

Live in Faith
Grow in Wisdom
Seek Peace

St. Columba's School Bayswater



32 Roberts Road Bayswater WA 6053 PH: (08) 9208 2700 Fax: (08) 9370 3985
P.O. Box 61, BAYSWATER WA 6933 Email: admin@stcolsbays.wa.edu.au

AGM 15th November, 2016

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Good evening and welcome to our Annual General Meeting.

It is my privilege to present the 2016 Principal's report to the St Columba's School community. Once again the level of involvement and support from our wonderful community has been outstanding. As usual, I have been impressed and very appreciative of the high level of support the Board and P&F members have shown towards St Columba's. There is a very genuine desire to work together to help make this a better school for all everyone.

The 2016 school year has been another time of growth for our community and it is important that before we can look at the successes of the year, we must remember it is the joint partnership between school, home and the community that enables St Columba's School to grow and achieve great things.

My report is based on the CEWA Strategic Initiative of LEAD – Learning, Engagement, Accountability and Discipleship.

LEARNING

The teaching pedagogy and methodology adopted and implemented by staff members continues to grow and broaden. At our Professional Learning Community Meetings (PLCs), Professional Development days and Staff Briefings, key teaching strategies have been discussed and emphasised with each staff member, as well as their accountability and responsibilities as educators and leaders within the school and community. We have very experienced and passionate staff members at St Columba's School and they all humbly exhibit the Mercy Values on a daily basis. I am extremely fortunate to be their principal.

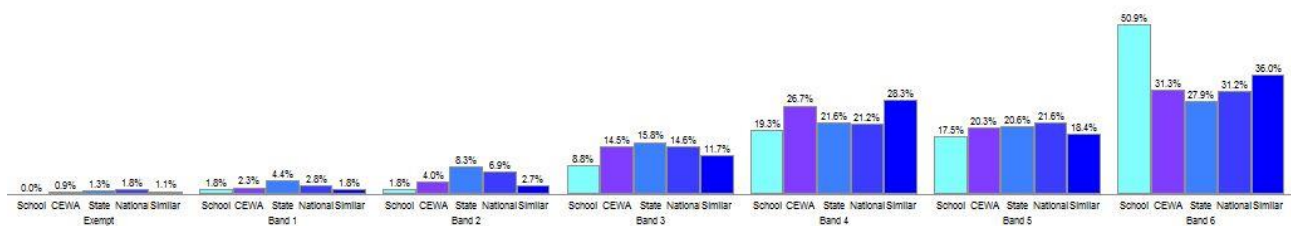
In 2016, we focused on further developing a variety of strategies to build on teacher’s existing knowledge and skills. These were:

- Developing a shared understanding of what is meant by critical and creative thinking, and what it looks like in the classroom.
- Attending various professional development days. These teachers came back and shared their knowledge with all teaching staff.
- Dedicated Professional Learning Community sessions to this area, which included: ☐ looking at various tools and strategies that could be employed in the classroom. These included Bloom’s Taxonomy and Tony Ryan’s Thinkers Keys.

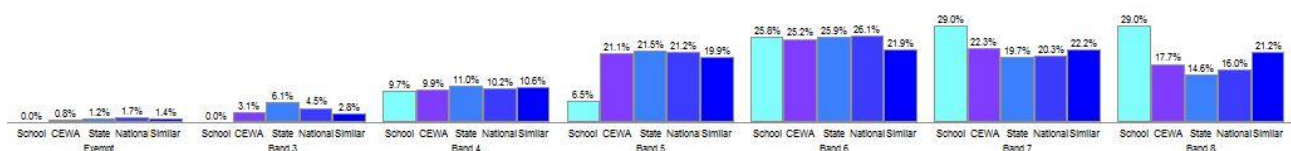
Our 2015 data indicated that students who achieved high scores in Year 3 were making satisfactory progress from Year 3 to Year 5, compared to previous years, but we wanted to increase the growth trend of all students. As a result of the work the staff have put into their teaching and learning, our 2016 NAPLAN results demonstrate a greater and more significant growth in 2016. This will continue to be a focus in coming years.

2016 NAPLAN Results Comparison – CEWA, State, National and Similar School

1013 St Columba's School (Bayswater)
2016 Grammar & Punctuation Year 3

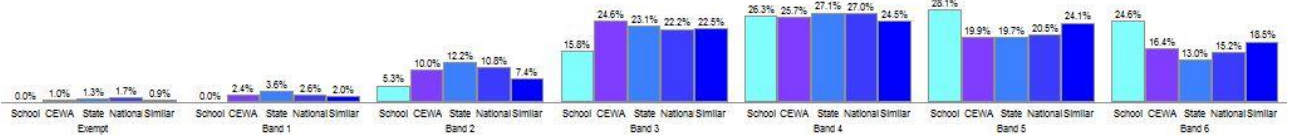


1013 St Columba's School (Bayswater)
2016 Grammar & Punctuation Year 5



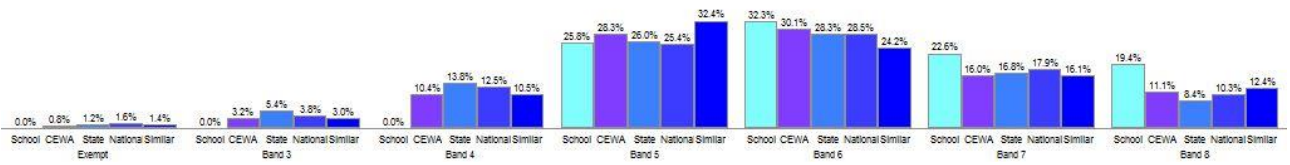
1013
2016 Numeracy Year 3

St Columba's School (Bayswater)



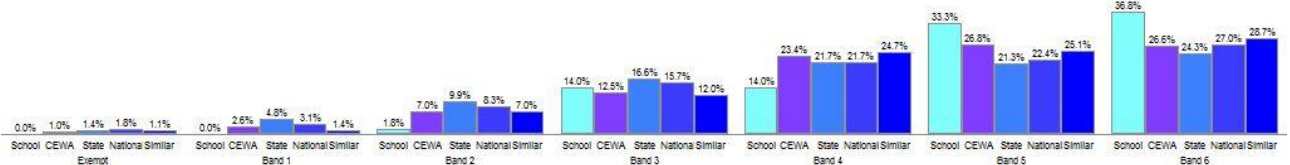
1013
2016 Numeracy Year 5

St Columba's School (Bayswater)



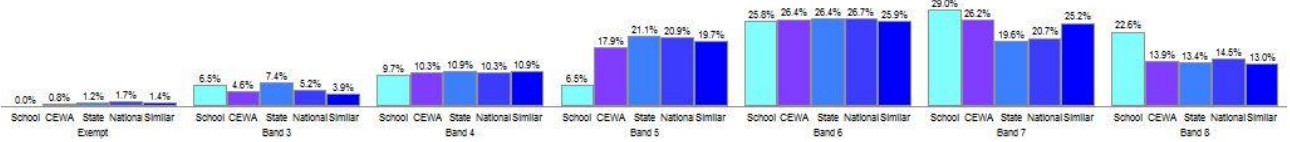
1013
2016 Reading Year 3

St Columba's School (Bayswater)



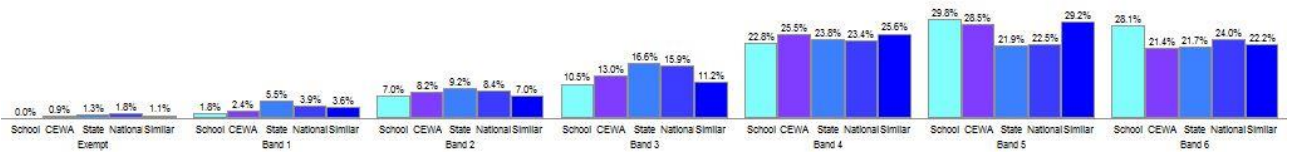
1013
2016 Reading Year 5

St Columba's School (Bayswater)



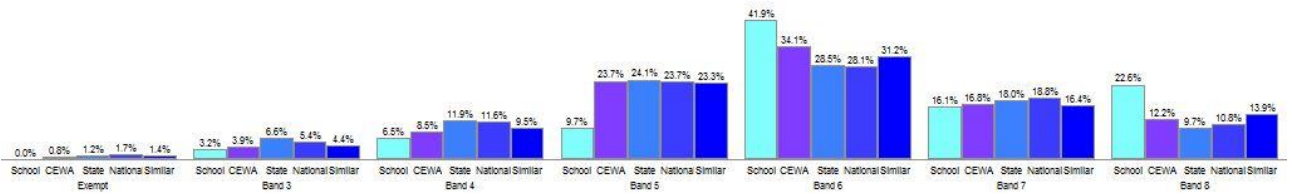
1013
2016 Spelling Year 3

St Columba's School (Bayewater)



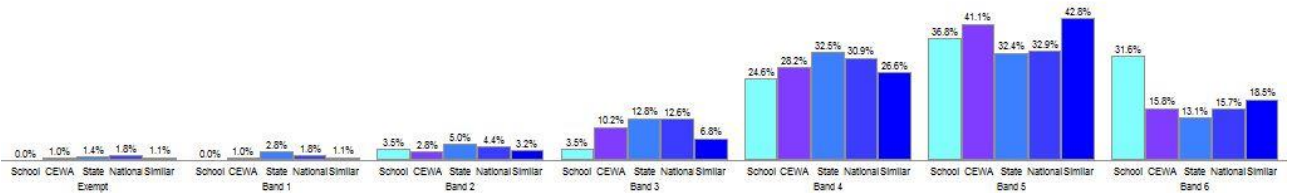
1013
2016 Spelling Year 5

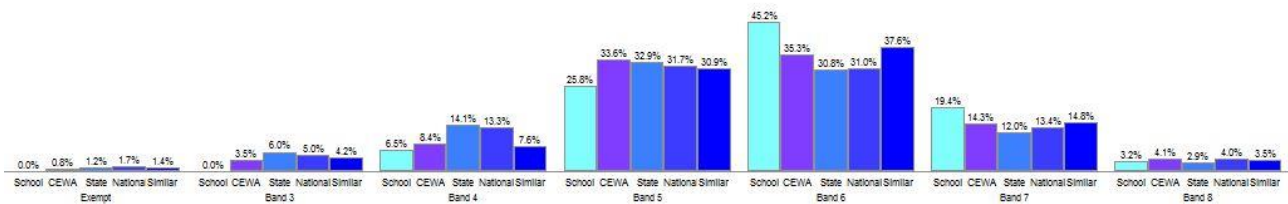
St Columba's School (Bayewater)



1013
2016 Writing Year 3

St Columba's School (Bayewater)





Other programs and processes that are working well at St Columba's and will be maintained include:

- Whole school testing and data collection and analysis.
- Early identification of students at risk.
- Literacy and Numeracy dedicated time.
- Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU) program in Year One.
- Supporting students with disabilities and learning difficulties.

In 2017, we have appointed two staff members, Eugene Potitto and Kristen Trott, as Innovation & Digital Technologies teachers. The Innovation and Digital Technologies Teachers will oversee the delivery of the technologies curriculum as well as innovation. These teachers will be collaborating with teachers and supporting them to embrace the use of technologies and innovation in their teaching and to enhance student learning. Focus will also be based around 21st Century Learning, Inquiry Based Learning, Project Based Learning and Design Thinking.

Weekly Professional Learning Community (PLC) meetings were scheduled throughout the year with in-depth discussions held during each session. These discussions were based around the analysis of school data, classroom strategies as well as reflecting upon and sharing of sound teaching pedagogy and experiences.

The 2017 Curriculum Plan is currently being formulated, with the emphasis being on Innovation and Digital Technologies, as well as sustaining what we have already implemented.

PRIORITIES 2017

- Innovations & Digital Technologies
- Explicit teaching of concepts.
- Regularly using and analysing data, to differentiate the curriculum, to cater for the needs of the children.
- Regular 'Shoulder to Shoulder' sessions will be timetabled for teachers within the school.
- The 21st Century Learning, incorporating digital learning & 'Design Thinking'.
- Continue to further develop and review our curriculum programs within the school.

- Continue to implement the Australian Curriculum and reporting.
- Continue to develop the practices that are showing progress in student achievement, across all Learning Areas.

ENGAGEMENT

It has been a very busy year with the Year of Mercy, as proclaimed by Pope Francis, Sisters of Mercy Milestone, 170 Years of Mercy Education in Australia, St Columba's 80th Celebration and Official Opening of the New Buildings by Dr Tim McDonald and Senator Chris Back. Our Mercy Value for 2017 was Mercy and our student leaders were fortunate enough to have participated in the 'Story of the Mercy Sisters' in Western Australia.

In my discussions with the staff, community members, and prospective parents, it is clear the school has a very good image and reputation both within the school and the local communities. We're certainly not perfect in what we do, and we do make mistakes, but we always endeavour to rectify issues and all decisions are made with the best interests of the students.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of the Parents & Friends' Association. Once again, they have continued to work together, throughout 2016, to raise the necessary funds to purchase much needed resources, but more importantly keeping the 'community' aspect within the school. They have achieved many targets, in both their fundraising capacity and in building community spirit, and that's what separates us from other schools.

A huge thank you to our retiring Board & P&F members, Heather Marrapodi, Phil Wild, Jenn Debono, Verity Donovan and Natalie Campbell. These members have been inspirational on so many different levels. We thank them for their contributions to the committees and the school.

ACCOUNTABILITY

As we move into a full double stream school, and having so many new staff employed over the last few years, the Leadership Team decided it was time for the Board, P&F and staff revisited the School's Mission statement and core values so that everyone could take ownership as we lived out the Mercy Values on a daily basis. These, as well as the new Strategic Plan, incorporating the Annual School Plan, will be distributed to the community via the school website.

In 2016, the school participated in a number of reviews, these being:

- Cyclical Review
- Insight Survey Review

In the Cyclical Review, it was suggested a greater emphasis be placed on 21st Century Learning to further increase the students' skills and understanding. This has been addressed by the appointment of the Innovation and Digital and Technologies Teachers, who will be working closely with the Leadership Team and classroom teachers. Parents will continue to be informed regularly of what we're achieving with this new portfolio as well as what is happening within the classrooms.

Although I'm not required, by CEWA, to share the results of the Insight Survey Results with the community, because of the training required to understand the data, I consulted the School Board and decided to engage an independent consultant to analyse the data and submit a summary. The report you have in front of you will be made available to the community, via the website, in the near future.

The Stage 7 Building program has been approved by the CEWA and construction will be commencing in 2017. The Stage 7 program includes a new Administration Building, Staffroom, Basketball/Netball court, Undercovered area and prominent entrance to the school. Once the new Administration Building is constructed parallel to Roberts St (where the basketball court is situated now), the old buildings will be demolished and the new basketball/netball court with an undercovered area will be constructed between the new Administration building and the Sr Irena Library. The Leadership Team has already identified the decrease in playing area and have commenced discussing the possibility of increasing the number of days down at Frank Drago Oval. If the decision is made to increase the days and more students down at Frank Drago, extra support staff will be accompanying the group. The students who choose to stay behind will be also be supervised on the day.

There are many elements within a Catholic school and administration processes that are undertaken to ensure the school runs effectively. At St Columba's School, we have a very dedicated team that work together in the office. I would like to thank Karen Meleca, Peta Santella and Lisa Slocum for their continued support and willingness to put in the extra hours for the school and community.

I wish to acknowledge the professionalism of all staff at St Columba's School. We are very fortunate to have such committed staff, that enjoys working together, and ensure student educational needs are met. I especially would like to thank Megan Dwyer and Deb Klatt for being outstanding leaders within this community. Both leaders have undertaken many responsibilities and duties during the year and have been very supportive of me and the staff members.

We won't be saying farewell to anyone in 2016, but will be welcoming to new staff members to St Columba's in 2017, in Years 4 & 5. Interviews will be held on Thursday and an announcement will be made in the near future. The staffing for 2017 has been finalised, but won't be made official until the end of the year. Changes may still occur before the end of the year.

St Columba's School, the School Board and P&F have been very proactive in ensuring that the school is well resourced. The members have assisted with the development and implementation of the Strategic & Annual School Improvement Plans (to be finalised in the near future and uploaded to the school website), formalising school priorities, Capital Development Planning, which includes our 2017 Stage 7 Building program and human and teacher resources. A huge thank you to both committees for their support throughout the year.

A special mention goes to our Mar Hube, Greg Armstrong and Karen Meleca, for their attention to detail. The regular 6.00am meetings were very productive, especially after having a short black or three. These members worked tirelessly throughout the year and their efforts and achievements are greatly appreciated.

DISCIPLESHIP

Parish relations have continued to be very positive during the past 12 months and Fr Minh-Thuy has done an outstanding job of working with us in partnership to make our community a better place to be. Although the sacramental programs should be more parish based and less school directed, as specified by the Bishops of Western Australia, we have continued to work closely with the parish catechists in 2016. This commitment will continue in 2017.

Religious Education and Faith formation are the primary purpose of Catholic schools. In partnership with all parents, the school and parish work together to assist the children to develop knowledge of their Catholic faith. The explicit teaching of Church doctrine and traditions, through the Religious Education Units of Work, which are mandated by the Bishops of Western Australia and the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia, are the resources from which all lessons are planned.

Throughout the year the children of St Columba's have supported a variety of charities including the Mercy Mission Day, LikeLink program, Caritas, Project Compassion, Catholic Mission, and St Vincent de Paul. Thank you to those who have supported these charities.

At St Columba's School we have been involved in the following:

- Ash Wednesday Celebration
- Sacramental Programs & Celebrations
- School/Parish Weekend masses.
- Celebrations during Holy Week
- Mercy Mission Day
- Liturgies and celebrations
- Staff Prayer
- Catholic Mission Celebrations
- Archbishop's Lifelink Appeal
- St Vincent De Paul Society
- Special Feast Day Masses
- Archbishop's RE Assessment

PRIORITIES 2017

- There will be a focus for the whole school community on further developing the link between the school and parish.
- Staff, parents and students will continued to be invited to take a more active role in their own faith development through the above mentioned initiatives and other initiatives, such as the invitation of guest speakers to further establish relationships between the school and parish.
- Provide opportunities for parent faith development.
- Sacramental Interactive Family Workshops
- Sacramental Reflection Days for Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation.

St Columba's Parish and the school continue to maintain a very close relationship. We have been blessed to have Fr Minh-Thuy as our Parish Priest and we sincerely appreciate his commitment to our school and to the students. Fr Minh-Thuy continues to work within our classrooms and

sacramental celebrations, bringing the teachings of Jesus alive in the everyday experiences of our students.

Before I conclude my report, I would like to sincerely thank the parents involved with the Pastoral Care group and Uniform shop. Their efforts in supporting the students and families in a voluntary capacity are remarkable. I also sincerely thank all those parents involved in the canteen and all other areas within the school. We have an amazing school community!

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to thank staff, parents and the wider community for the support given to the on-going development of our children at St Columba's School. We are truly blessed to be members of such a wonderful community.

I sincerely wish all members of our school a peaceful and joyous Christmas. May we all appreciate the significance of this time of rest and renewal as we gear up for a bright and exciting 2017.

Yours sincerely,

Greg Martin

Principal

15th November, 2016