



St Cecilia's Catholic Primary School

Annual School Report 2015

Item 1: Contextual Information

St Cecilia's is a single stream, co-educational Catholic Primary School, catering for up to 246 students from Kindergarten to Year Six. Indigenous students make up approximately 14% of the school population. The school is supported by the Parishes of Port and South Hedland, where a strong relationship exists between the Parishes, the school and the wider community.

St Cecilia's promotes an atmosphere of openness and mutual respect where children feel secure to develop to their full potential. Students embrace spiritual, emotional, intellectual, physical and social skills encouraging them to develop into independent learners.

All classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards and computers to support the dynamic teaching and learning environments and to assist students when participating in various academic endeavours. St Cecilia's also employs a bank of iPads and Chrome Books which can be transported from classroom to classroom, for student use.

St Cecilia's provides a solid foundation for student learning through an excellent Early Childhood Programme for Kindergarten and Pre-Primary.

St Cecilia's uses the Explicit Teaching Model of Practice in our approach to Literacy and Numeracy. Programmes for each year level are designed with a yearly overview and broken into four terms. Planning is guided by the requirements of the West Australian Curriculum. Our focus for 2015 was Reading and Reading Comprehension.

There is a strong sport emphasis at St Cecilia's. A variety of sporting programmes are undertaken both within the school curriculum and as extra-curricular activities. Our students have developed their skills in this area and achieve well in all sports. We believe personal pride and school spirit are important to the development of the whole child and we look to develop these traits in all students. While our students constantly attain great results they do so with humility while supporting each other and fellow competitors.

St Cecilia's is underpinned by the Gospel Values and encourages students to be true to our motto 'Faith, Family and Friendship'.

Faith Family Friendship

Item 2: Teacher standards and qualifications

Years Qualified	No Teachers	% Teachers	Qualifications include
3 Years	0	0	
4 Years	11	84	Bachelor of Education Bachelor of Education (Primary) Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood) Bachelor of Arts
5 Years	2	16	Masters of Religious Education Masters of Literature

Item 3: Workforce Composition

	No of Staff	% Staff
Teaching Staff	13	52
Teacher's Assistant	8	32
Female	22	88
Male	3	12
Indigenous ATA	1	4
Non Indigenous	24	96
Non Teaching	4	16

Item 4: Student Attendance at School Year Level % Absent % Attendance

Year Level	% Absent	% Attendance
Kindergarten	10.22	89.78
Pre-Primary	13.49	86.51
Year 1	8.33	91.67
Year 2	8.01	91.99
Year 3	6.97	93.03
Year 4	8.66	91.34
Year 5	9.69	90.31
Year 6	11.54	88.46

How is Non Attendance Managed by the School

St Cecilia's uses a computerised attendance program to record student attendance. Teachers enter in attendance information at 9.00am and 1.00pm each day. Any child who is absent, without notice from a parent/guardian, will be recorded as absent and an sms message will be sent to one parent/guardian.

When a child is absent with or without a phone call, a note is still required by the school. If no note is received, the school will send a follow-up absence letter for the parent/guardian to complete and return to the school office.

Item 5: Senior Secondary Outcomes:

Not relevant to St Cecilia's Catholic Primary School as we do not have a secondary school component.

Item 6: NAPLAN Information:

	Reading		Persuasive Writing		Spelling		Grammar and Punctuation		Numeracy	
Year 3	379		358		377		359		341	
	354 – 405		337 - 379		354 - 400		332 - 386		320 - 362	
	SIM 415 406 - 424	ALL 426	SIM 412 404 - 420	ALL 416	SIM 404 395 - 412	ALL 409	SIM 423 413 - 433	ALL 433	SIM 388 380 - 396	ALL 398
Year 5	470		453		495		455		451	
	444 – 497		428 - 478		470 - 519		427 - 484		429 - 473	
	SIM 491 482 - 500	ALL 499	SIM 472 464 - 480	ALL 478	SIM 495 487 - 503	ALL 498	SIM 497 488 - 506	ALL 503	SIM 483 475 - 491	ALL 493

The school has achieved a lower than Australian standard in many of the NAPLAN areas of testing. During 2014 to 2015, St Cecilia's had 120 students leave the school due to employment changes in line with the current mining cycle. This is approximately 66% of the students from Pre-Primary to Year Six. This has affected our teaching and learning with many students not having the benefit of a long term education at St Cecilia's. We hope this pattern decreases as the mining industry settles into a regular operating cycle.

Item 7: School Improvement Plan

St Cecilia's is below the Australian average in the NAPLAN testing. To counter this the staff analysed our NAPLAN data for 2014 and introduced a reading comprehension programme as part of our School Improvement Plan for 2015. The programme is designed to continue until 2017 and includes a Guided Reading programme to enhance student reading and comprehension skills. The Guided Reading programme was facilitated during staff Professional Learning Communities and guided by staff needs and student requirements. Over the period of 2015, the students of St Cecilia's improved their overall reading and comprehension skills. This has been confirmed by teacher assessment and the collection of data from the PM Benchmark and Lexile Reading programs.

St Cecilia's has introduced many new alternative ways to communicate with parents this year. The newsletter went on-line via the school website. This gave us the ability to go paperless for the first time. Then we began sending sms messages to all parents' mobile phones. This has proved to be beneficial to everyone as information can be delivered quickly and with immediate results, especially for student absence notifications.

Lastly some classes began using a 'Facebook' page. P&F members were asked to be monitors for the class Facebook pages.

During Term One the school ran a 'How to do Homework' night, in the school library. There were many relieved parents when they found out that homework is not hard and there are many ways to work out Maths and English problems. The main issues discussed were: the need to learn basic number facts at home eg: times tables, magic numbers that add to ten, the need to read and have parents reading to their children. We will be holding another homework night during 2016.

The school's drive to reduce rubbish has been a success with the total number of full bins being reduced by four a week. There were some initial problems with half-drunk milk and juice containers and the spaghetti containers. After consultation with parents two bins were placed outside the canteen that allow students to place their drink cartons and spaghetti containers in them.

St Cecilia's trialled a new Behaviour Management Plan in Term Four of 2014. The plan saw a schoolwide consistent and cohesive way of managing disruptive student behaviour. This was fully implemented in 2015 with great success. Teaching staff were given greater autonomy to use their non-disruptive behavioural management skills in the class. This has seen a big reduction in lost teaching time as inappropriate behaviour is dealt with by class teachers.

The school has provided staff with Faith Based Professional Development during 2015. Many staff members availed themselves to Professional Development on-line or run at the school. St Cecilia's would eventually like to have all staff accredited by the CEWA.

Item 8: Parent, Student and Teacher Satisfaction

We have a very strong community at St Cecilia's made up of staff, students and parents. When you join our school community you become part of the family. The general feeling that is returned to the school shows that parents are happy with the education of their children and that the children are happy in school.

We have had a larger than normal turnover of staff and students commencing from 2014 and continuing to the end of 2015.

Our staff are dedicated and conscientious and continually work hard for the good of their students. We have a dedicated P&F that work tirelessly to provide funds for our school. The School Board is diligent and works hard for the good of our students and the wider community.

Item 9: Post School Destinations

2016 Year 7 Destinations:

Applecross High School: 1

Australind Senior High School: 1

Corpus Christi College: 1

Hedland Senior High School: 14

Kalamunda Senior High School: 1

Nagle Catholic College: 1

Queensland: 5

Sacred Heart College: 1

Santa Maria College Perth: 2

Trinity Catholic College Perth: 1

Ursula Frayne Catholic College: 2

Item 10: School Income

<http://www.myschool.edu.au/MoreInformation>

Item 11: St Cecilia's AGM Board Report

2015 has been a good year for consolidation and the finalisation of numerous projects for St Cecilia's. Teacher housing has been completed with special thanks for the support of BHP. The installation and successful implementation of VOIP phones has not only increased the ease with communication around the school but has also had a marked effect on the cost of communications.

The financial status of the school as you will see from the treasurer's report is healthy, with 2016 looking to be another good year financially. The budget for next year's operating has been approved by the board and has been submitted to the CEO.

The general maintenance of St Cecilia's is an underlying concern for the board as the infrastructure is getting older, and with our close proximity to the sea the upkeep of the school will continue to be a significant cost to be borne by the school.

A lot of work has gone into increasing the facilities available to the students and staff of St Cecilia's along with the general community. The area at the bottom of the carpark has been earmarked as a school/community garden. This will have a benefit to the school by having the capacity to produce our own fresh produce for use in the school canteen, in addition to providing a teaching aid for the students and a place for the community to grow vegetables.

As you are aware, Mandy stepped up as acting principal whilst Peter was on long service leave. The transition from Peter to Mandy and then back to Peter was seamless and on behalf of the board we would like to thank Mandy for her professionalism and leadership during this period.

Lorraine Muzambwa represented St Cecilia's board at the CEO School Board Chairs' Conference in Perth in September. Lorraine's attendance ensured St Cecilia's board was kept up to date with the direction CEO are going and she gained insight into the running of schools from the board's perspective.

As a school we rely heavily on external support and, as such; if you have a skill that can be utilised by the school please come forward and notify Peter: plumbers, gardeners, boilermakers, electricians, engineers, etc. In addition to this, the board is made up of individuals with different skills, however, there may be a point in time where we need the advice and or assistance of a person with a specific skill set and, as such, we may call upon you to advise the board.

We have managed to alleviate a number of costly repairs including water supply issues and associated plumbing problems that have surfaced over the last twelve months. By standing our ground we have saved a considerable amount of money. If anybody wants advice on back flow prevention devices or booster pumps, see Peter!

As a board we have seen a number of resignations this year which is unfortunate, I would like to thank Michelle Bowins, Tony Riches, Julia Rahman and Bede Hegarty for their time spent on the board.

On behalf of the board, thank you for your trust and support.

Regards

Dean Rehn
Chairman
St Cecilia's Board
26/11/2015

Item 12: P&F President Annual Report

It's been another great year of fundraising and new initiatives by the current P&F. At the start 2015 we had a clear vision of what we wanted to achieve. This was not set dollar figure from one major fundraising event, but a number of events throughout the year with the aim of bringing the school's parents and friends closer together and reconnecting with this great place of learning. We feel this has been a success.

In Term One we:

- Did our traditional St Patrick's Day cupcakes- in which all students received a green cupcake on St Pat's Day. Cupcakes were kindly donated by all the willing chefs.
- Hosted a Mother's Day pamper afternoon here in the school hall which was well attended by approx. 30 mums and grandmas from the school. They enjoyed an afternoon tea and also the opportunity to paint nails, make bath crystals, make macaroni necklaces and tea cup biscuits.

In Term Two we:

- Hosted the Superheroes fun run. Kids had a blast, dressing up as their favourite super hero and the P&F provided icy poles afterwards. It was a fun day for all who participated.
- Ran a hugely successful 'Neon Themed Disco' in which the kids had a great time. A special thanks to the fathers who helped cook the sausages.
- Held a Tupperware fundraiser. Thank you to Kristine for this.

In Term Three we:

- Hosted our annual book fare which was again a great success and allowed the school the opportunity to purchase \$1330.50 worth of reading material and resources for our library.
- The Father's Day Breakfast was also well attended by approx. 25-30 dad's, all of which appreciated the early morning bacon and egg sandwiches. Thanks to Ali and Sarah for organising and also to Mark & Alison Fitt for cooking on the morning.

In Term Four we:

- Brought Maggie Dent to Port Hedland for a day in which she hosted 2 seminars that were very well attended. The morning session 'Sand Pit To Adolescence', saw 45 mums and dads attend, while the night session 'Boys, Boys, Boys' was a sell-out, with 150 tickets sold. Thank you to Renae for organizing the Town Of Port Hedland grant and also Sean St Maria for assisting with audio on the day. Thank you to The Esplanade Hotel for kindly donating Maggie's accommodation.
- We are also catering for the Christmas concert in a couple of weeks' time, in which we are selling hot beef rolls and drinks. A special thanks to a parent of the school, Neal Guilmartin, for heavily subsidising the costs of the beef for the P&F. Also thanks to Kristen Thompson for arranging this catering.
- Lastly, a great keepsake for parents and a popular Christmas present for grandparents, has been the recent fundraiser and subsequent uptake of orders for the 2015 School tea towels. This saw every student and teacher have the opportunity to draw themselves, and it has then been transferred onto a tea towel. We have had 220 tea towels sold. Well done to Ali Fitt whose idea this was and who organised from start to finish.

Major investments 2015 for the P&F have been:

- Funding requests from teachers and staff, which have included: new benches in the undercover area, floor mats for the science room and for Year 3 class, play furniture & phonics programme for Kindy & Pre Primary, Literacy & numeracy system & free play games for Year 1 to name a few.
- Kids craft: P&F funds Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day and Christmas craft activities for the class rooms
- Year 6 graduation gifts; a contribution of \$1,500.00 has been committed.
- Booking Maggie Dent to Port Hedland as well as complimentary tickets for all the St Cecilia's staff.
- A big thank you to Fortescue Metals Group and Pike Plumbing for each donating Buddy Benches to the school, and Sangita from HARTZ for donating her time and painting them. The feedback from the school is that the benches have been well received by the students.

I would like to thank Fiona for picking up and running with the school book club, having dealt with this for the past 2 years I know the time and effort that goes into this, so thank you Fiona. Through bookclub this year we have been rewarded with over \$1800 worth of books and resources on top of our book fare reward for our school. Also Fiona's role as P&F's representative on the school board has been very much appreciated.

To all the 2015 committee members, thank you for your hours of help and assistance with achieving our goals for the year. A special mention to my fellow Executives, Sarah Emmitt as Secretary and Jules Westlake as Treasurer who have gone above and beyond in their roles throughout the year.

On behalf of the board, thank you for your trust and support.

Regards

Nicole Boland
President
St Cecilia's P&F
26/11/2015