

## Mr Andrew Kelly's, Principal, Annual Community Meeting

Tuesday, 16 November, 2021

I have been so touched by all the well-wishes I have received since the announcement of my leaving way back in July this year. But tonight it's my turn to say thanks. Whether we've seen eye-to-eye or rarely agreed at all, my conversations with you, staff, Advisory Council, P&F, parents, students – are what have kept me honest, kept me inspired, and kept me going. Every day, I have learned from you. You have made me a better principal, and you have made me a better person.

I began teaching in 1993 believing I could make a difference; I worked in some very challenging and demanding schools right across Perth. It was in these schools where I witnessed the power of faith, and the quiet dignity of people in the face of struggle and loss. This is where I learned that change only happens when ordinary people get involved, get engaged, and come together to demand it. It's the conviction that we are all created equal. I have said from time to time, no one is more important or less important than anyone else. We are all equal no matter what our role is in a school!

After four years as your Principal, I still believe that. St Luke's is a beacon of light for this region, a school very well respected and admired – we are a school that SHINES brightly, forever immersed in our Rainbow Values.

If I had told you four years ago (in February, 2018) that we would increase student numbers from 449 to 537, significantly improve our financial position, that we would make significant improvements in the aesthetics of our school grounds and gardens, introduce a Parish Based Sacramental Program, introduce a gifted and talented (SHINE) program; build vegetable gardens and chook pen along with recycling and worm farms to promote sustainable practices, that we would introduce Science as a specialist learning area, that we would add nature play to the bushgrove, adventure playground and in Kindy and Pre Primary areas; rename the canteen to Kangaroo Cafe, refurbish Kindy with a new kitchen and flooring, create a third Kindy learning space, replace gutters and fix roofing along Year 2 and Pre Primary, increase security cameras around the school, relocate the Uniform Shop offsite; install new televisions into ECE classrooms, improve wifi (eventually) and new cabling plus new hubs and server, complete the vision from 2017 installing 21st Century contemporary spaces into Years 3-6 with lockers and padlocks for Yr6, design a new school website and newsletter, send staff to Melbourne for a Google Conference and Tasmania for MJR, provide quality PD to build staff capacity, increase opportunities for staff to complete a variety of leadership courses, fight the good fight with the CEWA to have a bubble class, introduce a 3 Year Old Program, reintroduce Playgroup, create a Sensory room, introduce BrightStart, include a very strong foci on well-being and mindfulness for staff and students, introduce the Speak-Up Awards, introduce AUSLAN, increase Aboriginal learning, language and understandings in classrooms and at assemblies, introduce 7 Steps to Writing, develop problem solving strategies with Dr Paul Swan, utilise the expertise of Diana Rigg to support our Spelling and reading of data, creating a data wall for all students, increase numeracy and literacy resources, install new air conditioners into some classrooms and the canteen, have students attend One Big Voice, have students perform dances at Telethon and the Christmas Pageant, design a new school logo, develop a new strategic plan, acknowledge student achievements winning sporting medals, participate in a Triathlon, State Cross Country and a Baseball Carnival, give students an opportunity to talk live on 89.7fm radio, introduce Day for Daniel as part of the child-safe framework, continue building parish school links, modify outdoor spaces for Pre Primary, increase the number of TSH students enrolled, redefine the work of our EAs by training them in Mini-Lit and Mac-Lit and working with small groups of children, introduce EMU to support maths understanding, introduce electronic lego, introduce minecraft as an after school curricular activity, welcome Lulu as our

Wellness Dog; embark on a massive change around how we teach literacy by introducing Heggerty Phonics and Science of Reading and this is on top of everything else that we do from day to day and year to year.

You might have said our sights were set way too high. But that's what we did. That's what you all did. You were the change. You answered the call, and in doing that, you made St Luke's a better school, a stronger school.

Our school will be threatened whenever we take it for granted. Don't take all this great work for granted, you must continue to look at ways of improving this school, making it even better than what it is now. You have to continue working as a team and challenge each other. As Pope Francis said, have one foot in the past but have one foot firmly planted in the future.

To my remarkable staff both past and present: For four years – and for some of you, less time – I've drawn from your energy, and tried to reflect back what you displayed every day: heart, and character, and belief. I've watched you grow, some of you get a litter greyer, some of you celebrate milestone birthdays, have children, even grandkids and start incredible new journeys of your own. Even when times got tough and frustrating, you never let the small stuff get the better of you. The only thing that makes me prouder than all the good we've done is the thought of all the remarkable things you'll achieve from here and into the future.

I wish to thank Maura and Sarah for being terrific Assistant Principals. I have enjoyed the banter, laughs and comradery. I really appreciate your support, guidance, loyalty and commitment to seeing through the learning we wanted to see happen at our school and it is paying off. You are both salt of the earth!

An extra special mention to Maura for sticking by me. I really appreciated your honesty, hard work and the way you showed me how to spend the school's money without a conscience. I want it and I want it now was your motto in life; I thought at the time! I especially want to thank you for leading our school in Term Two when I was having an awesome time on LSL. You led our school very well, thank you!

Thank you Sarah for all your selfless hard work, patience and unwavering commitment to ensuring the challenges faced with wifi will become a thing of the past. You showed great character and intestinal fortitude. It would have been so much easier to say it was all too hard but you persevered.

Thank you to Justin Kirry for stepping up as Acting Assistant Principal in Semester Two, 2018 and again in 2019 and 2021. You have been a great support and I want to acknowledge the work and commitment you showed by attending all Advisory Council and P&F meetings and leading our school with regards to the logo change. This was a mammoth amount of work undertaken, a job really well done!

A very special thank you to Leone Simmonds, Marjorie Dohnt and Heather Rudez for working alongside me over the four years. We worked well together, the respect, honesty, banter and knowing each other's thinking has helped in making sure as our school grew and grew, we weren't frightened of the challenges that lay ahead of us but more of a celebration of our efforts and hard work to make St Luke's the best school possible. Thank you St Leone, St Marjorie and St Heather you have been very hard working, giving so much to our school without asking for anything in return. Thank you ladies!

To Teachers leaving at the end of the year:

Jo Harvey, Zoe Lynch, Jodi Lyra, Georgia Mola, Susan Kadak, Emily Welsh, Meg Horne and Jenni Allen from TSH. After 10 wonderful years at St Luke's, Jo Harvey has been appointed Pre Primary teacher at Swan Christian College. Zoe Lynch who worked at St Luke's for 15 wonderful years was appointed a substantive position at Wesley College, South Perth. Jodi Lyra looked after our Uniform Shop for 4 years and was a volunteer before that left us at the end of last term as we relocated the Uniform Shop offsite. Georgia Mola has been appointed Pre Primary teacher at Queen of Apostles, Riverton. Susan Kadak has been appointed Kindy teacher at St Gerard's, Westminster. Emily Welsh who is on maternity leave from Padbury Catholic will continue to do relief at St Luke's. Meg Horne was appointed to Mercy College, Koondoola. Jenni Allen from TSH has decided to call it a day and retire after 5 years working at St Luke's. To all of you, thank you for sharing your gifts and talents with staff and children. We wish you well, thank you for your amazing contribution to our school and thank you for endearing us with your professionalism, charm and support for the children in your care. You will all be missed but never forgotten. Please join me in thanking these amazing staff.

It is with great sadness I also have to announce that Marjorie Dohnt will be retiring at the end of this year. For Marjorie, it will be mixed emotions having worked at St Luke's for 21 years. She has completed her role with distinction, professionalism and honesty. We have been really grateful to have worked with Marjorie who helped guide, challenge and support the school's endeavours ensuring we have very healthy finances, which will stand our school in good stead moving forward. Marjorie will now be able to enjoy retirement playing more golf, being more present for her family while sipping on champagne at her leisure. Please join me in thanking Marjorie for her service to St Luke's and her 29 years in Catholic Education. May the wind be always at your back Marjorie, God bless.

I wish to thank Fr Stephen and Fr Reubenson. Fr Stephen has once again had to face many difficult challenges this year. On behalf of the school community, I wish to thank Fr Stephen for his support, spiritual guidance and leadership. We also wish to thank Fr Reubenson for celebrating many class liturgies, masses and sacraments with us and we look forward to more in 2022. We thank them both for their commitment to our school and look forward to our continued association with them and the Parish. I also wish to acknowledge and thank Michelle Dastlik for her incredible hard work coordinating the Sacramental Masses and keeping communication open between the Parish, School and families. Awesome job Michelle, well done!

And to the Advisory Council and P&F members both past and present – you welcomed me in, you too lived and breathed the hard work of change because, yes, you helped change our school for the better too. You are the best parents anyone could hope for, and I will be forever grateful. To the Advisory Council Chairperson, Lucie McCrory, you were an absolute rock, a pillar of strength for me, a confidant, guide and critical friend. I cannot thank you enough for believing in me and supporting me. I will be forever grateful to you. Thank you Adrian Firth who gave great counsel in regards to ensuring we have strong Parish School links, your unwavering support ensuring children and families were at the centre of our discussions were very poignant. Thank you for your support of me and our endeavours as a Council. Both Lucie and Adrian are leaving the Council this year. Let's show our appreciation to both Lucie and Adrian.

To Kathryn Peake, President of the P&F for the past three years, who was also a fabulous support as she rallied her troops to ensure we had a very strong community presence at St Luke's. You shared your gifts and talents with us and you too had a strong child centred approach, which I valued very much. You have left the P&F in a strong position moving forward, thank you. Thank you also to Claudia Mottolini, Megan Proud and Alana Metaxas. All of you shared your strengths and passion with us and gave so much to our school. You always gave of yourselves without asking for anything in return, you have been wonderful gifts to our school.

That's why I leave soon very optimistic about this school moving forward because I know our work has helped so many children past and present. The children yesterday and today will be the leaders of this community tomorrow and I know we have helped these young people become skilled enough to be the great leaders we expect them to be in the not too distant future.

It has been the honour of my life to serve you and work alongside you all. I will be praying for you every day. For now, I do have a few things to ask of you as your Principal – the same things I asked when I arrived here four years ago. Make sure our school remains Christ centred, child focused and research informed, work as a team, and let everyone know.....St Luke's is not a good school St Luke's is an outstanding school!

Thank you, God bless you and May the Force Be With You, Always!

The Advisory Council must carry out the following functions:

- support planning for the present and future operation of the Catholic school;
- provide membership, at the principal's request, on selection panels for the
- employment of staff to the Catholic school in accordance with the relevant
- CECWA Policies and Executive Directives;
- provide membership on the panel that recommends the appointment of a
- Principal in accordance with the relevant CECWA Policy and Executive
- Directives;
- in consultation with the Principal, communicate about the Catholic school and
- about Catholic education to persons and organisations in the School
- Community;
- endorse the Catholic school's annual budget before submission to CECWA for
- approval; and
- advise the Principal on school financial matters such as performance against
- budget, sustainability, and capital and recurrent planning.

Advisory Council membership conditions are:

- a commitment and desire to promote Catholic education and give service to
- the Catholic School Community;
- a commitment to the safety, wellbeing and pastoral care of all students and
- staff;
- an ability to work cooperatively and constructively with the Principal, school
- leadership team and all other members of the Advisory Council;
- the possession of skills, competencies and experience that are reflective of,
- relevant and beneficial to the Catholic School Community; and
- a sufficiency of time to devote to Advisory Council duties.