



PRINCIPAL'S 2020 ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING ADDRESS

Good evening everyone,

In my address this evening, I will speak about the school's achievements in 2020 and outline our intentions and school improvement plan foci for 2020, with much our future business being a continuation of the plan put together by staff in 2019 for 2020 and beyond. I will do based around our school core values of Faith, Education, Community and Service.

Education

Educating the whole child and improving student outcomes for each individual child is our core business at Assumption Catholic Primary School.

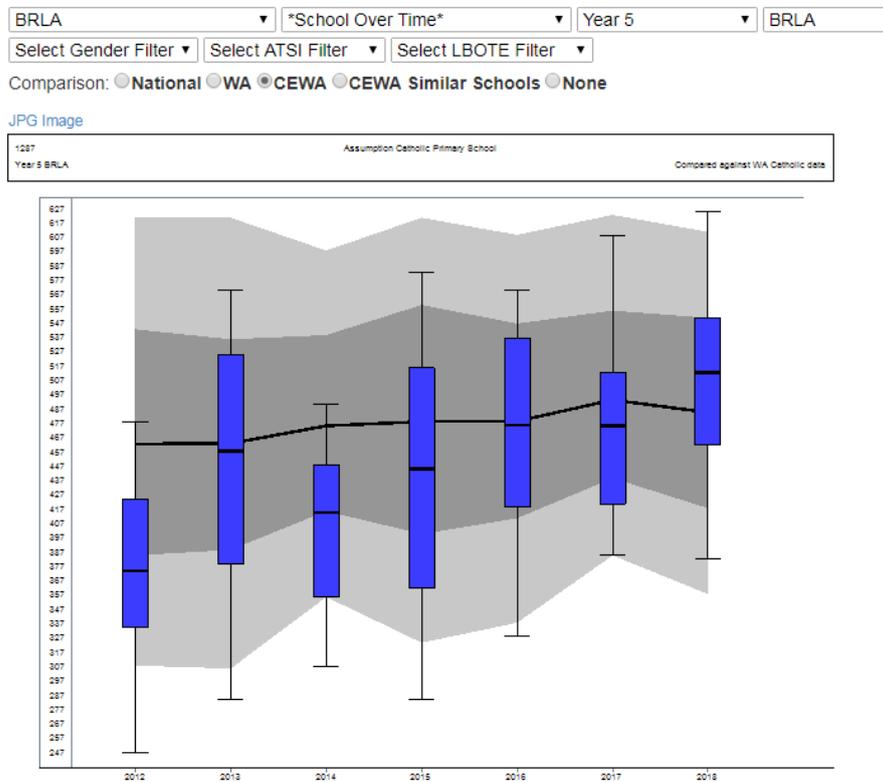
Our focus this year has been to provide a consistent school wide approach to the teaching of literacy and numeracy and lift each child's performance through quality teaching. We have focused particularly on reading in 2020; principally on more fully utilising individual student data to improve academic achievement and have begun setting goals and targets for children. We have set high achievement targets for reading for all cohorts of children across the school and have monitored and evaluated this data via a data wall to inform teaching and learning. Research clearly outlines that the way to improve student outcomes is to build the collective capacity of staff through evidence based whole school professional development. As such, all teachers and education assistants have participated in professional development days as part of our continued focus in the Lyn Sharratt Literacy Collective examining how students learn to read, measuring our success in regards to the 14 Parameters and with CEWA School Support consultants in ensuring increased whole school consistency in measuring reading improvement.

Through focused and targeted teaching our students across the school have achieved some very good results; a great percentage of them reaching the high target set for them. The work in this area is tireless and will continue into 2020.

We collect much data to inform our teaching and learning practice every year. Although NAPLAN did not occur this year, one very important piece of data we gain from NAPLAN assessments is data over time. This shows the rate of improvement for each individual student, and their cohorts as they progress through primary school. It also clearly outlines improvement trends over time and can be an important piece of data to assist us to determine foci in coming years.



I would like to take a moment to review some of this data.
Religious Education: Bishops' Religious Literacy Assessment



In Year Five, the BRLA overtime indicates an upward trend from 2015 to 2018, and then a dip in 2019.
In terms of the CEWA mean, the school falls below the Year Five CEWA mean in all years except in 2018.

Year Three School and CEWA Mean Overtime

ASSESSMENT DOMAIN		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
BRLA	School			354.1	376.4	395.8
	CEWA			416.6	408.4	409.5
	State					
	National					

The school Year Three mean data overtime is on an upward trend from 2017 to 2019, which shows excellent progression over the last three years. However, we remain below the Year Three CEWA mean.

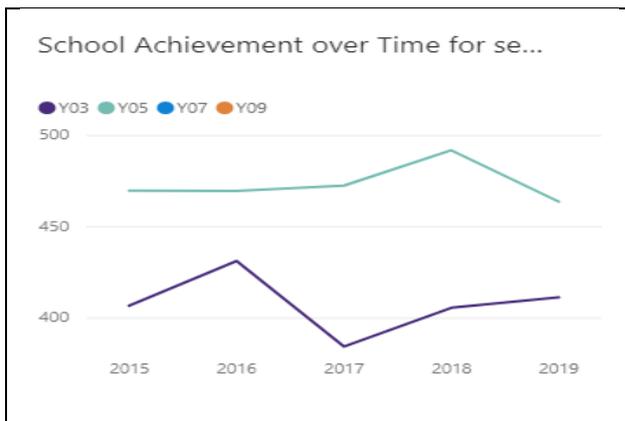
Reading

The School Achievement Overtime for Year Three & Year Five students in Reading depicts In Year Five a downward trend from 2016 to 2019 for cohorts in Year Five. Our Year Three data is inconsistent overtime with no trend evident.



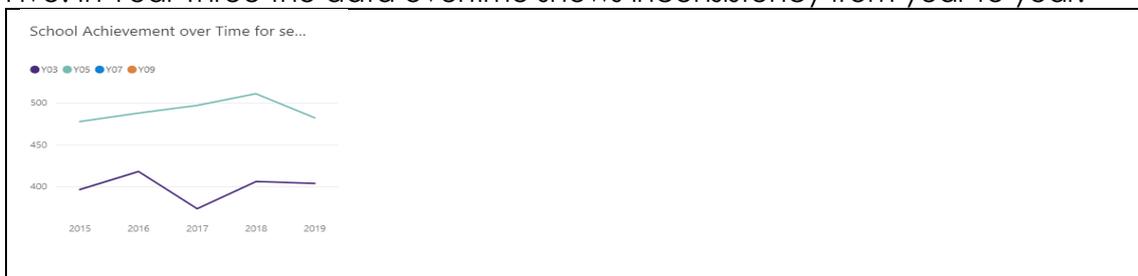
Writing

This graph depicts School Achievement Overtime for Year Three & Year Five students in Writing. In Year Five the Writing school achievement over time indicates an upward trend for four years, which is a great achievement, until a decline in 2019. In Year Three the data overtime shows an upward trend from 2017 to 2019.



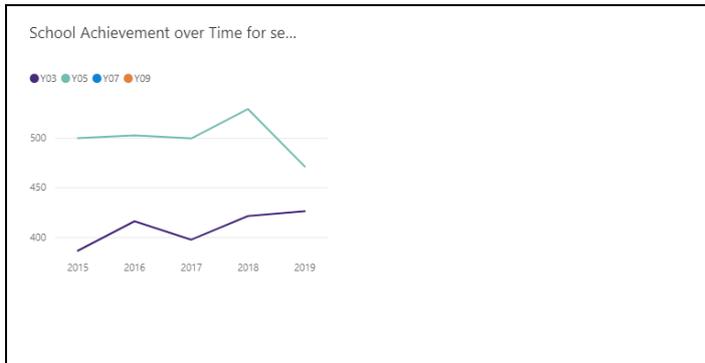
Spelling

The School Achievement Overtime for Year Three & Year Five students in Spelling depicts a very pleasing upward trend for four years until a decline in 2019 in Year Five. In Year Three the data overtime shows inconsistency from year to year.



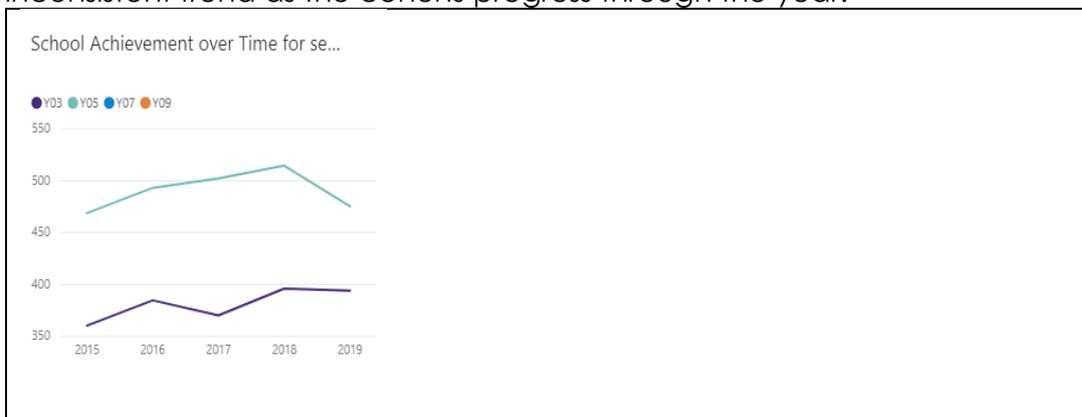
Grammar

In terms of Grammar and Punctuation, in Year Five the Grammar school achievement over time is inconsistent with no visible trend showing a spike in 2018 and a drop in 2019. In Year Three the data overtime shows an upward trend from 2017 to 2019, which is a very pleasing result.



Numeracy

In Year Five the Numeracy school achievement over time indicates a pleasing upward trend for four years. In Year Three the data overtime shows an inconsistent trend as the cohorts progress through the year.



Over the next few years, our focus will continue to be implementing a consistent, evidence based and school wide approach to the teaching of literacy and numeracy. This will involve ensuring consistent explicit pedagogical teaching practices, learning structures and curriculum processes are put into place and that these have a measurable impact on student achievement. This will include the use of observation chairs and shoulder to shoulder feedback to continue to build staff capacity.

There will be a focus on making learning even more individualised and personalised. In addition, in order to address children not making appropriate progress, a case conference model will be implemented to assist teachers to address the specific learning needs of individual children. Our staff work tirelessly and collaboratively every week in professional development sessions to improve our practice to provide an excellent education for the children at Assumption.

In Religious Education, we continue to give particular focus to the teaching and knowledge about our Catholic faith and traditions. This focus is coupled with the faith development experiences we provide for our children throughout the year. Our Year Three and Year Five students annually sit the Bishops' Religious Literacy tests. It is clearly evident from these assessments that children who are active in the practice of their faith and have good literacy skills are the students who perform well on these tests. The tests reflect the progressive nature of the K-12 Religious Education curriculum and is comprised of multiple choice, short answer



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and extended response questions. From the previous graph, it is clear that our students fall below the CEWA mean in all years, so our efforts will be more focused in this area.

COMMUNITY

Our school reflects the unity of family and school where students, parents and staff come together in harmony for a common purpose. In 2020, COVID phase restrictions have limited the many opportunities and community events that usually give our families many opportunities to build connections with each other.

Despite this, to the many parents who actively contribute on a daily basis, a huge thank you. Whether it is helping at home, in the classroom or supporting the P&F or School Board endeavours, this demonstrates to your children the importance you place on their learning. The energy and common focus that exists within these service groups to the school ensures that our sense of community will continue to grow and prosper into the future.

I would like to acknowledge the incredible work of the P&F this year. Despite COVID, and being a new team, they have worked hard to develop opportunities for our students, enhance community spirit and engage with families in our school. The P&F have had an incredible year providing the students with new library and science furniture to the value of \$35,000, contributing \$15,000 towards the upgrade to the front of the school, purchasing \$15,000 worth of reading books for our students, a set of ukuleles for the music program, soccer goals for the oval and additional outdoor tables for use at the front of the school. This is in addition to the Mother and Fathers' day stalls, World Teacher Day, Easter raffles, the Colour Run, Wine and Car park raffles, Flip Out Fundraiser, support of the Sensory garden and many, many other initiatives.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the P&F committee for their outstanding efforts this year. It has been an absolute delight to work with a dedicated and fun filled group of people. I would especially like to mention and thank Natarsha James for her outstanding leadership and love of all things Assumption, the assistance and support of Danielle Carroll as our Vice President, and Kelly Wilding, our very competent Secretary. I have worked with many P&Fs during my time as principal and I can say with my hand on my heart that the Assumption P&F is certainly one of the best.

Our Year Six students have embraced every opportunity to enhance and build their leadership skills and have contributed enthusiastically to all aspects of school life. I am especially proud of these children as they have worked hard to demonstrate the significance of being an Assumption student. I wish them well as they move on to high school. I also thank and acknowledge our student council and all of our student leaders; for the immense pride in which they lead our school. I also thank Ms Sue Arthur for her continued work in this area.

Mental health and well-being is a continued focus at Assumption, as is the trauma based practices embedded on a daily basis. In 2021, the school is in the second of a three chaplaincy grant, with Ms Robyn Dixon providing outstanding support for our students and families. I thank Robyn for her incredible work in this area.



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Finally, in this area, in 2021 Assumption will lead the Aboriginal Families as First Educators Playgroup on site. We welcome Tahnee Cusack to our staff as a result. Tahnee will be supported by Terri Anne Logan, our Transforming Lives Engagement Officer. We look forward to this initiative next year.

Service

Our focus area of accountability and service area has been dominated by a number of projects this year including:

- Front of school upgrade
- IT Expenditure: new iPads, screens for classrooms, Apple TVs
- Fencing along Gordon Road
- Hot water system upgrade in staffroom
- Dedicated Science and Art Room
- Transition to new Library System (Oliver)
- Upgrade to security system (Extra camera)
- Transition to AoS System
- Sensory garden
- Kiss and Go Line Markings
- Water Meter installed for the bore
- New Photocopiers and printers

Expenditure in this area for 2021 includes:

- IT Expenditure: new iPads, screens for classrooms, Apple TVs
- Classroom Furniture Upgrades
- Software to monitor printing across the school to reduce carbon footprint
- Upgrade of the electrical boxes
- Soft fall for playgrounds
- Introduction of research and evidence based support programs across the school.

I would like to thank all the members of the school board for their dedicated commitment to the financial management of our school. I would particularly like to thank Mr Steve Gardner for his excellent chairpersonship and unwavering support, and Mr Brad Durtanovich for his watchful scrutiny of our financial reports. It has been an absolute pleasure working with such a dedicated group of people this year. Thank you for your commitment to Assumption.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and recognise the work of Mr Steve Gardner over the last six years. Steve's time on the board has come to an end and I thank him for his careful discernment, thoughtful feedback and commitment to Assumption. (Present gift). I also thank Mr Billy Ferreira who has also served his six years on the school board. Billy is a thoughtful and highly supportive board member who, in his time as a parent at Assumption, has contributed in many ways, including the training of staff. (Present) Mrs Alana Tonkin was the P&F member of the school board and I thank her for her service. Alana has also been a great support in providing me with contextual information about our wonderful P&F over her many years of involvement. (Present) Mrs Rebecca Spratt has served one year of her two year term and will be stepping down from the board at the end of this year. Rebecca, we thank you for your service. (Present)



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The school has undergone an enormous change in our front office system this year, moving to a Catholic Education of Western Australia devised system AoS. I thank Mrs Langdon, Mrs Dicker, Mrs Croft and Mrs Teasdale for their support and patience during this time.

Faith

We are blessed with a strong connection to the parish and work closely with catechists in the delivery of parish based, school supported and family focused sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. I thank Father Johnny, Father Albin and Father Anson for their strong support within the school and in the lives of the students. We are blessed to have an incredibly thriving Catholic community and parish and it is a delight to work in a school and community where faith is truly alive and nourished.

Reaching out to those in our community teaches students about the Social Justice issues that exist in today's world and giving to those who are less fortunate is part of that to which we are called as Catholic people. This year has been a unique year that has provided us with a unique opportunity to engage with our families in many different ways such as providing

- Financial support for students at our school
- Emotional support for each other
- Staff being in constant contact with families during periods of isolation
- Provision of food hampers
- As well as our students and Mini Vinnies Leaders planning and providing real and grounded opportunities for children to give and raise money for those less fortunate in our community

Our continued work in this area for 2021 includes foci from our strategic plan and school improvement plan , including:

- Formulating a new Evangelization Plan with staff
- Consolidating the MJR program to ensure a disciplined, safe and supportive environment for all
- Embedding the Nagle Charism within the school community
- A continued focus on wellbeing and resilience as a foundation for learning readiness
- Introduction of service learning

I thank Mrs Vanessa Dicker in her role as AP RE for keeping faith at the forefront of our school and ensuring reverence, respect and Christian Service remain paramount.

Staffing

I would now like to announce the teaching staff for 2021. (Read from slides) The Education Assistant allocation is still being finalised and will be published in the next school newsletter.

A number of our staff are leaving Assumption at the end of the year and spreading their wings.



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Mrs Catherine Jackson will be retiring at the end of the year after 30 years of service to Catholic Education. Cathy has woven herself into the deep history and fibre of our school and holds much of its richness in her heart and in her memories. Her friendly demeanour, welcoming nature and obvious love of the children has been an asset to our school. On behalf of the community, I would like to acknowledge the incredible contribution of Cathy Jackson to Assumption.

Mehalia Arbuckle joined our staff for the second semester taking over from Miss Donna Knight and then Miss Ellie Croft in second semester. I would like to thank Mehalia for her contribution to Assumption; your enthusiasm, love of your job and efforts are greatly appreciated. We wish you all the best as you start your family.

Tahlia Gibson very graciously agreed to take on the Science program this year. I would like to thank Tahlia for her contribution to our school; our students have developed a love of science under your tutelage.

Bec Hajduckie (Hi doo ski) took on the role as kindergarten teacher when Mrs Szann went on maternity leave, and the children and parents took to her immediately. Bec, I thank you for saying yes and for providing the students with a seamless transition and for bringing with you, your sense of calmness.

Mrs Jo Drew has a long history with Assumption, having her own children at the school many years ago. Jo has worked as a classroom teacher and as a science teacher during her time with us. She has shared her passion for all things science with many of our students over many years, running such initiatives as the Green

Team, the chooks, vegie garden and bringing a greater world view of environmental issues to Assumption. We wish her well as she moves on to other passions and endeavours. Jo will be missed by our community.

Zoe Ramsay has been appointed as Kindy Teacher on an ongoing basis at St Joseph's Pinjarra. Zoey has taught as a classroom teacher and a relief teacher across the school. We wish her well as she moves to her ongoing role.

Mr Tim Lee's is taking 12 months leave without pay to participate in the Kimberly Calling programme; an initiative from Catholic Education that allows metropolitan teachers to give of their skills to communities in the Kimberley region. Tim has my full support to participate in this initiative and I look forward to welcoming Tim back in 2021.

Ms Sue Arthur and Miss Kimberlee Pierce are taking long service leave for term two, three and four and will return to us in 2021. Miss Donna Knight has been granted leave without pay for 2021.

Mrs Kara Manaloto begins her maternity leave at the end of the year. Kara, we wish you all the best as you begin your most important role, that of parents. Monique Lukatelich remains on maternity leave, and Mrs Andy Bartley and Mrs Maddie Szann will return later in 2021.



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Thank you and acknowledgements

It has been my absolute pleasure to work with a team of wonderful people at Assumption this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff for their dedication, unwavering commitment and support. Each one of them works tirelessly to improve the outcomes of each student in our school. The love of their job, loyalty to the students in their care and positive attitude is to be commended.

I would like to acknowledge our hard-working office staff, Marion Langdon, Denise Teasdale and Renae Croft, who are the face of our school. Your warmth, sense of humour and dedication to your work is admired by many. I thank you for your incredible support this year.

As principal, I've had the privilege of working with a number of wonderfully dedicated members of staff this year. I thank and acknowledge Vanessa Dicker, Sue Arthur and Andie Bartley for their support as assistant principals.

In conclusion, I thank the children of the school for the wonderful life they bring to our workplace. Assumption is a wonderful school. It is a place of hard work, much growth and development, great fun and energy. It is also a privilege to be able to work in a Catholic community where one's own faith in God is nurtured and fuelled every day. On behalf of the staff I ask that you pass on our very sincere thanks to your children for making our lives more complete by way of what they bring to us on a daily basis; as the following slide show depicts

Thank you and God bless.
Miranda Swann