgies and prayer services. The celebrations are outstanding and of the highest quality, and demonstrate a polish which is both recognised and valued by all in our school community.

The Bishop's Literacy Assessment was once again successfully undertaken.

## **JOURNEY**

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten programmes have maintained steady numbers with demand for places in 2017 highly sort after.

Staff members continued their focus on the Early Years Learning Framework and the Australian Curriculum to enhance their programmes for the benefit of all students. The school continued in its move towards the implementation of the National Quality Standards for our Early Childhood Education and Care sector.

Staff members have continued to work on the implementation of the Australian Curriculum with the strongest emphasis in Mathematics and English.

The Before and After School Care Program provided by OSH Club Australia was once again very successful and especially beneficial for our families. OSHC is a sensible extension to the services we provide as we strive to be a family-orientated, community-based school.

A significant initiative of the Parents and Friends Association was their continuation to provide significant funding for the replacement of interactive screens in the K-2 Junior classrooms.

The school has continued to undertake an annual review of its operations through the Quality Catholic Schooling process. The process provides excellent feedback as well as indicating areas for future development.

Parents, Students and Staff shared feedback during the year:

### **Parent Opinions**

Parents shared valuable opinion about the school's performance, which highlighted both our strengths and specific areas for continued improvement, across a range of areas including:

- Learning and Teaching
- School Communications
- School Events
- Behaviour Management Practices
- The School Environment
- Student Safety
- Staff performance
- Catholic Culture
- Student Leadership
- Operational Processes

### **Student Opinions**

Students shared their opinion throughout the year to highlighted areas of strength along with some areas to develop including:

- Student Motivation
- Opportunities at School
- Interactions with Staff
- Teacher Empathy
- Purposeful Teaching

## Staff Opinions

Staff shared opinion around a number of areas including:

- Student behaviour
- Staff Professional Learning Opportunities
- Staff Wellbeing
- Respect for Students
- Catholic Culture
- Parents Partnerships

## EXCELLENCE

Students performed well in the National Literacy and Numeracy Assessments (NAPLAN) with most students achieving results at or above the national standard. In many areas, our school's Years 3 and 5 mean scores were above the national mean.

### 2015 /2016 NAPLAN COMPARISON RESULTS SUMMARY

	Francis Jordan Mean		All Australian Schools Mean	
Year 3	2015	2016	2015	2016
Reading	432	425	425	426
Writing	424	435	416	421
Spelling	397	412	409	420
Grammar & Punctuation	448	429	432	436
Numeracy	400	379	397	402
Year 5	2015	2016	2015	2016
Reading	523	523	498	502
Writing	504	490	478	475
Spelling	528	517	498	493
Grammar & Punctuation	529	516	503	505
Numeracy	502	503	492	493

### % of STUDENTS AT/ABOVE MINIMUM STANDARD

	Francis Jordan		All Australian Schools	
Year 3	2015	2016	2015	2016
Reading	99	96	95	94
Writing	99	100	96	96
Spelling	99	100	93	94
Grammar & Punctuation	100	100	95	95
Numeracy	100	98	94	96
Year 5				
Reading	100	94	93	93
Writing	100	100	92	93
Spelling	100	100	93	93
Grammar & Punctuation	99	96	93	93
Numeracy	100	100	95	95

### PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN TOP 20%

	Year 3	Year 5
Reading	23	25
Writing	26	21
Spelling	16	31
Grammar/Punctuation	19	31
Numeracy	14	17

The results achieved by the Year 3 and 5 students in the Bishops' Religious Assessments were equally as impressive and have shown continued success.

Our Gifted and Talented Programme hosted students who performed exceptionally well, achieving excellent results in the various competitions. These included the local Academic Gala Day, The Night of Notables, the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) and the Interschool Spelling Bee Competition.

Our results demonstrate the commitment of our students and staff, our quality teaching programmes and our high-quality learning environment in general.

### **PASSION**

Our School Vision Statement has as one of its aims, *developing a passion for learning and excellence in our students*. A passion for learning was witnessed during 2016 in the polished efforts of our students in the Performing Arts and One Big Voice, which provided many highlights again this year. Our music staff and instrumental programme tutors have consolidated the successes of previous years. The emphasis is always on students participating, extending and enjoying themselves. It has been pleasing to see the continued involvement of the students in our choir and our two thriving concert bands.

A large number of students participated in the Catholic Schools Performing Arts Festival. The feedback received from the many adjudicators for the way our students presented and conducted themselves was once again exceptional. We are all very proud of the performance of our students who represented our school in so many areas.

Our Year 6 students headed to Camp Walter for their camp and all classes participated in an array of valuable incursions and excursions.

We welcomed a new PE teacher, Caris Lawson who assisted our students to compete in a variety of successfully organized sporting endeavours. A feature of our Health and Physical Education Programme is the wide variety of activities that the students are exposed to and the strong emphasis on a healthy active lifestyle. These include Judo Club on Monday afternoon and a Friday morning Running Club as well as dance classes on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Some parents and staff also conduct an afterschool netball club. Thank you to all the staff members and parents who are involved in these endeavours.

Our school generously supported a number of Fundraising Projects throughout the year including:

- Project compassion
- Life link
- Starlight foundation
- Student led initiatives
  - Run for a reason
  - Year 6 cake stall

As a school we were actively involved in raising awareness of a number of community initiatives to support:

- The Moorcombe foundation
- Pirate day
- Bubbles for Charlie
- St Vincent De Paul

We gathered to socialise at:

- The Family Fun Night
- Mother's Day liturgy morning tea
- Father's Day Mass Breakfast
- Year level assembly Morning Tea
- School Disco's

## **2017 Priorities**

The major curriculum priority for 2017 will be to consolidate the implementation of the Australian Curriculum with an emphasis:

- English and Mathematics, Science, Technology, Hass, Arts.
- Emphasis on the Early Years Learning Framework and the implementation of the National Quality Standards for Early Childhood Education and Care.
- Implementation of a whole school reading programme with Synthetic Phonics in the lower school and CAFÉ reading and writing model in the upper school along with the Multilit support programme.
- Standardized Testing Programmes including, On Entry, PAT R, PAT M, NAPLAN.
- Development of an Indigenous Education Plan
- Continuation of the Phasing in of the 1:1 portable device programme in Year 5. This will continue in Year 6 in 2018.

As a school, we were grateful to and thank many individuals and groups for their individual and collective contributions to our school year during the year.

We especially thank Fr Francis for his personal support, for his involvement at the school and for being so accessible. We also extend our thanks to Fr Darius as our Assistant Parish Priest and to Fr Karol at the Salvatorian House. The priests have continued to make themselves available to us to support our school and have been generous with their time and guidance.

We thank our P&F Association. They have done an outstanding job during 2016. They have made significant funds available to our school to support the phasing in of smart screens and provide literacy resources. The group also organized activities that brought the community together. This small, though dedicated group of parents have given so much of their time, and we offer our sincere thanks to all. I especially acknowledge our President Tim Tolley, who together with the P & F executive have been a tremendous support and welcomed me, warmly, in my first year at Francis Jordan.

The School Board, chaired by Guy Paragalli has been a guiding support to our school. It was helpful having Guy's experience and background knowledge of our school close by in his role as chair of our School Board. He brings extensive knowledge and expertise as an educator to this role. The entire School Board have worked closely with commitment, to maintain a strong advocacy for our staff and students in their governing roles. We thank them for their dedication.

I express a deep gratitude to each staff member at our school. Personally, in my first year at Francis Jordan, each individual has demonstrated generosity and dedication. This has served to provide a high quality Catholic Education for all of our individual students along with a high quality professional collaboration of staff. The Francis Jordan staff operate with professionalism and a genuine willingness to get things done. Staff work together to achieve whatever needs to be done. The commitment by staff at Francis Jordan is deeply appreciated and valued. I thank all staff members for their ongoing dedication and commitment.

I acknowledge and thank Vicki Menagh for her outstanding work with our financial operations. Vicki undertakes her role with skill and efficiency. Committed to ensuring our school has exceptional financial records, her prudent and carefully thought out processes ensure our strong financial viability. I thank her for her patience this year, while I was inducted into the schools' financial operations.

I also acknowledge Geri Nagy for the role she undertakes in our busy reception. Her multi-tasking and calm approach is valued and keeps our front reception buzzing along beautifully. It is demanding to juggle phone calls, sick children and parent enquiries that traverse her attention. Geri maintains a positive demeanour throughout and I thank Geri for her patience in this busy role.

I acknowledge and thank Damian Purcell, for his dedication to the role of Assistant Principal Religious Education, Curriculum and Administration. He has done an outstanding job juggling the multilayered dimensions of his role this year, often going far beyond the call of duty. I sincerely thank Damian for his unyielding personal support and his professionalism, dedication and wisdom.

In 2016 we sadly farewelled a long-serving Education Assistant, Chris Griggspall who had been a familiar and valued face at Francis Jordan for over 30 years. Lisa Elvin, who was also a highly regarded member of our teaching team, left Francis Jordan after being on staff for 7 years.

We look forward to the 2017 school year. We also look forward to welcoming a number of new staff and new families to Francis Jordan.

Wendy Manners - Principal