

2019 School Year

Bethany Christian School's vision is 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. Our Core Values direct our decisions and demonstrate how we are to relate to one another. Each week we focus on a particular value and use a memory verse to explore what the Bible says about each of these values.

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

We facilitate a School Tour each term which is an essential step in our enrolment process. This is an opportunity for interested families to see Bethany Christian school in action to help them make an informed decision as to whether this is the right school for their family. In 2019 the tours were held;

Term 1 on the 4th March with 21 Families,

Term 2 the 27th May with 21 Families,

Term 3 the 19th August with 28 Families and

Term 4 the 11th November with 25 Families.

Attendance at one of these tours is a requirement of our enrolment process, ensuring that families offered an interview understand our Christian emphasis, along with our vision and mission. Our future enrolments continue to be strong for Reception intakes and are growing for our Early Learning Centre. In 2017 38% of our Reception students accessed the ELC. This grew to 46% in 2018, and 62% in 2019.

We have maintained steady student attendance rates remaining at 92% with our Indigenous students increasing from 83% in 2018 to 89% attendance in 2019. Indigenous students make up less than 2% of our families. In 2019 our community had 55% English as first-language families which remained the same as 2018.

The catchment areas continue to be located directly around the school with a few exceptions that particularly relate to the children of staff who travel to school from suburbs further away. The majority of our students are attending the school from Paralowie, Burton & Parafield Gardens, indicating that proximity is one of the greatest reasons people are attending Bethany Christian School. This is reinforced during interviews with families, with many saying they would like to attend Bethany as they live nearby and have friends or neighbours that recommend our school. They also speak about wanting a school with similar values to those of their family.



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The staff continue to work together in Professional Learning Teams and have continued on their professional learning journeys. The whole school focus in 2018 was in implementing *Design Thinking* and following this started working on a project with the Association of Independent Schools, South Australia exploring 'Student Agency'. This builds directly upon our previous work with the thought leader Professor Young Zhao. The Student Agency project is led by Charles Leadbeater. Our Primary students were able to explore some of their agency through an end of year exhibition. It was called the Brilliance Exhibition, and it was an opportunity to showcase the excellence, inspiration, inventiveness and wisdom that we believe God gives to each of us. It was an opportunity for students to shine in areas of their interest, resulting in a product to share with their parents and the community. This was an incredible showcase of student creativity and a wonderful celebration to finish the year.

We have maintained steady staff numbers for our teaching and non-teaching staff with slight increases in the number of part-time staff. During 2019 we farewelled Jacqui Gliddon who won a new ELC Director position, Mrs Emily Bondarenko who went on maternity leave and Suzi Pedler who returned to full time medical work.

We continue to support Hope Village with a particular focus on our sister school, Hope School, in Sumatra, Indonesia. Our main support is in providing teacher training as well as some fundraising efforts to donate to this work. It is a privilege to have this strong connection that allows us to express our generosity, which is one of our core values at Bethany. Our Indonesian school has grown to over 500 students from ELC to Year 8.

A significant building project was carried out in 2019. It replaced our transportable buildings with 12 new classrooms. This upgrade allowed for our Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 classes to pack up ready to move for 2020. The building's architectural brief included the use of height, light and exposed structures in order to help students see how a building is put together, and to help in their own design projects. It was also to use a range of building materials and to allow for the curation of products that students create through intentional display spaces. The classrooms were designed with connecting doors and use glass to remain visually connected throughout shared spaces. A time-lapse camera was set up to capture building progress to include our students in the process. We encouraged teachers to visit and watch and reflect throughout the year.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL- Debbie Clifford

Staff and Student Wellbeing

In 2019, we have continued to support families to build a positive future with support from our wellbeing team through education, connection and finding effective future strategies which aim to partner with appropriate agencies and build a way forward.

Student Teacher Practicum & Work Experience Placements

This year we had 14 student teachers from Tabor and UniSA, and 2 TAFE students completed a practicum at Bethany. The student teachers that we have had in 2019 year were of excellent quality, and from it the school gained good Temporary Relief Teachers (TRT).



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Significant Events

In Term 3 of 2019, we held a successful Book Week, Cultural Evening and Jump Rope for Heart day. Each event, while they were vastly different, were showcase events that reflected the terrific learning of the students. A visiting performer, Scott Darlow, worked with our students as part of Australian's Together initiative, to bring an Indigenous perspective to Australian history, culture and identity. He worked with each class then with our students who identified as Indigenous. We also had our biennial NED Show performance, using yo-yo, comedy and sleight of hand magic tricks to reinforce a Growth Mindset message.

There were three camps this year; the Year 4's went to Aldinga, the Year 5's went to Illawonga and the Year 6's went to Warrawong. Years 3 and 5 took part in the NAPLAN assessments, and the Junior Primary took part in the MAI (Mathematical Assessment Interview). It is exciting to report that there were significantly less anxiety leading up to both the camps and the NAPLAN assessments.

In Term 4, the two main events were the Junior Primary End of Year Concert and the Primary 'Brilliance' Exhibition. Both events went extremely well, and it was noted that during the lead up to the Brilliance Exhibition, behaviour management became negligible. During Brilliance, it appeared that the autonomous learning opportunity richly empowered students to make positive choices.

Student Leadership

The Student Leadership programme this year has continued to evolve, with the Year 6 teachers taking over the management of the programme in order to embed it thoroughly into their everyday teaching. Their focus has been on the application of our Christian values to individual leadership, and have begun the deeper thinking of how students might apply their leadership to authentically help others.

CURRICULUM AND COACHING- Melissa Taylor

Bethany Christian School has developed Learning Principles to guide teaching and learning. These have been used to illustrate the work of the Curriculum and Coaching Coordinator.

Learning Principle 1: Learning is a journey that illuminates God's Big Story.

- Created a Curriculum Induction document used to support new teachers to Bethany with understanding how to create curriculum using a Biblical lens.
- Worked with staff in the ELC in a coaching capacity to support personal growth and share Biblical lens understanding and how that impacts their development of learning opportunities for the children.

Learning Principle 2: Learning involves challenging thinking to broaden understanding.

- Involved in Primary Curriculum Leaders Group, a Leading Innovation and Change leadership project and Student Agency Lab with AISSA. Supported CSA as part of a team that developed documentation using the biblical lens in the subject of history.
- Supported teachers to shift mindset and create momentum for change by allowing space for each team to develop their next directions in agency and design thinking. Teachers are working on how to create opportunities for learning to be more student directed and interest based. Teachers used the coaching from NOTOSH to develop interdisciplinary units in a more open, student directed way. They explored what they understand agency is and what it looks like in their classrooms.

- Some teachers experimented with the notion of co-designing (with students) the direction a unit might take.
- Teams explored action, collaboration and reflection as they prototype new thinking in their planning and delivery.
- Created space to share stories of success and challenge.

Learning Principle 3: Learning is built on evidence-based research and relevant action for excellent practice.

- Through staff meetings and PLT teachers are being provided with readings, film and websites as provocations to their own learning on student agency.
- Teachers are reflecting, sharing and gaining feedback on the work that is being done in their classrooms.
- Teachers are considering how this impacts other things we do in the school such as Cultural Celebration evening.

Learning Principle 4: Learning Flourishes in an environment of safety, support and stimulation.

- Attended PLT groups to support design thinking and student agency in developing new curriculum with a larger focus in personalised education and student directed learning. This included the PE department and Library staff PLT and ELC staff meetings when required.
- Establishment of refined Induction procedures for new staff including training in the use of Understanding By Design, Backward by design, Biblical Lens, Student Agency, Design Thinking, using data to inform teaching, the power of feedback/feedforward and reflection.

Learning Principle 5: Learning is actively promoted through goal setting, fair and credible assessment and positive reflection.

- Supported staff in the ELC to work on personal growth goals in their teaching and writing of observations for Storypark. This included teaching skills and ideas, written observation improvement, development of the English language, behaviour management and developing worthwhile learning activities.
- Worked with a variety of staff around conflict resolution, team cohesion and leadership growth.

Learning Principle 7: Learning influences self-discovery and social awareness.

- Investigated how the use of inquiry and thinking skills can be used in the classroom more effectively for reflection and action.
- Developed feedback/feedforward as a tool for self-discovery
- Further work was done in some PLT's looking more deeply at the general capabilities

Learning Principle 9: Learning is purposeful and builds confidence, competence, capacity, creativity and connectedness.

- Professional Learning Teams are working on individual growth projects which might include:

Learning Principle 10: Learning is empowered by a fearless pursuit of purpose.

- Brilliance Exhibition established to promote student directed projects of success, where students can share their thoughts, skills and brilliance in an area of their choosing.



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DIVERSE LEARNING AND WELLBEING- Suzi Pedler

Student Support

- Classroom ESO support
- MultiLit literacy programs
- Reception student oral language early intervention program runs daily, targeting those in need
- Audit and analysis of the needs of ESL students to identify needs, target and prioritise support
- Social thinking programs provide 1:1 and in small groups
- Transition program for Year 6's preparing for Secondary School
- Onsite Allied Health screening/assessments subsidised by Bethany Christian School: speech/language, occupational therapy, psychology
- Onsite Allied Health screening subsidised by AISSA grant: hearing
- Onsite Allied Health screening/treatment subsidised by Medicare: dental clinic
- MultiLit literacy groups revised and modified in response to student progress
- Oral language early intervention program
 - Reception: targeting any students with delayed oral language skills
 - Year 1: targeting EALD students with delayed oral language skills
- Student Extension:
 - Year 6 Maths Challenge program
 - Off campus opportunities advertised to parents and promoted to target students
 - Trial mentoring program commencing with Temple Christian College Students and Bethany Christian School students
- Onsite Allied Health clinics and assessment:
 - Leeony Pffeifer, school counsellor
 - Elise Ottens, social worker
 - Olivia Klemm and Kate O'Daniel, Liberty Speech Pathology
 - Autism SA
 - Charles McGrath Occupational Therapy
 - Hana Goltz, Occupational Therapy ELC
 - Haidee Baker, Psychology SA
 - Grow Up Smiling dental clinic
 - Little Ears hearing screening clinic

Professional Development

- Diverse Learning Teachers collaborating with and mentoring classroom teachers
- Teachers: strategies for teaching students with dyslexia, consultation opportunities with educational psychologist
- ESOs: strategies for working effectively with students with a learning disability
- External workshops on social learning methodologies in autism, bullying and Senior First Aid

Parent Support

- 5-week Toolbox parenting course with our social worker, funded with support from AISSA Parent Initiatives in Education (PIE) Grant Program
- Adult English Classes: Wednesday afternoons
- Newsletter article communicating with our parent community about mental health and wellbeing



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Data Collection and Quality Assurance

- NAPLAN Year 3 & 5 students in week 3: no exemptions requested
- Mathematics Assessment Interviews (MAI)
- Review of food and drink options in school canteen revealed options are in line with RightBite guidelines for healthy eating; canteen manager colour coded canteen menu to reflect and promote food categories
- Commence updating whole school healthy eating policy/strategies to inform strategic, progressive implementation in classrooms, canteen and special events, whilst informing our school community about positive nutrition
- Data collection of student disability and adjustments provided continues in preparation for August submission to Nationally Consistent Collection of Data
- Negotiated Education Plan documentation development to increase in teacher engagement with health professional recommendations
- NEP audit to review efficacy of teaching practice adjustments and goal setting with students and parents.
- Individual feedback provided to teachers following negotiated education plan (NEP) audit to review adjustments and goal setting with students and parents

EARLY LEARNING CENTRE DIRECTOR- Emily Bondarenko

- One of the big topics explored was 'WE CARE' through discovering the following:
- Our families (who is in our family, what we like to do with our families, how do we know our families care for us, what can we do to care for our families)
- How to care for ourselves (putting our things back where they belong, washing our hands before we eat, using the toilet appropriately, eating healthy food, recognising emotions and how to appropriately respond to them)
- How to care for others (we help our friends, we use our words not our hands to solve problems, it is important to listen to our friends, teachers and families)
- How to care for our environment (packing away our things, watering our garden, being responsible with our toys)
- Woolworths excursion to continue our learning about healthy eating
- Each term families are invited to participate in a come and play week during Week 3 and 7.
- We have explored emotions through our Kimochi friends (characters who support children to identify emotions and healthy ways to manage them),
- We have supported some very diverse learning needs in our ELC and we have explored various options and strategies to best support all children by working closely with Diverse learning school staff and with Gowrie Inclusion support.
- During staff meetings we are working through the BeYou material to support a mentally healthy community in the ELC for staff, children and families.
- We introduced an app called 'story park' to better communicate with our families and gain greater parent involvement.
- Our Christmas Musical was a wonderful way to celebrate the graduation of students as they transition to school.
- We have had 48 children in the ELC this year which is a significant increase since starting in 2017 with 28 children.

INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY- Jeremy Graetz

- Installation of gigabit fibre internet went live in Feb with great results. This connection future proofs our internet with the ability to increase to a higher capacity if needed. We still have a redundant link with Nuskope Wireless..
- Building project for Year 3-6 classes has commenced, we are researching to find the best solutions for technology in the new building. We set up a time-lapse camera system to capture the build at a fraction of the price we were quoted and the students are already enjoying the short clips in Chapel News.
- In preparation for the building we were able to rerun the conduit for the Sports shed and maintenance shed. This has been completed, and will prevent services being interrupted to these departments over the build project.
- During the Christmas school break, our servers have been upgraded to the latest software and we are ready to look at Office 365 as a cloud/collaboration tool for our staff. The computer room was also updated with much more capable machines running Windows 10.
- The newsletter has been converted to an online format that makes reading from phone size devices a much better experience.
- The Edumate app is being designed to support school parent communication.
- A new finance server has been established with the accounts department building in more server redundancy by moving our file shares to a secondary file server.
- An audit was done on our backup system to make sure 7 years of files are accessible. Further tests and preparation for Office 365 have been carried out.
- Installation of gigabit fibre internet went live in February with great results.
- Servers have been upgraded to a VRTX infrastructure.
- Testing Office 365 as a cloud/collaboration tool for our staff.
- The computer room was updated with Windows 10 machines.
- All Teacher and Staff are now running Windows 10 using SCCM deployment server.
- We had the pleasure of hosting a visit with Belgrave Heights Christian School around the topic of robotics and coding, teachers and students thoroughly enjoyed the experience.
- Lighting upgrade and maintenance in the PAC, replacing old intelligent lights with modern LED fixtures.



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SPORTS DEPARTMENT- Ben Hannaford

Weekly Swimming Lessons for Reception to Year 6

School events

- BCS Senior Athletics Days, 10 – 12+ Years, Meshach won the day
- BCS Junior Athletics Day, 7 – 9 Years, Shadrach won the day, the first time in quite a few years.
- Mini-Olympics R-1 day with Meshach taking out the Mini Olympics Shield.
- Cross Country Year 2- 6 students.
- Jump Rope for Heart raising over \$3,000 for heart research

Representative Sports

- SAPSASA Para District Athletics; Week 10, Term 1 - Champions
- SACSAs Athletics; Week 1, Term 2 – 7th in Division one, will now be relegated back to Division 2 for 2020
- SAPSASA Para District Cross Country; Week 2 – Champions
 - 10 students selected to the district squad for Para District Squad for the Metro Athletics day
- Para District Girls Netball and Boys AFL Football with Year 6/7 students
- SACSAs Touch Football
- SACSAs Cross Country
- Primary School Touch Football
- SACSAs AFL, Year 4|5 Boys, Year 4|5 Girls, Year 6|7 Boys
- SACSAs Basketball, Year 4|5 Boys, Year 4|5 Girls, Year 6|7 Boys, Year 6|7 Girls
- SACSAs Netball, Year 4|5 Boys, Year 4|5 Girls, Year 6|7 Boys, Year 6|7 Girls
- SACSAs Soccer, Year 4|5 Boys, Year 4|5 Girls, Year 6|7 Boys, Year 6|7 Girls
- Primary Schools Mixed Touch Football Year 6|7
- Students from Bethany have been selected to represent the District or State at various events: Para Districts Tennis, Netball, Soccer
- Team SA Soccer

Weekly Sports

- Weekly Netball continue.
- Weekly Basketball numbers have stayed relatively stable, with only a slight increase due to most teams being completely full.
- We have trialled a new program run by external provider, Football Federation South Australia [FFSA] where young students can trial soccer at a cost for \$100 for an eight week program. The Sporting Vouchers were available to the parent, and 17 Bethany students have enrolled into the program. This program type seems to be a popular program where parents are able to trial their children in sport without it being there being a competitive component to the initial learning of the sport. There does seem to be concern about the price point for these program as they are externally provided and their overall price reflects this.

PE lessons

- During Physical Education Lessons students have had the chance to develop a range of sporting skills including AFL, Baseball [T-Ball], Soccer, Ten Pin Bowling, Table Tennis, and Badminton.



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Bethany Christian School is a wonderful community within which to belong. We have held a number of events in 2019 that were enjoyed by the community including; Cultural Celebration, Mothers' Day Stall, Fathers' Day Stall, Adult English classes, Toolbox Parenting Courses, Walk a Mile in my boots, the Student Representative Council (SRC) Glow Party, and the Garage Sale. The desire to *educate for eternity* brings about a long-term vision to help students, staff and parents keep our eyes fixed on writing our unique Bethany Christian School story. It is a story that values every individual, while keeping a collective purpose that demonstrates our need to work together, for the benefit of others. 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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