

Principal's Report 2021

It is great pleasure that I present my Principal's Report for St Gabriel's School. The 2021 school year was another year defined by its challenges. In 2020 I wrote... "despite it being a year of adversity, it was more importantly a year of community, collaboration and resilience. I acknowledge and applaud; the tremendous work of the St Gabriel's School staff who demonstrated educational flexibility and agility as they navigated an ever changing landscape, the remarkable adaptability of the students who responded to each challenge with vigour and positivity and to the parents and carers who could not have been more supportive and understanding. St Gabriel's School clearly demonstrated what it stands for and who it is – a community that cares, shares and supports." These words are no less accurate when describing the current students, parents and staff.

We farewelled valued members of our community the conclusion of the year. Teachers, Jasminka Sudic and Rhiannon Akhurst. Both brought unique gifts to the school and added so much whilst with us. We wish both all the very best in their future endeavours. We also said good-bye two of our Board members, Lavender Diaz and Mardi R. Both ladies have been tremendous community members, assisting in every event, providing support, resources and time.

Our 2021 enrolment was above the forecast figure. Our enrolment at census was 239. The enrolment trajectory continues an upward plane. This is an extremely positive sign of school growth and a healthy indicator of community perception about of our community.

Stage 1 Development commenced in 2021. This initial stage involves: the establishment of a new Nature Play Space, the installation of glass panelling on the gym's southern end, the construction of a storage area on the gym's western side, the installation of new external doors and windows in the JP Area, the installation of new external doors and windows in the 2 area, the construction of a verandah on the southern side of the 2/3 area and stairs on the northern side of the same building.

The school successfully applied for a 1.5 million dollar Grant from the State Government to assist with Stage 2 of the Capital Development as outlined in the Master Plan. It is envisaged that during the 2022 school year, work will commence on a new Administration Building with the student toilets, Resource Room and current staff area being upgraded.

This development has been extremely well received and is a tribute to all involved in its inception. Opened by Archbishop Patrick O'Regan in November. The ceremony was attended by many dignitaries and special guests. The feedback on the day, and since, has been extremely positive. I would like to thank the Board for its leadership and commitment to a worthy project that has come to fruition. The work done is an excellent launching pad for future development.

The new Nature Play Space was an addition to the school that has had an immeasurable positive impact. It is a wonderful space for students to explore and "lose" themselves in imaginary places where their imaginations can be their guide. This is not only an area to be

enjoyed by the school children, it has been great to see the Play Group children and their parents engage with the activities and make a genuine connection with the school.

In 2021 the school launched its own Podcasting Studio. The facility proved to be a wonderful asset and, with the assistance of James Meston from ArchD Radio, has seen the production of high quality Podcasts. I would like to pay special mention to a group of our year students: Daniel Seal, Andros Lual and Ayla Kadarusman who won ***The PodCasting Team of the Year*** at the 2021 ArchD Podcasting Awards.

At the commencement of the 2020 school year the middle/upper primary unit was renovated to establish 3 distinct learning areas as well as the addition of STEM Room. Although this was a relatively minor renovation, it has had a significant impact on the structure, possibilities and quality of learning taking place. In 2021 the new STEM Space housed the school's bank of 3D Printers. These devices enabled cutting edge experiences for the upper primary students as they ventured into a world of opportunity not previously explored.

The area was also used as a base for the newly introduced Lego League Teams. This group of students from years 4 through to 6, engaged in a myriad of problem solving tasks set to hone their collaborative and problem solving skills. The student competed in regional championships at Pedare College and not only performed well, but had a great time.

In 2021 St Gabriel's also had its first group of teams competing in Tournament of Minds. Tournament of Minds (TOM) is a program for all primary and secondary students providing the opportunity to solve authentic, open-ended challenges that foster creative, divergent thinking whilst developing collaborative enterprise, excellence and teamwork. Challenges are set in the following disciplines... The Arts, Language Literature, Social Sciences and STEM. I would like to express my gratitude to Miss Burton and Mr Burness for co-ordinating out Teams.

The Catholic School's Music Festival returned to a live format in 2021. Our choir joined hundreds of other students at the Entertainment Centre for an evening a spectacular entertainment and sing along fun. A big well done to Choir members and thank you to our Choir Trainer Mrs Jacqui Williams.

Throughout the year, students took part in a myriad of sporting carnivals and events. We once again fielded Saturday morning teams in cricket. I would like to acknowledge all the students who participated throughout the year and recognise the work of Mrs Anita Marino and Mr Adam Barber for their co-ordination and support of the programmes. We farewelled Adam at the end of the year. Adam certainly was the driving force behind our Saturday morning participation and his infectious enthusiasm inspired many boys and girls to have a go throughout the year across the sporting spectrum.

Programmed Maintenance continued work as per their contract in 2021. Year 2 of a 6 year schedule was completed. Works continued in the 4/5/6 unit and gym area as well as

external repainting around the school. This programme ensures that the grounds and buildings are being maintained and always presented at a high standard.

Catholic Education SA continued to review its fee structure for 2021 and beyond. A fee reduction was announced for all families at St Gabriel's. Once again, fees were not charged for the term 3 intake in 2021.

It was unfortunate that community events and excursions were virtually once again, non-existent in 2021. I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to members of the Community Group who continued to plan, just in case, and ensured that if needed they were ready to go!

Once again we had a cohort of students graduate as part of the Children's University. This year's ceremony was back in Bonython Hall. I would like to congratulate the girls and boys who were part of the 2021 program and give a special mention to Helen Vloklis, who ensures the program's smooth running at the school level, giving tremendous support to the families involved.

As mentioned earlier, the staff and students were wonderful during a trying and at times overwhelming year. There was much that was postponed and lost – rather than lamenting however, there was the pursuit of opportunity and a realisation that through adversity comes opportunity. This was a sentiment that was embraced and nourished in 2021. To all staff and students, I say a sincere thank you.

I would like to acknowledge and thank all volunteers who supported the school in some way during the year. A special mention to the members of the school board led by Felicity Seal. As principal, I could not ask for a more cohesive and supportive group. We have achieved a lot in a short space of time and I look forward to the exciting opportunities and challenges that lay ahead. As difficult as this year was, it has provided a sound platform in terms of finances, enrolments, personnel and community tenor, from which we can launch into exciting opportunities in the years to come.

Sean Hill

Principal

St Gabriel's School

principal@sgs.catholic.edu.au

School Context

St Gabriel's School is a community oriented Catholic primary school of approximately 300 students. Our School was opened in 1955 welcoming families from the local community especially those who had recently migrated to Australia. Today we welcome students from over 29 different cultural backgrounds from the local area and surrounding suburbs. Faithful

to the founding order of the school, the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and our Catholic Tradition we seek ways to invite all to come to know and experience the love of God as expressed through Jesus. The school achieves its mission by providing learning experiences and opportunities that touch the hearts of all students. We are a school where the education of the heart is at the heart of our education.

We are a welcoming and caring school where the emotional and social needs of students are supported through positive relationships and connection with families, the Clearview-Kilburn Catholic Parish and our local community. We nurture in our students a love of self and love of other. We encourage our students to be internally motivated and be self managed learners who seek quality in all that they do.

When you visit St Gabriel's you are taken by the warmth and enthusiasm of our students and staff. We seek to nurture and support students to reach their full potential. Meaningful learning opportunities are provided for students in all of the key learning areas. Students work together in collaborative learning spaces under the care of staff who guide and support them in their learning. We work to create in all students a love of learning. All our staff are committed to professional learning and seeking ways to improve learning outcomes for all students.

All staff participate in a rich variety of professional development and work collaboratively to support all students in their learning. At St Gabriel's we talk about every teacher being a teacher of all students. We ensure that all staff come to touch the hearts of every student through their care and connection.

Students experience a rich Performing Arts Program together with opportunities to participate in the weekly lessons, Festival Choir, singing and individual tuition lessons. At St Gabriel's, students study the Italian Language and Culture through an exciting and highly recognised learning program. Students undertake Physical Education lessons and fitness activities throughout the week. In the older year levels there are opportunities for students to be selected and represent the school in various sports. Throughout the year all students have the opportunity to participate in the Active After School Sports program. We believe that at St Gabriel's we enrich the heart through providing a wide variety of experiences. Each learning space has a variety of resources to support students in exciting learning including Interactive screens, notebooks, Ipads , hands-on equipment and subject specific materials. All our learning spaces have been designed to support and encourage varied learning experiences. There are spaces for students to work in groups, places for students to obtain individual support from teachers, and areas to support learning in the various subjects. The new Nature Paly Space is an excellent addition to the school, providing students a space to explore, create and collaborate.

The Sacred Heart Centre, our sports and performing arts space provides the school with the space for Sport, Play, Drama, Performances and Celebrations. Our School Library has the feel of an inviting book-shop, a place where students are invited to come and enjoy books and literature. Our secure outside spaces include ovals, playing courts, gardens, playgrounds, seating and shaded areas.

The St Gabriel's School Board, is the key group who ensure the governance, decisions and operations of the school are conducted in a manner that upholds the Catholic Tradition and ensures the best learning opportunities for all students. The community is supported by the Community Group who provided opportunities for community building, support and FUN-raising. We encourage and support all members of the school community to share their talents and time with us to support better learning outcomes through volunteering time, participating in activities and participating in community events.

At St Gabriel's we are committed to nurturing and developing faithful young people of heart, who connected in relationship, have developed a passion for quality learning so that they can touch the hearts of others and make a positive contribution to the community.

2021 Data

Student Enrolments

R - 53

1 - 35

2 - 25

3 - 31

4 - 27

5 - 28

6 - 30

Student Attendance

Year Level	Attendance %
Reception	91
Yr 1	92
Yr 2	93
Yr 3	88
Yr 4	90
Yr 5	94
Yr 6	92

Non-attendance is monitored by class teachers in consultation with school leadership. A text message is sent to connect home and school when students have been away without a reason.

School email, school app and student diaries were used for parents to explain for their child's absence. Student lateness and absentees are views and monitored by class teachers and school leadership.

a) Staff Composition & Attendance

Male - 10

Female - 30

Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander – 0

Teaching staff attendance for the 2021 school year was 92.5% and our teachers took sick leave, carer's leave and bereavement leave, as is their industrial entitlement.

2021 Teaching Staff - 23 (18.2 FTE)

2021 Non-Teaching Staff - 17 (8.1 FTE)

b) Staff Retention

In Term 1 2021, 100% of the teaching staff was retained from the beginning of the previous programmed year, with 1 new staff member joining the school.

At the conclusion of the year, two teachers and an ESO left the school.

c) Staff Qualifications

In our school we are fortunate to have a number of teachers with two or more qualifications in education. 15% have Masters Degrees, 35% have Post Graduate degrees, 80% have Bachelor degrees, 35% have Diplomas and 40% have Graduate Certificates in Religious Education.

Student Learning Outcomes - NAPLAN Results 2021 displayed as overall mean scores

NAPLAN averages	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Year 3 –	School - 433 National – 437	School – 412 National -425	School - 435 National - 433	School – 436 National - 440	School - 416 National – 403
Year 5 –	School - 512 National – 493	School - 478 National - 480	School - 501 National – 505	School – 503 National - 483	School - 483 National - 495

NAPLAN data is analysed and used to explore whole school trends and individual student learning needs. Key areas are addressed and staff professional learning is developed in response to needs.

Satisfaction Surveys

Staff

	No	Sometimes	Yes
I enjoy coming to work at St Gabriel's	0%	10%	90%
I am respected and appreciated by my colleagues	0%	25%	75%
I am able to explore areas of interest within the school and utilise my skills and talents	0%	20%	80%
I have the resources required to do my job effectively	0%	10%	90%
I feel I am consulted in regard to decisions that affect me	0%	30%	70%
I am optimistic about the direction the school is heading	0%	15%	85%

Students

	No	Sometimes	Yes
I enjoy coming to school at St Gabriel's	0%	25%	75%
My teacher lets me know what is expected of me	1%	20%	79%
If I am stuck, I can ask for help	0%	20%	80%
Students at St Gabriel's are treated fairly	0%	26%	74%
I feel safe in the playground at St Gabriel's	0%	15%	85%
My classroom is a good place to be	0%	5%	95%

Parent Survey

WELL BEING AND LEARNING:

QUESTION	% Strongly disagree	% Disagree	% Neither agree or disagree	% Agree	% Strongly Agree
My child feels safe at SGS	0	0	5	15	80
My child likes being at SGS	0	0	5	20	75
I feel comfortable approaching SGS staff	0	5	10	70	15
SGS supports the faith formation of my child	0	0	20	60	20
Teachers at SGS expect my child to do their best	0	2	8	70	20
Teachers at SGS provide my child with useful feedback about their school work	0	10	10	60	20
My child is making good progress at SGS	0	2	8	65	25

FACILITIES AND COMMUNITY:

QUESTION	% Strongly disagree	% Disagree	% Neither agree or disagree	% Agree	% Strongly Agree
The facilities at SGS are well maintained and presented	0	0	10	70	20
SGS seeks the views and opinions of parents and guardians and takes suggestions into account	0	5	20	60	15
I feel like a valued member of the SGS community	0	5	20	60	15
SGS seeks to engage the whole school in activities that develop community	0	5	25	55	15
SGS takes parent opinions seriously	0	10	30	40	20