

ST JOHN THE APOSTLE, NARRAWEENA – P&F AGM

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – 8 November, 2022

Firstly, my congratulations and thanks to our P&F Executive – Jo Woolford, Bianca Crvelin, Reina Griffin, Amelia Chandler, Megan Bowman and Caroline Miller. Jo is stepping down from her role as President of the P&F having supported us so wonderfully for the past three years – during COVID times and emerging from it. Jo has always valued the opportunities St John's has provided for bringing people together, especially through our various events which are our community builders. Her dedicated and willing support has been truly outstanding. She has done a fantastic job in the face of adversity, and I sincerely thank her on behalf of our community.

60th Celebrations:

Our 60th Anniversary was successfully celebrated at Manly Leagues Club in October with a Trivia Night, dance and loads of excellent prizes. We had 100 guests attend - a fantastic effort and my thanks to the organising committee and all parent volunteers who ensured the success of the evening.

The children celebrated by participating in a special liturgy which led them through an very engaging recount of our St John's history. We followed the celebration with a very special Mission Day Fair. The children had a wonderful day. They organised events themselves and used the resulting donations to support charities of their choice including the Great Cycle Challenge being led by one of our dads, Matt Weston in support of research into kids cancer.

Back into the swing of things:

As we head toward the end of 2022, we are well and truly back into the swing of things. We've been able to run our classes and timetables as normal and have been able to open the gates of the school to parents, welcoming them for our assemblies, our book parade, Grandparents Day, playgroups, transition days, parent engagement sessions, sacramental programs and as sport and excursion supervisors. We look forward to celebrating our Christmas Celebration at St Pauls College, our Year 6 Graduation and our end of year assemblies to present awards and conduct our farewells.

Staff changes:

On that note, I am very sad to inform you of two staff changes which will be taking place. Firstly, Mr Anthony Frazer will be leaving us after 11 wonderful years of teaching the Creative Arts (Music and Drama). He will be pursuing a career as a librarian, completing his studies during 2023. Anthony's final performance will be at the St John's Christmas Celebration at St Paul's at the end of November and we will be farewelling him during our last week of school in 2022.

Mrs Jeanie McDonnell will be finishing up as our Family Liaison Officer (FLO) after 12 years of outstanding work with our St John's community. She will be continuing as one of our Administration Officers, assisting Brittany Caterina. CSBB has reviewed the role of Family Liaison Officer in schools across the diocese and will be replacing it with a new role, Parent Engagement Coordinator (PEC). The new role will play a crucial role in building and maintaining a welcoming school environment and in building sound, respectful relationships between the school, parents/carers, parent bodies, the Broken Bay Catholic Parent Association and the wider school and parish community.

Miss Herberstein will be taking up a role as a teacher at St John's Freshwater. We wish her every success in her new teaching role.

Staff farewells and acknowledgements will be the subject of one of our end of year assemblies in December.

Update on Collaborative Coaching:

Diocesan funding for our coaching initiative has been put to good use. The focus has been on lifting student achievement in Spelling across the school. Our Assistant Principal, Stefanie Thom, has been our 'Coach Extraordinaire' working with our teachers in stages for an hour every week. I've asked her to share the results with you this evening before she does the same with our Director of Schools next week. They show learning growth in all grades; they also show the areas we need to continue working on and they give us a clear direction for our work in this area in 2023. Collaborative Coaching has been given committed funding by CSBB until 2025.

E-Safety Forum

Our Advisory Council recently organised an E-Safety Forum with John Hession, an expert in the area. We had about 40 registrations with 22 of those parents attending the evening. The remainder viewed the recorded sessions which aimed to raise parent awareness about the need for close supervision of children when online. It presented highly practical strategies for managing online accounts from home and shared very parent friendly resources to assist parents in creating a safe at home, online environment. He also gave a very practical presentation on what to do if something goes wrong. My thanks to our Advisory Council for their initiative and we have discovered a future function for our Advisory Council to pursue with our community – parent education sessions.

School facilities improvements:

St John's is receiving assistance through the diocese for the repairs and maintenance issues. Of note is the installation of an upgraded security system featuring automatically operated gates at either end of the school; and intercom system and remote lock down facility. Other painting and general repairs have been carried out with more happening between now and January.

Our new playground has been ordered and will be installed in January. The new design is attached. Portable games have been ordered to add interest to the options available to the children for play and thanks to the proceeds of the Trivia Night.

The student bathroom project has been modified due to Catholic Schools Broken Bay requirements for all painting to be carried out by the diocese

The hall partition is planned for installation over the Christmas break as well.

End of year

We look forward to celebrating the end of year at our Christmas Concert at St Paul's, our end of year assemblies and our special whole school mass and Kinder 2023 Mass and welcome 3 December.

I wish to acknowledge the staff of St John's who have again provided incredible care and dedicated teaching for your children. They have weathered significant change and pressure during the past two and half years but have had the children as their priority the whole way. I want to acknowledge the incredible work and effort of our new Assistant Principal, Stef Thom, and our REC, Christine Dunk who provide wonderful leadership, drive and example every day at St John's

Once again my thanks to our P&F Team, our Class Parents, our volunteers and to all who have supported their work and activities during 2022. On behalf of the staff and I, my sincere best wishes to all families of St John's.

Mark Bateman – Principal