St Elizabeth’s Catholic Community is centred on and in Christ. Our faith in Christ is nurtured and nourished through the sacraments, most especially the Eucharist. We take ownership to share, respect and respond to others through unlimited love and kindness especially the marginalized.

**St Elizabeth Catholic Primary School Aims to:**

- **deliver** excellence in education to enable our students to become successful learners, responsible citizens, effective contributors and confident individuals.

- **acknowledge** parents as the primary educators of their children. They are informed and encouraged to share the responsibility of their child’s education.

- **cultivate** a safe, secure and happy environment where staff, parents and students work as a team to maximize our learning potential.

- **foster** an open and welcoming partnership to strengthen relationships; a sense of belonging with home, school, parish and the wider community.
Good evening and welcome to St Elizabeth’s Catholic Primary School Annual General Meeting. Thank you to Rick for your informative Board Report and to Belinda for your very positive P & F Association Report and Healthy Financial Report.

Explaination of Standardised Assessments
Normally the Principal’s Annual Report consists of data informing the community of the NAPLAN results and other standardised assessments. However, as we only have kindy and pre-primary students, this is an opportunity to explain what it is all about. NAPLAN is the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy. It is an annual assessment for students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9. The information gained from NAPLAN drives ongoing improvement at school, state and national level. In 2018 we will be involved with NAPLAN, when our current year one children will be in year three.

However, I would like to give you a brief overview of the Online Entry Literacy and Numeracy Assessment for pre-primary students which occurs in Term One during weeks three to five.

As the first full-time year of school, pre-primary is considered the most appropriate year to undertake on entry assessments. It allows early intervention for students who may be at risk in critical aspects of literacy and numeracy.

The assessments target early essential skills in literacy and numeracy including aspects of oral language, phonemic awareness, phonological knowledge, concepts of print, vocabulary, comprehension, fluency, writing, number and quantity awareness, counting, subitising, ordering, one to one correspondence, early spatial awareness and simple measurement comparisons. These results assist the teaching staff to analyse the data and adjust the teaching, learning assessment cycle to the particular needs of individual students.

The children in pre primary and year one are assessed according to the standards in the Western Australian and Australian Curriculum, so the Online Entry Literacy and Numeracy results for the pre-primary students supports the data to fine tune the teaching. We also use the Diana Rigg Program for the early years which clearly identifies expected targets at each year of their development.

Looking back to 2015
Last year was a particularly busy year for such a small staff and only thirty five families which made up our school community. It was a year of firsts (Inaugural); the St Elizabeth’s School Board and Parents’ & Friends’ Association were established. First Sports Day and Christmas Concert depicting the Nativity and the Official Opening of St Elizabeth’s Catholic Primary School.

Parents and staff celebrated the opening of the 2015 school year with a picnic followed by The Parent and Teacher Information Night. Parents were kept informed of all school events in the Newsletter, Term Planners and on our school Website. They also had the opportunity to meet with teachers regarding the progress of their child including Portfolios and Reports (PP).

We celebrated our first community mass at St Anthony’s Church and experienced the wonder of God in the liturgies for both classrooms throughout the year. We also had the privilege of sharing the first anniversary in memory of Sam Trott with a school mass and the planting and blessing of a Jacaranda tree in his memory, a reminder of our community spirit.
Of course we had our very first excursion for the pre primary class to King’s Park followed by a trip with the kindy children to Caversham Park. I think there were some very anxious parents who were wondering if I had lost the plot in agreeing to the little ones leaving school. But ah! everyone had an exciting adventure and we returned with a full head count!

We celebrated all the major events: Father’s Day, Mother’s Day, Book Week, ANZAC Day and Pirate Day to mention just a few. We may be small, however we managed to pack so much into the year. This of course will only occur when the staff and parents have an honest and open relationship working together for the benefit of our children.

Parent participation was outstanding through the School Board and P & F Association as Belinda said, so much was achieved. We had an amazing Busy Bee, a false start because of expected rain. The following Saturday we spruced up the school for the Opening! God bless you all!

Capital Expenditure included new colourful shades installed in both play areas and a climbing rocket erected near the oval for the children to enjoy. Due to damage in the undercover area we installed security cameras throughout the school. We also purchased new furniture to complete our current classrooms.

Recurrent Expenditure has seen a boost in our library books, Early Readers, Religious Education Resources and educational games for Kindy to Year Two. Physical Education equipment and Art supplies were purchased to enable Naomi Clarkson, our Physical Education and Arts teacher to effectively implement her programs with the appropriate equipment. We also have our own portable sound system, a bonus for the liturgies and assemblies.

Employing Robert Agacy as our part time gardener towards the end of the year has seen the school oval improve and the general maintenance costs reduced because he can turn his hand to almost anything. God bless you Robert!

In 2015 our Annual Improvement Plan involved several goals for us to work towards under the CEWA Strategic Plan of LEAD Learning, Engagement, Accountability and Discipleship.

**Learning** – to build educational excellence by providing the optimum development of;
- oral language
- numeracy, and
- staff professional and faith development through review, reflection and goal setting.

**Engagement** – to build school and parent relationships by cultivating supportive relationships amongst parents, students and teachers in order to build a strong community.

**Accountability** – to build capacity in the staff’s understanding of individual and collective responsibility in embracing the Catholic education’s mission.

**Discipleship** – to formulate the School’s Vision and Mission Statement and work towards increasing enrolments.

The teacher’s programs demonstrated explicit teaching and learning experiences to support the development of the whole child. Children who were not meeting the expected standards were given extra support though Curriculum Adjusted Plans, Individual Educational Plans and 1:1 learning experiences. All staff worked collaboratively during their Wednesday afternoon meetings in their Professional Learning Community to analyse assessment tasks as well as attending Professional Learning though CEWA and other agencies.
The National Quality Standards for Early Childhood of which there are seven, with each standard having five or six elements, were assessed. There are certain elements which we need to work on this year. We have met the standards that involve our optimum duty of care for the children.

We have set up an advertising program to take place this year to get the good news out there that we are here! Our biggest asset to improve our enrolments is you, the parents. We need you to tell the surrounding suburbs what a caring community we are, and that we strive for excellence in our Catholic education of your children.

The Quality Catholic School strategy is a self-reflection tool in light of the gospel teachings to ensure we develop and continue to strengthen our Catholicity in our school community. To this end we formalised The School’s Vision and Mission Statements which were shared at the School’s Official Opening on the 23 September 2015. We continue to encourage our families to attend school liturgies and parish masses. We also engaged the school community with St Anthony’s Parish by participating in the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers. We thank you for your outstanding generosity.

**Looking Forward**

**Our Focus for 2016**

- Write an Evangelisation Plan, which is well on the way to being completed. Thanks to the hard work of Joan, Lea and Caitlyn
- Include simplified Gospel readings as part of the Religious Education Programs for the children and the staff to read and reflect on the Sunday Gospel as part of weekly shared prayer time.
- Develop a Code of Conduct for the Parents which has been completed, however we are interested in feedback from our parents.
- Ongoing collaboration with the staff to encourage self-improvement and support of colleagues in our quest for excellence.
- Continue to differentiate the curriculum for students who are not at target.
- To provide the best possible learning context for the optimum development of literacy focussing on Phonological Awareness. In numeracy our focus is rote counting forward and backward and number recognition.
- Train a staff member to be the Occupational, Health and Safety Officer
- Inspire students to know, understand and live out the gospel values of Catholic Christianity as an expression of our faith in our modern world.
- Continue to work towards increasing our enrolments in accordance to faith in action.
- To nurture a social environment where students, staff and parents are safe, respected and supported to ensure their social and emotional wellbeing.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Father John Daly for his commitment and support to St Elizabeth’s Catholic School Community. Whilst he has three schools and a large parish to service, Father John finds the time to join us in our liturgies, celebrate masses and enquires to the wellbeing of the students, staff and parents. Father John also attends our Board Meetings when he is able to do so.

Thank you to the School Board Members for your regular attendance at our monthly Board Meetings and sharing your thoughts and offering sound advice. Your ongoing support and appreciation of the hard work undertaken by the P & F Association is heartening. Rick, as Board Chair thank you for your concern, interest, advice and support over the last twelve months.
To our P & F Association Executive Members, Belinda and Helen and Committee members, you have managed to stretch yourselves to the limit and pulled many of us along with you in your enthusiastic approach in all your undertakings. Whilst money is important and certainly for our school community, building community and charity work is also very important. Your combined efforts have helped us to work towards these aims. We look forward to working with you again this year and hope we do not have so many rainy days to contend with. Although with our recent weather I’m sure you would all agree that we could do with some rainy days!

To the staff, at times we wondered if we would make it over the line, teaching, lugging furniture, setting up, cleaning, cooking, moving bins and yes I forgot self-improvement in our profession, planning, executing explicit instructions and assessing the outcomes according to the Kindy Syllabus, EYLF, Australian Curriculum. Western Australian Curriculum, NQS, QCS, ASIP and Strategic Planning. In all of this, you did not take your eye off the ball, in this case the children, you loved, cared, nurtured, and encouraged them in their learning journey. You wiped tears, used band aids for invisible injuries and supported each other and myself. God bless.

Mel as I drive home at night I wonder how you put up with me! You are the face and the voice of our school. No matter the deadlines, you always show compassion and concern and make everyone feel so welcome. What a star, you brighten the Admin with your friendly approach. Thank you. What a Team, yes I know it has not always been smooth sailing, while the odd storm shakes us up it keeps us on our toes. God bless each one of you.

On behalf of the staff, I thank the parents for your positive approach to your child’s Catholic education. We look forward to strengthening our relationship with you to enhance the best possible learning environment for your children, all of whom are unique individuals and we love every one of them! God bless you all.

In this year of Mercy, Pope Francis invites us to follow the merciful example of the Father who asks us not to judge or condemn. Let us make this our aim to search how we, as a community can better understand who Jesus is, so that we will convey this wonderful example to each other and be the positive role models for our children in our words and actions.

Let us make this year a happy adventure in relationships and learning!

*Carmel O'Shaughnessy*
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Principal
St Elizabeth’s Catholic Primary School