

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT AGM – JUNE 2022

### 2021 School Year

We began the 2021 knowing a little more of what impacts the COVID-19 pandemic would have on our start to the year. We were able to hold many of our usual events including our staff dedication at Base Church just prior to students returning. This was a reminder of the importance of our vision to excel in Christian education and character, inspiring greatness, while serving communities and impacting nations. Our mission is to partner with families in providing a Biblical Worldview. We seek to train and equip our students with leadership and godly values to achieve personal excellence. We desire to model grace, justice, and generosity. Each term we focus on values that enable us to explore the importance of a community that learn together.

Term 1 - Love, Grace Forgiveness, Truth, Learning

Term 2 - Vision, Faith, Leadership, Accountability, Service

Term 3 - Respect, Obedience, Responsibility, Integrity, Excellence, Righteousness

Term 4 - Discipleship, Compassion, Humility, Perseverance, Generosity, Justice

These include verses of Scripture that are explored through weekly chapel services, our assembly time as well as daily devotions for staff and students. The impact of this focus allows us to build our understanding together. We met together weekly for Monday Morning Praise and Chapel services with students. Our Easter reflections included a Palm Sunday experience with palm branches as well as an Easter service.

Each term we held our tours for prospective enrolments online to allow families to see if this is the kind of school they are looking for. They were held on the following dates;

Term 1 – 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2021 (Online School Tour)	27 Families
Term 2 – 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 (Online School Tour)	27 Families
Term 3 – 16 <sup>th</sup> August 2021 (Online School Tour)	22 Families
Term 4 – 8 <sup>th</sup> November 2021 (Online School Tour)	25 Families

Our Early Learning Centre (ELC) turns 5 this year and we have seen a steady uptake in enrolments which are offered to those enrolled in Reception at Bethany.

ELC enrolments:

2017 - 30 38%

2018 – 36 46%

2019 -49 62%

2020 -51 65%

2021 -61 78%

Student attendance has remained steady with 94% overall and 91% for our Indigenous students. These students make up less than 2% of our school population.

60% of our students come to school from English speaking backgrounds.

71% of all enrolments in 2021 come from our local suburbs of Paralowie, Parafield Gardens and Burton.

We held our official opening of our 3 - 6 Learning Block for which we received a grant of \$150,000 from the Block Grant Authority, which is funded by the



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Commonwealth Government. We were able to enjoy some time lapse footage of the building process which we recorded to share with students throughout the process. We began the process of planning for a nature play space and received Capital Grants totalling \$200,000 from the State Government to support this development. This will finish off the area that was created after removing the transportable buildings at the end of 2019.

There continued to be the requirement for parents and staff to check in on site with a QR code to help reduce any community transmission of the COVID-19 virus. Our parent community continued to support us with the interruptions and adaptations that were required like parent teacher meetings which we were able to hold face to face under strict guidelines. This was appreciated and helped to ensure we continue to work with our community in helping every student to learn and grow.

Our staff Professional Learning has continued with a focus on enabling student agency. The three-year 'ALab' project challenged us to consider how we continue to find ways forward to enable all students to flourish. We have been exploring how the schooling system sometimes limits possibilities for flourishing. We have spent some time imagining the desired future where we see that every person matters and that we each have something to contribute to the world. I have also really benefitted from a focus on being a 'learner leader' in 2021. The impact of COVID-19 slowed down many of the opportunities to meet with colleagues and so I deliberately found ways to continue my learning journey to ensure that Bethany Christian School continues to grow and develop. Two courses that impacted my practice were the Principals' Leadership Academy led by Professor Ethan Bernstein from the Harvard Business School and Leading an Adaptive School Culture by David Runge, Co-founder and Director of Future Schools.

Our Year 5 & Year 6 students went on camp and our Year 3 and Year 4 students held special sleepover events at school. These were wonderful times of community building and learning a range of outdoor and indoor skills. Our Student Representative Council (SRC) met together regularly and organised some events including casual clothes days, a pyjama day and a market day. This market day was a collaboration that was in response to several students who had created products that they wanted to make available to other students. Rather than start with one or two groups selling products, we decided together that a special market day would be a wonderful way to support our entrepreneurial students. The SRC did an awesome job of making this happen.

Our ELC students held a Brilliance Exhibition with amazing products. It was wonderful to see the incredible creativity of students as they shared their Brilliance work with us. This work is one way we can continue to help children build skills and capabilities that they will find very useful for life. The ability to solve problems, overcome difficulties and work with others will be key to a successful future for all of us. Learning through experiences is a valuable way for our children to discover more about themselves in the context of community.

Our Bethany Choir held a performance for their parents in Term 3 to showcase their repertoire and to further develop their skills. They also were able to record the National Anthem for use for our weekly meetings.



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The other innovation that we enjoyed was the Cultural celebration. This was a modified way of celebrating the many diverse cultures and answered the question, "How might we co-create a cultural celebration in order to build awareness and respect?" This enabled us to look at our past experiences, new ideas, and to hear from students, what they might like to learn. The event took place over a week and included our ELC exploring culture through the 5 senses using sensory tables. Receptions shared 'treasure boxes' filled with treasures that told their story. Year 1 students marched in a lantern parade to show what their cultural artwork lanterns. Year 2 students sang and created posters and presentations to share how our cultures make us one people in Australia. Year 3 students presented some cultural dances. Year 4 students shared their learning on how waste management changed over time and became cultural explorers through dance, stories, performance, art, craft, food, languages & games. Year 5 students hosted games from around the world. Year 6 students led workshops of cultural experiences to share their knowledge with others.

This year, our Year 6 graduation and ELC graduation were both able to include parents in the room which we realised was a privilege to be enjoyed.

2021 was a year of growth with several teachers taking maternity leave. Bethany Doveton from Reception, Rachael Lee from Year 3, and Amelia Chandra from Year 1. We welcomed back Emily Bondarenko as an ELC Director, Rebecca Daddow joined our Reception team, Rebecca Thomson joined the Year 1 team, and Ashleigh Heida joined the Year 6 and Curriculum teams. We did also have Estelita Hester take leave due to unforeseen health issues and we continue to pray for her recovery. At the end of the year, we farewelled Joshua Pichugin from IT and Sarah Huntley from the library. We also welcomed a number of new babies. Rachael and Daniel Lee welcomed Reuben Daniel Lee on 1/8/21. Bethany and Ian Doveton welcomed Reuben Timothy Doveton on 21/8/21. Amelia and Steve Chandra welcomed Calvin Gabriel Chandra on 13/10/21. Joel and Brittany Tothill welcomed Finley Joel Tothill on 5/11/21.

## **REPORTS:**

### **Deputy Principal- Debbie Clifford**

#### **Student & Staff Wellbeing**

- The Wellbeing Team, consisting of Leeony Pfeiffer (school counsellor), Elise Ottens (social worker), Priya Wilson (school nurse) and I have continued to meet weekly to network and report back about what each person has been working on throughout the week
- Our school events resumed to a pre-COVID19 pattern. COVID19 restrictions for parents have been significantly modified to allow a greater access to the school site.
- Student Attendance is monitored and communication with parents maintained in order to maintain and improve attendance.
- The new collaborative case management team was set up to support a high needs students.
- Student behaviour at school has been extremely positive.

#### **Social Worker- Elise Ottens**

- Programs regularly interrupted by COVID
- The DRUMBEAT program ran in term 3 2021 with year 5 boys and is expected to resume in term 2 2022 with year 5 girls

- Circle of Security Parenting Program was put on hold due to parents not being allowed on site but will start as soon as practical
- 36 referrals for social work support in the last year covering a range of issues - domestic violence, child abuse, family breakdown, custody issues, financial difficulty, parenting support, attendance issues, homelessness, mental health issues for both parents and children, disability support and terminal illness.

#### School Counsellor- Leeony Schrapel

- The Counselling room has seen a variety of issues with children presenting with grief and loss, high anxiety, anger, trauma, self-esteem, the need for social skills, and issues related to family breakdown.
- This year has seen an increase in anxiety related counselling as some children have experienced the impact of COVID on top of the loss of beloved and grandparents and other extended family members, which has required a sensitive and professional response to help these children navigate their way forward.
- With the 'topsy turvy' start to 2022 and high number of student absences, it was a good opportunity to catch up on admin work. This included reporting back to parents, and maintaining counselling records required for reporting to my professional body PACFA (Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia) and accessing counselling supervision.
- Staff have been supported with informal one on one counselling, and informal classroom catch ups after school.
- A whole staff wellbeing toolkit was compiled which equipped staff with information, resources and strategies pertaining to managing anxiety, self-care, and wellbeing, with basic Cognitive Behaviour Therapy using scriptures.
- There were 3 group presentations to the Year 6 students on Relational Aggression.

#### School Community

- Parents have accessed the school site by signing into the school's QR COVID19 sign-in or signing in manually.
- We have had significant parent volunteers help on excursions with the Receptions and Year 2 classes. School swimming and sporting carnivals have also mostly gone ahead along with some excursions and events.
- Volunteer RAN training has modified to improve the system. Parents are now invited to complete the RAN-EC online via the PLINK website and are required to present their certificate to qualify as a school volunteer.
- The Colour Explosion Fun Run required a COVID safe plan from SA Health

#### Student Leadership

- Lumin8, Activ8, SRC, BCS Creations and ACTS have been meeting regularly.
- Lumin8, SRC and ACTS have been having weekly meetings and have been working through John Maxwell's Laws of Leadership.
- SRC organized a "Market Day" whereby students from years 3-6 were invited to hire a table on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November during a lunch time to sell their business products. Originally the SRC predicted 20 tables might be hired, but they had 30 groups apply and be approved.
- Student Leadership for 2022 was also planned for. This year, the current year 5's were given a 'year 6 mentor' to accompany while they went about their weekly roles for experience.



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- Lumin8 introduced a, “Good Morning Bethany” in the 10 minutes leading up to MMP, which has been enormously successful and has achieved the goal of settling the audience just prior to MMP, making the worship time more settled and reflective.

#### Preservice & Work Experience Students

- Two Student Teacher Placements in semester 1; one from Swinburne University (Vic) and one from Curtin (WA). We also have a Year 12 student return to complete her work placement towards her Cert III in Educational Support. COVID-19 continued to interrupt preservice placements

#### Professional development for noting

- A member of the AISSA committee to review the Respectful Relationships in Independent Schools. In November the committee heard from the Manager of the Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum which we will update with our teaching staff.

#### **Curriculum, Coaching and Diverse Learning- Melissa Taylor**

##### Curriculum & Coaching

- New staff Induction, coaching, focusing behaviour management, differentiation and ILP writing, parent teacher interviews and report writing, increasing literacy skills, running records, negotiating team issues, end of year procedures and transitions.
- Coaching teachers (8) and Library staff (4) to build capacity, promoting agency, and providing feedback on personal goals, supporting staff wellbeing, and helping people navigate relationships
- Coaching ELC Leadership, ELC staff
- Goal writing training with ELC staff and ESO staff
- Working with PLT, sharing of classroom practices and projects that promote agency
- Working with AISSA staff to begin thinking about the impact agency has on reports
- Data storage and upload procedures to ‘Edumate’, training Curriculum support staff to broaden the administration
- Pupil Free Day training – Coaching strategies for children
- Working with TRT and future contract teacher (T4) with creating Bethany Indonesian Curriculum for Term 4 in prep for transition of staff.
- Supporting provisional to full registration for teachers
- Professional development - CSA Leadership, ALAB - Student Agency, Leading Momentum and Change - Adaptive School Cultures, Mandatory Reporting, Learnership, Preparing for the implementation of the revised Australian curriculum, Primary Curriculum Reference Group
- Training was provided for Hope Village teachers with a focus on differentiation and establishment phase for the new school year. This included behaviour management practices like zones of regulation, the incredible 5, way to A, ABC, triggers of behaviour.
- Established Bethany as training provider for ESO qualification – 3 trainees
- Developing standards for ESO’s based on Certificate 3 training manual to introduce for 2022, to upskill ESOs and increase confidence.



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- Surveys ESO regarding their support in classrooms to help with: training, ESO placement based on strengths, relationships and expertise, supporting weaknesses with coaching and training, creating clear expectations for next year.

#### Diverse Learning

- Coaching DL team members to support confidence and role development
- Development of Procedure document to support policies enabling the diverse learning team to refine and share the load, includes NCCD, Allied Health and NDIS Procedures
- Website creation to house all of the resources for teachers
- Supporting staff in difficult parent conversations
- Refining processes for external assessments
- Establishing new routines to keep budget accountable
- Established new system for how parents receive NEP, looking at regulatory practice and privacy compliance including trial of electronic signature in preparation for next year's new ILP documents
- Development of the ILP with a particular focus on parent consultation, adjustment recording and more detail in documenting additional support services for students
- Monitoring NCCD training for teachers

#### Kindy/Pre-Entry

- Kindy visits, including our ELC
- Analysis of data for class placements
- Establishing support framework for families who wish to transfer to special school situations including support with paperwork, translation, navigating Department for Ed. offers and enrolling

#### **Early Learning Centre- Emily Bondarenko & Rachel Chesson**

- We explore a theme per term We Care, We Create, We Challenge and We Change.
- Our families participated in some come and play events. When we could not have families onsite, we sent home take home come and play packs.
- We welcomed new staff (One new teacher and three new educators).
- Continued to work with Gowrie and Diverse Learning to support the growing needs of the ELC children.
- Participated in BSC Cultural celebration and end of year colour run with the school.
- We had an ACECQA/ESB assessment and rating.
- Supported transitions at the beginning and the end of the year.
- Celebrated the end of the year with our Graduation/End of Year Celebration in Term 4.
- Opened for an additional week at the end of the year.
- Began playgroup with Base volunteers.
- We have also networked with Emmaus ELC in the beginning of Term 3 to discuss our literacy and numeracy programs and how to support our CALD families.
- Staff have been reflecting and updating our philosophy.



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- Celebrated National Science Week

### **Information Communication Technology- Mr Jeremy Graetz**

2021 was a big year, the IT department supported whatever came our way and had a fair bit of fun in the process.

- Set up the Junior Primary with 1 to 1 iPads.
- Upgrading admin computers and computer room to solid state hard drives helping with speed and reliability.
- Completed the final Sound-field systems, we now have sound field systems in all teaching classrooms.
- Tested and set up new Parent Teacher Interview system which was very successful.
- Upgraded classroom cameras so that each year level has an SLR digital camera to take better shots for yearbook, newsletters and other photographic work.
- Continues to develop our robotics resources and implementation in classrooms.
- Supported our first online NAPLAN for years 3 and 5 using a mixture of class and BYOD iPads. The NAPLAN tests ran smoothly and our hardware and network coped without any problems.
- Upgraded all JP headphones to Bluetooth resolving many breakage issues.
- Relocated workshop and storeroom to new locations to prepare old site for cleaning storage.
- Successfully supported the short online learning lockdown.
- Completed a network infrastructure audit resulting in upgraded network switches - 10GB fibre uplink across the whole network (besides D-Block-no fibre run)
- Upgraded the mobile device management server to handle new OS and iOS updates and new hardware.
- Commissioned new backup server
- Continued with Junior Primary Digital Tech Professional Development
- Had a lot of fun with thew IQ Club students working on projects that ranged from programming games, 3D drawing and printing, Building and programming robotics and even building and upgrading RC cars.

### **Sports Department- Ben Hannaford**

- As COVID restrictions were continuously changed (back and forth) it effected the participation in weekly sports, with parents feeling uneasy about having to isolate with close contact rules.
- Representative Sports continued with spectator's rules being mixed based upon current restrictions and if the event was outdoors or indoors.
- Representative teams performed well during these events with most teams finishing in the higher end of the competition. The year 5/6 boys' group were particularly strong winning everything that they participated in.
- We look forward to the new design of singlets to be implemented over the next few years, where we will move to a reversible top. Eventually we will look to have the primary colour of black and then the clash colour of red as there are various school who also wear red.
- Overall 2021 was a great year in PE and Sport at Bethany, with a lot of forward momentum heading into 2022.



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Our community has enjoyed a number of targeted opportunities to know that we care, to connect in different ways, and to celebrate our wonderful learning community, especially the work of our students. Our Mother's Day and Father's Day stalls continue to be very popular and allow our children to show their appreciation of the care they receive from their families. We continued to work with Foodbank and provide bread collection to enable us to bless our community with free bread on a regular basis. We also ended the year with the Colour Explosion Fun Run fundraiser. This included some student run side-shows and a design competition for students to enter a t-shirt design to be made into the school t-shirt. This was gifted to each child that participated on the day and was a wonderful way to finish the year. All our fundraising has contributed to the Nature play space that will be developed in the new year.

Our desire to educate for eternity helps us to remain true to the vision and mission to which we are called. Our care for children and our strong belief that we are all important members of the community, help us to look forward to the journey as we learn together. We continue to work towards excelling in Christian education and character, inspiring greatness, while serving communities and impacting nations.



Wendy Matear  
Principal  
Bethany Christian School



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