



# St Bernadette's School

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

---

## 2021 Welcome Evening and Annual Community Meeting



Tuesday February 9<sup>th</sup> 2021, 6:00pm

## **2021 Welcome Evening**

Shared Meal – Enjoy the pizza!

Welcome, WHS and Prayer

Apologies and Attendance List

## **2021 Annual Community Meeting**

Minutes of 2020 AGM

Reports: Chairperson

Finance

APRIM

Principal

2021 School Board

## **MINUTES OF THE 2020 ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING**

**Date: 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**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 2020 – Ray spoke to the members about:
  - Complete Master Plan for site
  - Enhancing Catholic Identity Strategic plan
  - Develop 'whole school' Literacy Plan
  - Improved outcomes for students
  - Implement 1-1 Laptop program for Years 3-6
  - Leadership opportunities for year 6 students
  - Fee Overview
  - Enrolment Growth and Targets

ACM closed at 7:10pm

# KAURNA WELCOME AND PRAYER

## Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Kaurna people, the traditional custodians whose ancestral lands we gather on. We acknowledge the deep feelings of attachment and relationship of the Kaurna people to country and we respect and value their past, present and ongoing connection to the land and cultural beliefs.



## Community Prayer:

There is a time for everything ... and everything has its time.

There is a time for work and a time for rest ... a time for action and a time for quiet reflection.

There is a time for learning and a time for teaching ... a time for listening and a time to be listened to.

There is a time for empowerment ... a time for powerful voices and a time for compromise.

There is a time for reaching out and a time for looking within ... a time for asking questions and a time for living them.

There is a time to be in control and a time to let go ... a time to lead and a time to be led.

We pray...

May the God of Community walk with us and beside us, sharing our journeys, listening to our voices.

May the God of Community walk with us and beside us, as we discern ways to be a vibrant and thriving community in faith and action.

And may God, the Source of All Being,

Jesus the eternal Word

And the Spirit who is the life-force

Bless us now and forever. Amen.



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



## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT FOR 2020

2020 was a challenging year for all. Who would have predicted that a great start to the 2020 year would evolve into what would be for most of us, our most challenging year. Credit must go to the fabulous teachers and staff so capably led by our leadership team. In what was such an evolving situation that was changing from day to day, the staff managed to react and adapt. This professional leadership in such challenging times was appreciated by all parents and students. The changes that happened throughout the year made for a challenging situation for our families and did have an impact on the "community feel", but the ability of the staff to create a "situation normal" feel for the students ensured that the 2020 school year continued with minor adjustments. It was great that events like sports day and the swimming week were able to go ahead and in a COVID-19 safe way.

Throughout the year the school board continued to be involved and communicate on any issues that might arise. The Master Plan is progressing well and it was great that we were able to secure a grant to assist with the cost of the building project.

Enrolment numbers continue to rise, and this has enabled increased growth within the school. St Bernadette's continues to provide exceptional educational and learning opportunities to our students. On behalf of the 2020 Year 6 parents and students I would like to thank all the staff and especially Ray for all the work that went into getting the 5/6 students to their camp. We know that this event is such a highlight for the students. After the challenge of getting them on their way to camp only to have to turn around and come back due to the lockdown, the work Ray did to try and get them another date really made their day when it was announced they would be able to get there. The staff also did an enormous amount of work to ensure that the Year 6s were able to have a graduation ceremony. In the COVID-19 world of social distancing and capped numbers, the usual Year 6 graduation could not be held, but all staff ensured that our Year 6 students were farewelled in a beautiful intimate ceremony with close family and staff. Thank you to Ali Turnbull for the beautiful musical pieces that ensured there wasn't a dry eye in the house. Congratulations to all the staff on producing such fine young students, your passion and involvement for educating our children is something that I am sure all parents would agree is what makes St Bernadette's such a wonderful community.

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 our students the best well rounded education they deserve.

**Fiona Davies, Chairperson, School Board 2020**



# FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2020

2020 Summary and 2021 Budget			
	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget
<b>Income</b>			
Fees	\$301,181	\$260,362	\$280,478
Government Grants	\$1,431,743	\$1,972,704	\$1,922,385
Other	\$51,403	\$52,739	\$8,500
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,784,327</b>	<b>\$2,285,805</b>	<b>\$2,211,363</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Staff Salaries	-\$1,337,437	-\$1,397,771	-\$1,569,200
Teaching resource and Levies	-\$262,005	-\$243,444	-\$231,538
Facilities and Utilities	-\$209,500	-\$233,660	-\$214,900
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>-\$1,786,542</b>	<b>-\$1,846,926</b>	<b>-\$2,015,638</b>
<b>OPERATING RESULT</b>	<b>-\$2,215</b>	<b>\$438,879</b>	<b>\$195,725</b>
<b>Loan Drawdown</b>			\$35,028
Capital works and equipment	-\$1,000	-\$61,360	-\$115,000
Trading Account	-\$8,000		-31,000
Building works	\$0	\$0	-\$300,000
<b>NET OVERALL POSITION</b>	<b>-\$11,215</b>	<b>\$377,519</b>	<b>-\$215,247</b>

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 2020 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 2020 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 2 from 2020 funds.

The proposed 2021 budget estimates that the school will have a deficit of \$215,000 as a result of the building program which is due to commence in Term 3.

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 2020

St Bernadette's is a Catholic school which continues to celebrate our Dominican heritage by embracing the Four Pillars – **Community, Study, Prayer** and **Ministry**. 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.

Our 2020 theme **Be Courageous And Live The Truth** challenged us to consider what it means to follow Jesus faithfully and stand up for what is right and just. We empowered students to be courageous in their learning and in their formation as good human beings.

St Bernadette's is truly blessed with so many families from diverse cultures and faiths who show confidence in entrusting their children to our care. Staff support and nurture the development of the whole child, providing opportunities to celebrate our Catholic traditions and experience God's love among us. This year we began implementing the Redesigned Crossways Religious Education Curriculum, promoting a life-giving encounter with a Catholic world view in a learning space which recognises and respects diversity.

Many of us would view 2020 as a year of challenge and a degree of disconnect in that there were few opportunities to gather in community. Nevertheless staff and students were still involved in regular liturgical celebrations and outreach activities including.....*Welcome Mass, Ash Wednesday Mass, Staff / Year 6 Leadership Commissioning, Class Liturgies – Lenten/Advent/Ecumenical, Project Compassion, Remembrance Day, Catholic Education Week – Raising Hearts and Minds, Year 6 Journey to Emmaus, Catholic Schools Open Week Come and Try Day, Catholic Charities Walkathon (raised \$1120.70), Vinnie's Christmas Giving Appeal, Graduation Liturgy and End of Year Thanksgiving Mass.*

“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” (Matthew 18:20)

Relationships with St Ann's Parish were a continued focus and we thank Fr John Shanahan (and Fr Bob Rice in his absence) for their support of our school and in particular for being so accommodating in celebrating all our Masses in the Library this year. We also celebrated the feast of St Ann and the Parish handed out a chocolate frog to the children as a treat!

Although we had a very small number of students involved in the Parish Sacramental Programme this year it is always a privilege to work with families in preparing their children for the Sacraments. We went ahead with the celebration of First Reconciliation but due to COVID restrictions the celebration of Confirmation and First Eucharist was postponed.

This year Catholics in the Archdiocese of Adelaide welcomed Patrick O'Regan as our new Archbishop and Pope Francis released his 3<sup>rd</sup> encyclical - *Fratelli Tutti* - a global call to solidarity during the pandemic with a focus on human dignity. Both religious leaders have chosen to **Be Courageous and Live The Truth** in the service of God and others, by listening to others, discerning and being open to new ways of being Church.

*Teach me Your ways O Lord, make them known to me.*

*Teach me to live according to Your truth, for You are my God, who saves me.*

*I always trust in You. Praise the Lord!*

*Be strong, be courageous, all you that hope in the Lord. (Psalms 25:1-2; 31:21,24)*

Our 2020 theme – **Be Courageous And Live The Truth** challenged us during the uncertainties of COVID to be the face of Christ and transform our lives by living a life that is good and purposeful. May we keep in our prayers those who were affected by the pandemic and especially those who lost loved ones – may they find eternal rest with God.

On a sad note we say farewell and thankyou to Fr John Shanahan who has been our pastoral 'shepherd', supporting our school for the past 14 years and we wish him well in his new Parish. We look forward to meeting and welcoming our new priest Fr Joseph Raja in 2021.

Many Blessings

**Stef Turcinovic, APRIM**

# PRINCIPAL'S REPORT FOR 2020

***“How does school help you to grow? It helps you not only in the development of your intelligence, but by an integral formation of all of the components of your personality. The principle element of education is to learn to be generous... School not only expands your intellectual dimension, but also the human heart.”*** (Pope Francis, Address to Italian and Albanian teachers in Rome June 2013)

2020 will no doubt be remembered as the year of COVID-19. The worldwide pandemic had a profound influence on all, including those in education. Whilst many of the events and activities we had planned at St Bernadette's were cancelled or adapted, in many ways the presence of the virus brought out the best in us, including the children.

The staff responded to the situation brilliantly. They readied themselves to provide on-line learning (which never really eventuated), they remained upbeat and positive, they reassured children who were feeling anxious and they continued to provide comprehensive and engaging learning programs.

As always, I was particularly grateful to our parents, who accepted changes to our ways of operating graciously and respectfully. I don't recall one occasion when a parent questioned my decisions, which were always based on the advice of SA Health and the Catholic Education Office. As a parent myself, I understood how difficult it was not to have easy access to the school grounds and classrooms, and I thank you for your understanding and patience.

The children were amazing. They coped with the disappointments of cancellations and postponements admirably and showed enormous resilience and positivity. I'm sure this has much to do with their upbringing and the calming influence you have as their parents. One interesting outcome of the restrictions was that children actually spent more time than normal in the classrooms, and as a result, a great deal of quality teaching and learning occurred.

I wish to 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. He will be sorely missed in 2021 as he takes up his new role as Parish Priest in the Emmaus Catholic Community, but we do wish him well and look forward to welcoming Fr Joseph Raja to the Parish.

In 2020 our community was again fortunate to have a committed, 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, and other activities.

A highlight of the year was receiving the news that our application for the Commonwealth and State Capital grants was successful to the amount of \$1 000 000. With our master plan completed, these funds will be used to completely refurbish all of our classrooms and the courtyard area. Initial plans are underway and we can expect the re-build to start in late September with completion early in 2022. We're very excited about being able to develop the facilities to provide the education your children deserve.

The consistent enrolment growth over the past 2 years enabled us to appoint Michelle Starr to the position of Inclusive Education Coordinator and Literacy Coach in 2020. This had a significant impact on the learning of all students, particularly for those for whom English is an additional language and for those requiring extra support. Michelle has proven to be a wonderful asset to the school and in 2021 her role has been renamed as 'Leader of Learning' in line with Catholic Education SA initiatives to improve outcomes for students.

The enrolment growth (14% in 2020, with another 15% expected in 2021) will continue to enable us to offer more in terms of resources, programs and support for students. It also means we can absorb a 20%

reduction in school fees offered in 2021 whilst still offering such things as the swimming and dance programs at no extra cost. I thank all parents who speak highly about in school in the wider community and encourage others to attend a tour of the school. In a small school the best 'marketing tool' is the existing families and I know many of you have urged friends and acquaintances to enrol here.

We have many other plans for 2021. Our Annual Improvement Plan is being finalised and we are in a sound position financially to move forward with capital development. Our 1-1 laptop program has been extended to include Year 2s and our staff are committed to personalising your child's learning program as much as possible. St Bernadette's will increasingly 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 what was at times a difficult 2020. 2021 brings new hope for our vibrant community of learners, as we commit to our theme for the year: 'We are all God's Treasures'.

### **Ray Higgins, Principal**

