



St Bernadette's School

A community alive with the values of Jesus:
Respect, Truth, Love, Justice and Hope

2020 Welcome Evening and Annual Community Meeting



Thursday February 13th 2020, 6:00pm

2019 Welcome Evening

Shared Meal – Thanks to our cooks and volunteers!

Welcome, WHS and Prayer – Ray Higgins

Apologies and Attendance List

2020 Annual Community Meeting

Minutes of 2019 AGM

Reports: Chairperson

Finance

APRIM

Principal (and presentation)

2020 School Board

MINUTES OF THE 2019 ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING

Date: 12th February 2019

Time: 6:50pm

Venue: St Bernadette's School

1. Prayer: Stef Turcinovic
2. Apologies: Fr John Shanahan
3. ACM Reports: Reports read by all.
4. Annual School Improvement Plan for 2019 – Ray spoke to the members about:
 - Improved Literacy and Numeracy outcomes
 - New Uniform implemented
 - SW region initiative with a focus on Visible Learning
 - Entrepreneurship and Innovation Project
 - Master Plan underway
 - Sound financial management
 - Minor capital works
 - Fee Overview
 - Enrolment Growth and Targets

ACM closed at 7pm

KAURNA WELCOME AND PRAYER



From the north in Crystal Brook to the south near Victor Harbour we recognise we are meeting on the traditional lands of the Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains. Let us take a moment to truly acknowledge the Land and those who have come before us and prepare ourselves for prayer.

Reader: In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Gracious God, come and be with us as we gather as the St Bernadette's School community. Guide us in our decisions and bless our partners the parents and carers of the students we teach. Amen.

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of John:

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You Lord, Jesus Christ.



Reader: In the presence of God whose word has called us to be courageous.

All: We gather as one

Reader: In the presence of God whose breath has stirred within us and asked us to live the truth.

All: We gather as one

Reader: In the presence of God whose arms have held children, whose eyes have sparkled with laughter.

All: We gather as one

We pray...

For the leaders of the Church and all nations; that they may always act with courage and work together for peace and unity. **Lord hear us.**

Lord hear our prayer.

For those affected by bushfires and floods; that they may in their time of despair find courage and hope through the generosity of community support. **Lord hear us.**

Lord hear our prayer.

For parents, grandparents and all who care for our children, that God will bless them. **Lord hear us.**

Lord hear our prayer.

For all of us gathered here; that we may have the courage to speak up when we witness injustice towards others. **Lord hear us.**

Lord hear our prayer.

For the sick and lonely, and especially those in the world affected by the Coronavirus; that the Lord will care for them in their time of need. **Lord hear us.**

Lord hear our prayer.

For all who are with God in heaven; that they may find eternal rest. **Lord hear us.**

Lord hear our prayer.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. AMEN

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT FOR 2019

2019 saw the first year of transition from Year 5 to Year 6 with our 2018 Year 5 leaders becoming our 2019 Year 6 leaders. This was an exciting time for our school community which saw growth in our student numbers and the Year 6 students did a great job. The school board has worked well as a group with all board members being involved with various decisions throughout the year. The Board was very active in the discussion and implementation of the new School uniform. Parent responded very positively to the introduction of the new uniform and now all the students look smart and take pride in wearing the St Bernadette's uniform.

2019 also saw the board work with our Principal Ray Higgins on the first stages of the Master Planning for the school site at St Bernadette's and the process for improving our facilities. We will continue as a board to work through this process and will update the school community as the plan unfolds.

On behalf of the St Bernadette's School Board I would like to thank all families that have supported the school throughout the year and to the School Board I would like to thank them for being willing to volunteer their time to help ensure our school continues to grow and is able to provide the quality teaching and resources that are available.

For anyone thinking of nominating for the school board I would encourage you to do so. It is a great way to be involved with the school and meet other parents that are working towards giving all of our students the best well rounded education they each deserve.

Fiona Davies, Chairperson, School Board 2019



FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2019

2019 Summary and 2020 Budget			
	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
Income			
Fees	\$300,006	\$231,795	\$301,181
Government Grants	\$1,295,269	\$1,485,516	\$1,431,743
Other	\$68,343	\$102,966	\$51,403
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,663,618	\$1,820,277	\$1,784,327
Expenditure			
Staff Salaries	-\$1,244,503	-\$1,264,284	-\$1,337,437
Teaching resource and Levies	-\$202,996	-\$182,511	-\$262,005
Facilities and Utilities	-\$213,300	-\$196,196	-\$187,100
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	-\$1,660,799	-\$1,642,991	-\$1,786,542
OPERATING RESULT	\$2,819	\$177,286	-\$2,215
Capital works and equipment	\$0	-\$96,989	-\$1,000
Trading account	-\$3,000	-\$35,063	-\$8,000
Building works	\$0	-\$9,019	\$0
NET OVERALL POSITION	-\$181	\$36,215	-\$11,215

The School Board Finance Committee is responsible for overseeing the finances of the school and maintaining the fine balance between providing a diverse and rich learning experience for our children within our financial resources.

In 2019 the school finished with a significant operating surplus, due to larger than expected government grant, increased enrolments and sound management. We are therefore very pleased to report that the school achieved a budget surplus. The 2019 school year closed with a very healthy cash balance, well in excess of the reserve expected of us by Catholic Education SA. Most importantly, we were able to purchase new Surface Go laptops for Students in Year 3-6 and banks of iPads for the younger students from 2019 funds.

The proposed 2020 budget estimates that the school will continue to consolidate our position with a small deficit forecast. We have budgeted for an increase in costs associated with improving and maintaining our facilities in line with the Master Plan currently being finalized.

We thank families for their commitment to paying fees, without which the quality educational program we have at St Bernadette's school would be compromised.

Chrissy Manolakis, Chairperson Finance Committee 2019
Ray Higgins, Principal
Karen Thomas, Bursar

APRIM REPORT FOR 2019

Before the official start of the 2019 school year staff from all South Australian Catholic schools gathered at the Entertainment Centre where the Director of Catholic Education, Dr Neil McGoran, presented a very clear and concise three-word framework of **'Living, Learning, Leading'** as a foundation for understanding what we do in our schools and in Catholic education as a whole. At the heart of the framework lies a focus on identity (who we are), what we value and how we can partner with families to ensure that our students thrive.

As a Catholic school St Bernadette's supports and nurtures the development of the whole child, providing opportunities to experience God's love among us. We embrace our school's Dominican heritage and the Catholic and spiritual aspect of education is immersed in our daily learning and interactions and supported through the Crossways Religious Education Framework. We are also truly blessed by the diversity of our cultures and faiths which we celebrate with great pride as reflected in the smiling faces on Harmony Day.

Our 2019 theme ***Who Will Speak If We Don't?*** challenged us to consider how we can be caretakers of our environment, and to reach out to the most vulnerable in our midst - to be a voice! So how did we respond to this? We gathered to pray at school Masses, Holy Week reflections, Lenten and Advent liturgies and Remembrance Day. Outreach initiatives included fundraising for Caritas, a cake stall for Catholic Charities and donations of clothing and food in support of the Vinnies Winter and Christmas Giving Appeals. On World Environment Day classes were also involved in a general cleanup of our outdoor spaces.



During Catholic Education Week in June St Bernadette's joined with schools from our South West Region for a Liturgy and Concert with songwriter Andrew Chinn to acknowledge us ***Living, Learning and Leading*** together in the Spirit of God's love. This was a huge gathering of over 1,000 excited students plus staff!

Relationships with St Ann's Parish are a continued focus and Fr John, our Parish priest is always very supportive of our school. Each year I feel privileged to support families in our Parish Sacramental Programme and this year we had only 1 student celebrating Confirmation and First Eucharist. In October our school had a visit from the Archdiocesan Pastoral Visitation Team to get a sense of what is happening in the Parish and school and we have yet to receive feedback.

Our school's mission statement states that... we are a community alive with the values of Jesus: ***respect, truth, love, justice and hope*** and that we are an inclusive school creating an environment for success and happiness in life and learning. I believe that during 2019 we witnessed this in community through our collective actions and open relationships.

May we continue to be a source of hope and joy to others.

Many Blessings

Stef Turcinovic, APRIM



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT FOR 2019

“Education cannot be neutral. It is either positive or negative; either it enriches or it impoverishes; either it enables a person to grow or it lessens, even corrupts him. The mission of schools is to develop a sense of truth, of what is good and beautiful.”

(Pope Francis, Address with Italian teachers, parents, educators, pupils and other workers, May 10, 2014)

2019 was my first full year as Principal of our wonderful community and I thank God each day that I have that privilege to lead our school.

Throughout the year the St Bernadette's School community continued to strive to be a learning environment where our students, families and staff could be as engaged and successful as possible. We remained committed to the Catholic Education SA vision that all in our community would be 'thriving people, capable learners and leaders for the world God desires.' As always, the development of affirming and positive relationships was a most important priority...The positive interactions which occurred between students, staff, parents and friends on a daily basis were a constant reminder of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our community. We thank Fr John for his continued guidance and support of our Parish school through our Masses and liturgies. We are very grateful for his time and the relational manner in which he greets and mingles with our students.

In my short time here, I have been incredibly grateful for the talents and efforts of both our teaching and non-teaching staff whose 'above and beyond' commitment to their work and to the students and to our community in general was outstanding. These people are dedicated, talented and professional, and continued to inspire our students to achieve their absolute best. My work as principal is made so much easier because I work with people who show compassion, a genuine commitment to their own learning, expertise in their chosen profession, and a generous willingness to help and support each other.

I take this opportunity to thank them for their loyalty, professionalism and (very importantly) for possessing a sense of fun!

In 2019 our community was again fortunate to have a collegial, enthusiastic and supportive School Board, so ably led by Fiona Davies, the chairperson. Though small in number, this group met regularly to discuss the management of the school and offer advice to the leadership team when needed. We also had a dedicated group of volunteers, parents and carers involved in special projects, special lunches, Harmony Day and a host of other activities.

There were many highlights during 2019 as we strived to achieve the goals of our Annual Improvement Plan. These included but were not limited to:

- **Harmony Day:** This is an amazing celebration of the rich diversity that we embrace and celebrate at St Bernadette's. This was the first time I had experienced the day and the pride and joy displayed by students, parents and extended families was something to behold.
- **New Uniform:** The transition to our new uniform was very successful. Families were offered a significant discount to ensure a seamless transition and feedback from students, staff and parents was overwhelmingly positive.

- Entrepreneurship and Innovation Project: This project throughout the year aimed to deliver innovative, scalable and sustainable youth-led solutions to real world problems. The students and staff involved did their school proud though their commitment to the project.
- Enrolments: Our enrolments increased by 18% in 2019. Though boosted by the addition of the Year 6 cohort, there was still a significant 'nett' increase, and importantly the retention rate of students improved dramatically.
- Additional specialist offerings: Expanding our Music program and adding Science/STEM lessons provided increased opportunities for students.
- Teaching and learning programs: Through staff professional learning we continued to improve learning outcomes and key capabilities for students and to foster their wellbeing.

We have many plans for 2020. Our Annual Improvement Plan is being finalised and we are in a sound position financially to improve and upgrade our facilities. During this year we will complete the master planning process for the whole site and put plans in place for a comprehensive classroom upgrade. Our 1-1 laptop program for Year 3-6 will be rolled out and the appointment of Michelle Starr to the Inclusive Education Coordinator/Literacy Coach will enhance our personalised learning programs. Enrolment targets are being reached and may well be exceeded helping St Bernadette's to have a more powerful presence in the St Marys and surrounding area into the future.

I wish to offer my personal thanks to all students, families and staff for your trust, support, friendship and assistance during 2019. 2020 promises more exciting times for this unique and vibrant community of learners, as we commit to our theme for the year: 'Be courageous and live the truth'

Ray Higgins, Principal

