



## 2024 ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT

As we begin the countdown to the end of the 2024 school year at St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School, it is a great opportunity for me to reflect on another wonderful year.

This year marked the tenth anniversary of the opening of St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School. The school began with four staff and fourteen students. Today, the school continues to grow with 34 staff and 270 students from Pre-Kindergarten to Year Six. As enrolments continue to increase, and waitlists in all year levels, 2025 will be the beginning of our transition to double stream starting with two Kindergarten classes.

### CATHOLIC IDENTITY

St Elizabeth's continues to maintain a strong partnership with St Anthony of Padua Parish, Wanneroo and I extend my heartfelt thanks to Father Peter Porteous for his unwavering support throughout 2024. Our classes prepared and celebrated many beautiful Liturgies and Whole School Masses, deeply rooted in our Catholic traditions. It was wonderful to see our Year One to Six students join the parish community and St Anthony's students for Mass at the beginning and end of each term, a tradition we eagerly anticipate continuing next year. Many of our students also had the blessing of participating in the Sacramental Program, receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation, Eucharist, and Reconciliation. A special thank you goes to Father Peter, Father Leonard, Father Francis, the Parish Sacramental Coordinators, Emma Fernandez, our dedicated teachers, and the parents who helped facilitate these important celebrations.

In furthering our Catholic identity, the creation of our Foundation Garden, not only marked our ten year anniversary of the opening of the school, but also provided another beautiful, reflective sacred space for our wider school community to enjoy. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this particular project, the Foundation Garden. A special thank you to Mr Rasulle, the creator of the magnificent statue of St Elizabeth of Hungary. From some basic drawings and one meeting he created a statue that honours our school's name's sake. To Mr Nicoletti, for the inspirational planning, organising and actual planting of our special garden ... the finished product is breathtaking. Additionally, to both Mr and Mrs Nicoletti, thank you for your generous donation towards the Foundation Garden.

Our House Faction days continue to grow in strength, with both staff and students enthusiastically celebrating each House in a variety of meaningful ways. These days not only foster school spirit but also provide opportunities for students to engage with important values through Christian Service Learning. This year, we placed a particular emphasis on the concept of 'giving back' and supporting those less fortunate. Through initiatives like our annual 'Meal in a Can' Drive, we collected non-perishable food items to help local families in need. In addition, we donated old school uniforms to an overseas charity, helping children in underprivileged communities access proper clothing. Our school community also supported LifeLink by gathering empty bottles and cans, further emphasising our



commitment to social justice and care for the vulnerable. These efforts remind our students of the power of kindness and the importance of making a positive impact in the lives of others.

## EDUCATION

Throughout the year, our dedicated Pre-Kindergarten to Year Six staff and specialist teachers led our students through a variety of engaging and creative teaching and learning programs. Students had the opportunity to take part in numerous excursions and incursions, which significantly enriched their educational experience. This year we introduced our extension program 'Wings', giving selected students an opportunity to extend their learning and work on higher order thinking activities. Additionally, selected students proudly represented our school in various interschool sporting events, including Swimming, Cross Country, Winter Sports and Athletics. As a school community, we are incredibly fortunate to have passionate and committed teachers who devote countless hours to planning and organising these enriching learning opportunities.

2024 saw the introduction of our Student Council, led by our Student School Captains. A number of students from Year One to Six represented their classes at meetings to ensure each student was given a voice across certain decisions. Next year, the Student Council will be a focus and ensure that student voice is at the forefront of all our discussions.

Staff participated in professional development days with a focus on our Faith development, building resilience in self and others, creating and aligning conditions for learning across all year levels and upskilling in student and staff wellbeing with a connection to trauma informed practices.

## COMMUNITY

To the School Advisory Council, led by Mr Mark Stewart, and the Parents and Friends Committee, chaired by Mrs Rebecca Hindley, thank you for your support. The generosity and time that you dedicate simply enhances the wonderful community spirit at St Elizabeth's. To our retiring SAC members, Mark and Alana, thank you for everything that you have given to St Elizabeth's over the past few years. Many meetings, emails and discussions have been had in the past three years, and I truly thank you for your time and dedication. Your insights and thoughts are going to be missed at our meetings. To Rebecca and Belinda, our P&F Chair and Deputy Chair, thank you for a great year and I wish you both all the best.

To our school community, this year the support for the various school events, including fundraising activities such as the Easter Disco, Car Park Raffle, Quiz Night, the Athletics Carnival Cake Stall and Sausage Sizzle and the wonderful Colour Run has been overwhelming. The pure joy of opening up our school for the Community Open Night and showcasing us is fantastic and a credit to all those involved. Seeing the pure joy on the faces of the students as they have played on the bus, or the imaginative play areas, including the fairy garden, created by the Karrinyup Men's Shed, is a highlight and would not happen without your support ... so thank you!

## STEWARDSHIP



A number of minor works have occurred throughout the year to enhance or create some much needed learning spaces both indoors and outdoors. The Early Years playground now has a variety of new play spaces that encourage creativity and imagination including a fabulous wooden boat and a large stage area. The older students welcomed the BIG RED ST ELIZABETH'S ADVENTURE BUS to the main playground, thanks to the hard-working P&F Committee and wider school community. To say this caused a frenzy of excitement would be an understatement! With limited classroom space, an internal wall was constructed to separate the library into two learning spaces for our upper primary students. While this was not the first option, it has been the best short term one until the new build is completed.

The Stage Four build has been approved by CECWA and will begin next year. This build will include four new classrooms, toilet block and landscaping to accommodate our growing enrolments.

Each year, I am honoured to work with talented and dedicated staff, including our administration team, teachers, educational assistants, and grounds staff and this year was no exception. At St Elizabeth's, all staff collaborate to instil values, morals, and life skills that reflect our Catholic identity, while also delivering high-quality teaching and learning. Thank you to everyone for your efforts this year. To those members of staff leaving us and moving onto new adventures, Emma Fernandez, Chris Rebeiro and Olivia Edwards, I want to say a massive thank you and sincerely wish you all the best for the future. To those that are joining us next year, Kadir Mastan, Nicky Celinski, Queva Fitzgerald, Skye Sanders, Brooke Davison, Jenna Newton, Annette Doe and Chelsea Lawrence, welcome to our fabulous, crazy team!

To you all please always remember that our strong sense of teamwork and collaboration truly embodies our moral purpose ***'Together we grow in a respectful and nurturing Christ-centred learning environment where students thrive academically and flourish as individuals, embracing our values of compassion, charity, humility and service as a whole community ... GROW, THRIVE, FLOURISH'***.

Thank you and God bless

Rebecca Clarke

Principal