



Annual Report – 2020



St Denis School is a Catholic school within the Joondanna Parish. It was originally opened in 1951 by the Servite Friars, together with the Sisters of Mercy. The school community seeks to foster an environment that integrates love, truth and learning, where each individual strives to become a model of Christian living and is nurtured toward his/her full potential. The school is coeducational with a current enrolment of 245 students from Pre-Kindergarten through Year 6. The school also offers an Outside School Hours Care program.

St Denis offers an educational philosophy based on developmental learning, inclusivity and Christian ethos. The integrated curriculum covers all learning areas. The school promotes literacy and numeracy as a key focus, and has adopted a literacy and numeracy program based on the RAISE Program philosophies. This also includes the provision of a Reading Recovery teacher.

St Denis School has an integrated technology plan, implementing tablet technology in the Kindergarten to Year Three classrooms and a 1:to:1 iPad/laptop program in the Year Four to Six classrooms.

Educational Assistants are also employed to assist teachers with students requiring support. Students are involved in a variety of extra-curricular activities that enrich their school experience, as well as a range of academic competitions such as Speak Up Awards.

The Making Jesus Real programme is central to our school and these values are incorporated into our school policies and teaching programmes and permeates all learning areas.

St Denis has put in place Sustainability practices and strategies endeavouring to care for the environment that has been entrusted to us.

At St Denis we take pride in the diversity of cultures, skills and talents of all students.

All teaching staff are registered with the Teachers Registration Board (TRB).

- 3 Masters of Education
- 11 Bachelor of Education
- 1 Graduate Diploma in Education

The composition of staff consisted of 25 females and 4 males.

Workforce Composition

Teaching Staff (full-time)	8
Teaching Staff (part-time)	7
Teacher Assistants (full-time)	2
Teacher Assistants (part-time)	7
Office Administration (part-time)	2
Bursar (0.6)	1
Social Worker (0.2)	1
Grounds person (0.2)	1
There is one Indigenous staff member.	

Average attendance rate for PP – Year 6 students is 95%

YEAR LEVEL	ATTENDANCE PERCENTAGE
Kindy	94%
Pre-Primary	94%
Year One	97%
Year Two	94%
Year Three	97%
Year Four	94%
Year Five	96%
Year Six	96%

Parents are required to inform the school if their child is absent on a particular day.

Student attendance is recorded in SEQTA. Unexplained absences are followed up by text messages and phone calls to parents from the office by 9.30am daily.

Non-attendance is managed by staff who request parents to bring in a written absentee note.

5 Students results in NAPLAN (National Assessment Program – Literacy & Numeracy) - 2020

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NAPLAN assessments were not administered in 2020, therefore no data is presented for 2020.

6 Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

During the 2020 school year parent satisfaction has been of a very high level. Parent feedback from P&F meetings, social events and parent teacher interviews is largely positive. Families have indicated satisfaction, pastoral care, educational and support programs offered by the school.

At parent sibling interviews for 2020 many parents mentioned that they are made to feel welcome and that all staff are very personable, going above and beyond.

Parent feedback indicates that they are appreciative of with the high number of extra-curricular activities offered by a single stream school. They are also impressed with the generosity of the staff giving of their own time to provide these activities for the students in their care.

In addition, P&F events are well attended which indicates evidence of the school having a strong sense of connectedness to the school community.

Student satisfaction is gauged on student attendance, engagement and participation in the school. The students are always positive and engaged in activities within the school.

7 Post-school destinations

- Servite Catholic College – 8
- Aranmore College- 5
- Mercedes College– 5
- Newman College– 2
- Iona Presentation College - 1

- Balcatta Senior High - 1
- West Coast Steiner – 1
- Kingsway Christian College - 1
- Churchlands Senior High – 1
- Bob Hawke College - 1

8 School income broken down by funding source

Information on this aspect can be found on the My School Website: www.myschool.edu.au

9 Annual School Improvement Plan 2019 – Success Measures

Our Annual School Improvement Plan for 2020 had several smart goals across Learning, Engagement, Accountability and Discipleship. These goals together with our Strategic Plan provided great direction for us throughout the year. However, 2020's SIP was curtailed by the COVID Pandemic. Many of our goals for 2020 will flow over into 2021.

Goal 1: Review and formulate the Evangelisation Plan including the essential elements: Christian Witness, Primary Proclamation and Catechesis.

- Due to COVID the Professional Development Days was postponed to 2021.

Goal 2: Develop an Aboriginal Education Plan through collaboration with staff and CEWA

- Aboriginal Education Plan developed with assistance from CEWA staff
- Revisit curriculum inventory using the resource appropriateness matrix
- Include cultural competency training

Goal 3: Create a standardised literacy and numeracy dedicated time document & Unpack the Vision for Learning Website.

- Became a numeracy focus because of Covid
- Achieved: consult with CEWA numeracy consultant – school visits, upskilling school Numeracy Coordinator, new resources and have drafted a new Numeracy Plan
- Not achieved – Video of each teacher's numeracy dedicated time
- Upskilling teachers with numeracy teaching practice
- Update literacy dedicated time document

Goal 4: Improve our assessment methods and find consistency in assessment across the early years. Collaborate with staff and neighbouring schools to improve assessment strategies

- Due to COVID assessment goal wasn't implemented.
- Visited Santa Clara school to view best practice in maths and assessment strategies
- Justin continued NQS Audit.
- Focus for learning intentions and success criteria continued.

Goal 5: Promote and implement our sustainable school Program.

- Containers for Change
- Policy needs to be reviewed.
- Roster for 2021 needs to be implemented and followed.
- Update the chicken pen area

Board Chair Report 2020

Chairman's Report delivered by Sean Daniel.

Good evening and welcome to St Denis' 2020 Annual Community Meeting.

My name is Sean Daniel and it is a privilege to present an overview of the activities of the Board during the 2020 year.

Firstly, a brief recap of the change in governance structure. Earlier this year Catholic Education Western Australia Limited (CEWA Ltd) commenced operating on 1 January 2020.

CEWA Ltd essentially comprises of:

- The Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia (CECWA) and committees,
- Executive Director,
- Office Staff,
- Director of Religious Education,
- Principals,
- School Staff,
- Property lease and Management, and
- School Boards.

CECWA was established by the Bishops of Western Australia to ensure the Bishops' Mandate for Catholic education in WA is enacted.

CECWA and CEWA Ltd, including all Catholic Schools, are accountable to the Bishops of Western Australia, State and Commonwealth Governments and local communities.

CECWA is the board of CEWA Ltd and has responsibility for governing Catholic education in WA.

Incorporation has brought about several changes. So what does this mean for us?

The change in governance structure has minimal effect on the operations of our school. Some of changes to note are:

- 2021 Budget process was guided by the June 2020 CECWA Delegations of Authority document.
- Update to the Terms of Reference in the School Constitution to align with CEWA Ltd's new governance structure.
- From 2021, the School Board will be referred to as "The School Advisory Council".

I would like to introduce the Board members, and briefly outline the role and functions of the board.

The 2020 Board members are:

- Jodie Denham (Secretary)
- Greg Gordon (Treasurer)
- Chris Gooch
- Catherine Lech
- Angela Corbett (P&F rep)
- Anne Paterson
- Rebecca Rodgers (Vice Chair)

- Sean Daniel (Chair)

Ex-Officio members:

- Justin Tuohy (Principal)
- Cordelia Nicholas (Assistant Principal)
- Eugene Potito (Assistant Principal)
- Laura Wheeler (Finance Officer)
- Parish Priest: Fr Anthony

As Chairperson for the 2020 year, I have enjoyed working with the dedicated group of parents and staff on the Board. I would like to personally thank all the members of the School Board for their time and dedication throughout the year. For our two leaving members Catherine Lech and Greg Gordon, we thank you for your contribution.

It has been another busy year for the school with the added disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

While there were a number of challenges this year, the School Board would like to extend our appreciation to the St Denis Community for your ability to adapt to the unique and evolving environment.

The teachers, parents, and students were required to adjust quickly to different modes of learning. I would also like to acknowledge the leadership and hard work of Mr Tuohy and the St Denis teaching staff for their communication and implementation of the alternative methods of teaching.

I'm sure everyone would agree that our appreciation levels grew exponentially for teachers and the important role they play in our children's lives.

Key Achievements:

We have been extremely fortunate this year that the students (especially the year 6 graduating students) were still able to participate in the traditional annual activities at St Denis, such as the school camps, excursions and sports carnivals.

Some of the key highlights supported by the School Board in 2020 were:

- Transitioning into the new office space and security upgrade.
- Maintaining a sound financial position.
(special thanks to Laura Wheeler – 1st year as finance officer).
- Covid-19 communication and continuation of the 'kiss and drive' area.
- Preparation of a building maintenance plan and prioritising maintenance projects:
 - Re-roofing above the Pre-Primary, Yr 1 and 2 classrooms and the Music/Dance hall.
(special thanks to Catherine Lech and Chris Gooch).
 - Library upgrade and refurbishment (significant P&F contribution).
- Development of the Schools' 2021-2024 Strategic Plan.
- Online uniform shop (special thanks to Jodie Denham).
- Uniform review – Phase 1
(special thanks to Rebecca Rogers, Anne Paterson and Jodie Denham).
- Dedicated IT Coordinator position and updates to the school's website/newsletter
(special thanks to Mr Potito for his IT knowledge and development of a user friendly website).

Other key Student Achievements:

- Sporting events (special thanks to Mrs McNamara).
- Exhibitions/student performances.

(Science exhibition led by Mrs Bullen / Art exhibition by Mr Jeffrey / Catholic Performing Arts Festival – Choir led by Ms Murphy)

- Sacramental programs
(special thanks to the teachers and St Denis Parish and Fr Anthony).

On behalf of the St Denis School Board, we would like to say a BIG thank you to:

- Mr Justin Tuohy: for his leadership and visible presence within the school community.
- Assistant Principals: Ms Cordelia Nicholas and Mr Eugene Potito for their contribution and additional responsibilities.
- P&F Committee & Class representatives: for the significant role you have at St Denis in bringing together the School Community.
- Parents and care givers: for supporting classroom teachers, the school and P&F events.
- All the families leaving St Denis: we wish you all the very best and thank you for your contribution over the years to the St Denis community and hope you leave the school with fond memories.
- St Denis Parish and Fr Anthony for providing support to develop and nurture the students in the Catholic faith and Sacramental programs.
- St Denis Staff: Thanks to all the classroom teachers, education assistants, administration staff, and finance officer.

Despite the challenges brought upon them this year, the teaching staff continued to provide a high level of quality teaching to the students and deserve a well-earned rest.

To those staff who have left during the year or will be leaving at the end of this year, we thank you for your dedication and passion in helping to make St Denis what is today and wish you all the very best in your future endeavours.

A special thank you goes to Ms Leanne Fanetti, Mrs Jane Evans (Social Worker), Mrs Margi Somers, and Miss Annie Hughes.

Finally, thank you to the P&F Committee for organising the drinks tonight, Catherine Lech for organising the gifts & Jodie Denham for organising the food.

On behalf of the St Denis School Board, thank you for attending tonight's Annual Community Meeting. We wish the whole school community a safe and happy Christmas break, and we are looking forward to the much-loved end of year Edu-dance concert and seeing you all in the new year.

Sean Daniel
Board Chair