



2024 Annual Report

St Therese School



St Therese School

Chairperson's Report

2024 was the year that will be remembered for a long time by many people for the loss of the much-loved icon of the school: Paul Snelling. Paul's humour, his desire to bring joy and fun to people, his love for the children he taught, his living out of the values of the school, and his down-to-earth approach to everything will be etched in our minds. The grief at our significant loss has been experienced by different people in different ways and is likely to be with us for years to come. The school leadership is in communication with the Snelling family with a view to discerning and establishing an appropriate memorial.

On the positive side, 2024 was the year in which the second phase of the development of the school buildings was completed, with fantastic functionality improvements for the administration of the school, plus freshly renovated classroom facilities and a fabulous new school frontage.

At the start of the year, new structures were launched to aid in the achievement of the school's strategic goal of a 'Thriving Community'. Following a series of consultations and conversations throughout 2023, the board was involved in the launch and monitoring of the Parent Engagement Group (PEG). Through this process, the school has seen an increase in the number of events to bring the community together, plus a series of 'passion projects' implemented.

It was wonderful to see another graduating cohort at the end of the year. The students made us all proud, and we wish them all the best in their high school careers and future endeavours.

Thank you to Dee-anne and the other school leaders, to the teachers and other staff of the school for all the hard work you've put into our children's learning and welfare, whose futures we all long to see well-grounded and richly fruitful.

And thank you also to all the members of the board for the time and energy investment, including new members in 2024: Til Meister, Tristan King and Barbara Rottenberg. A hearty thanks to Fiona Matters for her 6 years of faithful service on the board, including time as chairperson. It has been my pleasure to serve on the board for nearly 6 years, also including time as chairperson. I wish all the members of the wider school community all the very best – may the Lord Jesus be honoured through our endeavours as we seek to please him above all, and only through his grace.

Mark Peterson
Chairperson of the School Board 2024

Principal's Report

It is with a sense of great accomplishment that I present to you the Annual Report for St Therese School. This report documents our journey, achievements, and challenges throughout 2024. This report serves as both a reflection on the achievements of the past year and an opportunity to outline our vision for the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the profound loss to our school community experienced this past year. The sudden passing of Paul Snelling was heartbreaking for us all. Paul was not only an exceptional teacher but also a cherished member of our school community. Paul's time, energy and dedication played an integral part in shaping the history of St Therese School. He will always be remembered for his kindness, passion and unwavering commitment to educating young people. We know that Paul's absence has been deeply felt by staff, students and families. As we reflect on the past year, let us also honour Paul's legacy by continuing to uphold the school values of respect, community, grace and courage that he so beautifully embodied. While we move forward as a school community, we carry Paul Snelling's memory with us in all that we do.

Over the past year, we have witnessed remarkable progress in academic performance, extracurricular success, and the strengthening of our school culture. These achievements are a testament to the dedication of our students, the unwavering support of parents and guardians, and the tireless efforts of our teaching and support staff.

In this report you will find detailed insights into key initiatives undertaken during the year, including the new Parent Engagement Framework, the introduction of AUSLAN for all students, and the completion of the Horgan Building refurbishment. These initiatives reflect our commitment to providing a well-rounded education that prepares our students not only for academic success but also for life beyond school.

We have also faced challenges along the way, but as a community, we have risen to meet them with resilience and determination. The lessons learned during these times have strengthened us and reinforced our shared vision and mission of nurturing confident, capable, and compassionate individuals. Looking ahead, we remain focused on continued improvement. Our strategic priorities for the coming year include fostering student wellbeing, expanding extra-curricular opportunities and strengthening our Catholic Identity. We are excited for what lies ahead and are confident that together we can achieve even greater milestones.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our School Board, staff, parents, students and Emmaus Parishioners for their contributions to making St Therese School a place where everyone can thrive. Your trust and collaboration are invaluable as we continue to build on our successes.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our shared vision. I look forward to continuing to work and celebrate together in 2025, our centenary year of St Therese School.

Catholic Identity & Formation

St Therese School is guided by a clear mission and vision statement that embodies Catholic values and principles. The mission focuses on the holistic development of students, integrating faith, academic excellence, and service to others. The curriculum includes sacramental preparation programs, religious education, and opportunities for prayer, reflection, and social justice.

Catholic Identity at St Therese School remains strong, thanks to the dedication of the staff, students, families, and members of the Emmaus parish community. Father John Shanahan has continued to be a constant source of encouragement to all stakeholders in the St Therese School and the wider Emmaus parish communities. Our APRIM, Carol Jarell, has demonstrated outstanding leadership in her first year in the substantive role.

Liturgical celebrations including weekly whole school prayer, masses, liturgical celebrations, and daily class prayer are integral parts of St Therese school life.

Faith Formation: Staff and students engage in spiritual workshops and reflection days, providing them with opportunities for deeper reflection, prayer, and exploration of their faith journey. We have participated in the Catholic Education South Australia (CESA) Growing Deep - Strategic Formation program in 2024 with a focus on deepening the faith formation experiences of our students by enriching our Religious Education Curriculum.

Social Justice: The social justice initiatives at St Therese have continued to flourish. Our parent community remains exceptionally generous, supporting initiatives through donations or by volunteering their time for school activities. Project Compassion, Vinnies Winter Appeal, Little Way Day, Christmas Markets, Christmas Giving Tree and Vinnies Christmas hampers are just a few examples of how our community demonstrates that small acts can be done with great love. Student leaders from the Social Justice Team collaborated with Carol Jarell to plan and execute these events across all year levels.

Sacramental Program: The ongoing success of the sacramental program showcased the robust partnership between St Therese School, Emmaus Parish, and the Emmaus cluster schools, including St Thomas, Goodwood, and St Joseph's, Kingswood. Additionally, young people from the Emmaus Parish, as well as students from Mercedes College and other local schools, were warmly welcomed.

The Emmaus Parish hosted Friday Family Time here at St Therese in March for school families across the parish. It was lovely to host this event and have time with our families and other families while sharing a pizza dinner. Families noted how wonderful it was to see the older students spending time with younger students, and that they appreciated getting to know other parents in a relaxed enjoyable environment.

Quality Teaching, Quality Learning

We continued to build teacher capacity in analysing, interpreting, and using student data, including our student learning management system, SEQTA, to collect data for Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD), student attendance, pastoral care notes and teacher timetabling, programming, unit planning, assessment and reporting.

Our 2024 NAPLAN results were excellent. All tests were completed online, except for Year Three Writing, which continues to be a paper-based test.

NAPLAN 2024 was in the second year of the new time series with testing occurring in March. Results were reported against four Proficiency Standards.

The NAPLAN Proficiency Standards are:

Exceeding: The student's results exceed expectation at the time of testing

Strong: The student's result demonstrates proficiency by meeting challenging but reasonable expectations at the time of testing

Developing: The student's result indicates that they are working towards expectations at the time of testing and are approaching proficiency

Needs additional support: The student's result indicates that they are not achieving the learning outcomes expected at the time of testing. They are likely to need additional support to progress satisfactorily

St Therese students achieved the Exceeding Proficiency Standard above the National Average in the following areas:

- Above the National Average in:
 - Reading, and Numeracy in Year 3
 - Reading, Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation, and Numeracy in Year 5

St Therese students achieved the NAPLAN Proficiency Standard above the National Average in all tests in each year level.

Two Year 3 students and three students in Year 5 scored in the Needs Additional Support Proficiency Standard in one or more of the tests. Of the five students, all were being case managed at the time of the results becoming available.

Six Year 3 students scored within the Exceeding Proficiency Standard in one or more tests and 14 students in Year 5 also scored in the Exceeding Proficiency Standard in one or more tests.

Congratulations to our dedicated staff for continuing to provide excellent support for our students to achieve these results. Results can be accredited to classroom teaching based on high-impact instruction across the school and to intervention programs: MinilLit, MSL, MSM, and extension math.

Our staff continued to update their professional qualifications to further enhance their teaching skills and knowledge. All staff participated in the Positive Behaviour Interventions and Support program, REAL Schools - Restorative Practice 2.0, Disability Standards Training, RHHAN-EC update and SALT workplace compliance training. Some teachers completed units towards a Master degree while other undertook studies in their Graduate Certificate - Catholic Education.

I was fortunate to attend the annual South Australian Catholic Primary Principals Association (SACPPA) Conference in 2024 "Leading a High Performance Culture Now and in the Future." Speakers included Ultra-marathon runner and elite sportswoman, Jacqui Bell. Her story inspired and motivated us with strategies on how to overcome adversity and nurture a high-performance mindset. Gus Balbontin was challenging, provoking and energising as he reminded us not to worry, the future is already here! There were some fantastic learning opportunities with Paul Kidson, Glenn Savage and Adam Voigt. We were reminded about why we do the incredibly impactful work of being a principal with a beautiful story telling session from one of our outstanding Catholic school alumni and where their studies have taken them. After meeting Adam Voight at the conference, we have entered a three-year partnership with Real Schools - Restorative Practices 2.0.

In the arts, our school held an exhibition 'Brushstrokes and Beyond' as part of the SALA Festival, this was expertly curated by Gabrielle Foster and enjoyed by students and visitors alike. The Catholic Schools Music Festival choir performed at the Festival Theatre at the end of term three. Thank you to our music teacher Nicole Moxham for preparing our senior students to participate in this longstanding musical extravaganza. Anne Tymukas, our drama teacher, was excited to be able to stage the musical theatre production of 'Chitty, Chitty, Bang, Bang' at the Goodwood Community theatre. Private tutors provided piano, guitar and voice, lessons for many students and held both a mid-year and end of year performance.

Thank you to Signora Alannah Prestwich for sharing her passion of the Italian language and culture with our students. The children and staff enjoyed an Italian Fiesta Day filled with art, music and dancing along with a delicious Italian themed lunch.

Thank you to Barbara Mee for providing an engaging sports program for our students. We have many out-of-hour sports teams, and children from year three to year six have the opportunity to participate in a variety of sporting carnivals throughout the year.

Thank you to Leonie Boulden who started teaching AUSLAN to all students alongside their classroom teacher. It was wonderful to witness how eagerly the children engaged with this and to see the signing choir at liturgies was heartwarming.

Our long transition to school program continued with great success. Children enrolled to commence Reception at St Therese school had the opportunity to attend school each Friday morning prior to starting school. They participated in a variety of activities, to become familiar with our school, staff, and students. We also have playgroup on Thursday morning for families with preschool aged children. Our playgroup program is known as SPiCE (Supported Playgroup in Catholic Education). Through participation in SPiCE we are supported by a wonderful network of early childhood educators.

Thriving Community

After thorough consultation with the STS Board and stakeholders, Emily Jenke from democracyCo, produced a framework which was approved by the School Board at the end of 2023. We proudly launched the St Therese School Parent Engagement Framework in 2024 and held our Ideas Generation Session for families in Term One.

Our Inaugural Parent Engagement Group (PEG) was formed in Term One 2024. Representatives were invited from a ballot draw in each year level. The PEG has the following representatives:

- One parent from each year level (Reception to Year Six)
- One Board member
- One member of Leadership
- One Emmaus Parish representative

The PEG meet at least once each term to discuss and organise parent engagement activities across the school. During the planning process for events, the PEG call for extra volunteers to support the activities. A range of parent subgroups, passion projects and initiatives were organised through the year:

- Kytos Hot Cross Bun Fundraiser
- Movie Time and Raffle Fundraiser
- Run Club
- Community Garden Family Workshops
- Ride 2 School Day
- End of Term Discos
- Morning Health Hustle
- Yr 6 Booklet
- Sports Day BBQ
- Sports Day Bake Sale
- Christmas Markets
- Community BBQ and Spit Roast (Term 1 2025)

The CESA Living, Learning, Leading survey was offered to all stakeholders at St Therese school in 2024. Perception data is analysed to assist our schools rate our performance and progress towards meeting the intent of the CESA Living, Learning, Leading Framework. The data has been interpreted and has been used to inform strategic plans for St Therese School into the future.

All students can complete the Classroom Pulse survey during weeks 5 & 6 each term. They answer questions about their identity, learning, relationships and belonging. The purpose is to “check in” with our students and measure how they are feeling. The data identifies any potential social, emotional, or learning needs they may have.

Children in Year 4-6 participated in the Wellbeing and Engagement Collection survey conducted by the South Australian Department for Education to gather insights into students’ wellbeing. Each year, Helen Connolly, the Commissioner for Children and Young People in South Australia invites children aged 8-12 to share their thoughts and priorities. The project is named “Tell Helen Postcard Project” and aims to amplify the voices of young people and inform policy decisions affecting them. Our children were given the opportunity to participate in this postcard project. The data collected from across South

Australia is collated into an annual report. The report summarises the responses from children and is available on the CCYP website.

Our Year 6 thanksgiving liturgy and graduation dinner was held in Term 4. Many thanks to Carol Jarell, and the team of Year 6 parents for their collaboration in planning this celebration. Our final farewell to our graduating students was celebrated on their last day with a liturgy and afternoon tea in the Community Garden.

We held our annual sports day at Mortlock Oval with many visitors in attendance. Thank you to the parents who volunteered and supported this event, and other sporting carnivals and out of hours school sport throughout the year. The family BBQ and bake sale was welcomed back at this year's Sports Day.

The City of Mitcham Carols night was a highlight after being cancelled in 2023. I would like to acknowledge and thank Nicole Moxham and Liliana Spinelli for leading the children's choir and their families for supporting this lovely annual community event. We ended the year with our own Christmas Markets and Carols Night. This was a festive celebration for all and a delightful way to celebrate the festive season.

To show our appreciation to parents and caregivers that volunteered in our school through the year, our School Board invited all volunteers to a BBQ dinner to be served by members of the School Board. It was a lovely evening and a wonderful opportunity for us to show how grateful we are to our parent community, their generous support and our successful partnerships.

Stewardship

Thank you to Father John Shanahan for his leadership and guidance of our school. His support for our school is always valued.

Thank you to Patrick O'Leary, the Chair of our Finance Committee, who works closely with Sonya Arnott to ensure that St Therese School is in a financially sound position.

The Finance Committee reports to the School Board and jointly are responsible for the setting of school fees, approval of the school budget and signing off on the annual financial statements at the end of the school year.

As part of the Catholic Education SA (CESA) accountability process, auditing of the school finances occurs across the year. Financial reports are forwarded to CESA, who has responsibility for reporting on the expenditure of Government funding. A large part of our income comes from State and Federal funding. KPMG completed our financial audit again in 2024.

Mark Peterson and Fiona Matters both retired from the school board after serving six years. I wish to thank Mark, as the Chair of the School Board, for his time and dedication. I would also like to thank Fiona for her commitment and input. Thank you to all the returning board members for their insight and contributions throughout the year: Fr John Shanahan, Carmel White, Patrick O'Leary, Carol Jarell, Kate McKeough, Barbara Rottenberg, Attila Meister and Tristan King.

I thank all the dedicated staff of St Therese School who continue to provide an excellent education for our students.

I wish to acknowledge the work of the staff who retired or resigned from St Therese school in 2024. Melissa Fairlie was a great asset at St Therese School as she worked diligently as an Education Support Officer including the role of Library manager. Please join me in wishing Melissa all the very best in her retirement.

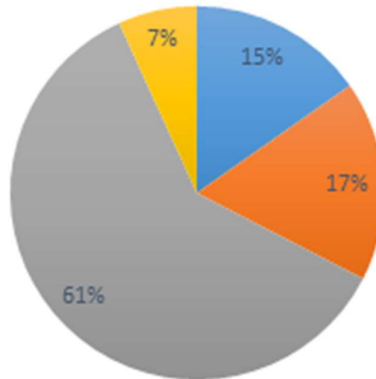
Staff who accepted new roles outside of St Therese School include Lynda Pope, Nicole Moxham, Kathryn McKenzie-Smith and Kate O'Reilly. I thank these staff for their dedication to St Therese and wish them all the best for the future.

I would also like to thank the members of the Executive Team, Carol Jarell and Margaret McCarthy for their support, enthusiasm, and commitment to their roles. It is a privilege to lead this faith filled community, and I highly value the trust that people place in our staff as we provide a safe learning for all children.

Dee-anne Peters
Principal

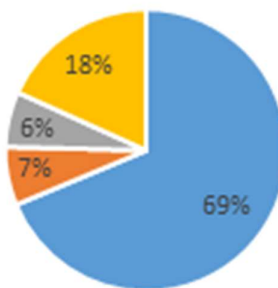
Financial Summary

2024 School Income



■ Fee Income ■ State Government ■ Commonwealth Government ■ Income Other

2024 School Expenditure



■ Teaching Salaries
■ Camps, Excursions and other
■ Utilities/Rates/Levies
■ Admin, Insurances, Maintenance and other

St Therese School
Balance Sheet - Year: 2024 Period: 12

Account	Description	This Year		Last Year
ASSETS				
<u>Current Assets</u>				
6020-00	CASH FLOAT		\$100.00	\$100.00
6100-01	CASH AT BANK - SCHOOL BOARD ACCOUNT	\$1,230,005.97		\$1,572,192.00
6200-00	DEBTORS-FEES	\$4,090.57		\$36,926.37
6240-00	DEBTORS-OTHERS			\$507.61
6250-00	PROVISION FOR DOUBTFUL DEBTS	(\$1,910.00)		(\$4,650.00)
6290-00	PREPAYMENTS	\$3,884.91		\$10,931.27
6295-00	FBT INSTALMENTS	\$2,866.00		
6410-00	LSL RECEIVABLE	\$399,074.00		\$393,709.00
	Total For Current Assets		\$1,638,111.45	\$2,009,716.25
<u>Non Current Assets</u>				
5000-00	FREEHOLD LAND AT COST	\$500,000.00		\$500,000.00
5100-00	BUILDINGS AT COST	\$6,580,581.02		\$3,918,494.71
5109-00	ACCUM. DEPRECIATION ON BUILDINGS	(\$1,111,075.77)		(\$984,126.46)
5110-00	BUILDINGS FIXED EQUIPMENT & IMPROVEMENTS	\$740,476.10		\$765,205.86
5119-00	ACCUM. DEPRECIATION ON FIXED EQUIPMENT & FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT	(\$565,762.39)		(\$565,566.58)
5200-00	ACCUM. DEPRECIATION ON FURN/EQUIP	\$239,823.58		\$217,011.54
5209-00	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	(\$144,526.22)		(\$153,582.75)
5220-00	ACCUM. DEPRECIATION COMPUTERS	\$321,360.56		\$259,722.90
5229-00	BUILDING PROJECTS - WORKS IN PROGRESS	(\$139,740.72)		(\$249,574.47)
5800-00	FIXED EQUIPMENT PROJECTS - WORKS IN PROG	\$14,000.00		\$1,088,723.97
5800-01	COMPUTER PROJECTS - WORKS IN PROGRESS			\$217,229.88
5800-03	LSL Receivable - Non current	\$23,816.00		\$45,221.00
5810-00	Total For Non Current Assets		\$6,458,952.16	\$5,058,759.60
	Total For Assets		\$8,097,063.61	\$7,068,475.85
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY				
<u>Current Liabilities</u>				
8110-00	DEPOSITS - PARENTS	\$17,050.00		\$15,400.00
8116-00	INCOME RECEIVED IN ADVANCED			
8117-00	GOVT. GRANTS IN ADVANCE- AUST.	\$2,550.00		
8140-00	CCES LOAN (Current)	\$102,550.13		
8200-00	SUNDRY CREDITORS	\$54,195.18		\$1,043.81
8201-00	DEBTOR OVERPAYMENTS	\$30,975.50		\$28,126.33
8210-00	ACCRUALS	\$21,430.84		\$16,400.57
8210-01	ACCRUAL - UNPAID PAYROLL AT EOY	\$17,187.17		\$64,919.69
8310-01	PROVISIONS- EMPLOYEE ANNUAL LEAVE	\$1,099.64		\$1,916.84
8410-00	LSL PAYABLE	\$399,074.00		\$393,709.00
8205-18	GST-FREE SUPPLIES CONTROL			\$29,998.00
8205-19	GST-FREE SUPPLIES CLEARING			(\$29,998.00)
	Total Current Liabilities		\$646,112.46	\$521,516.24
<u>Non Current Liabilities</u>				
8340-00	ACCRUED ANNUAL LEAVE	\$85,879.69		\$107,373.57
8500-00	CCES LOAN (Non Current)	\$1,575,688.80		\$818,940.41
8600-00	LSL Payable - Non Current	\$23,816.00		\$45,221.00
	Total Non Current Liabilities		\$1,685,384.49	\$971,534.98
<u>Clearing Account</u>				
4010-00	SUNDRIES - CONTRA			
4019-00	FBT CLEARING			(\$3,417.00)
4062-00	SUPERANNUATION CLEARING ACCOUNT			(\$77.66)
4090-00	CREDIT CARD CLEARING ACCOUNT	\$5,883.28		
	Total For Clearing Account		\$5,883.28	(\$3,494.66)
<u>Accumulated Funds</u>				
9000-00	ACCUMULATED FUNDS	\$5,759,683.38		\$5,578,919.29
	SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR YEAR	\$180,764.09	\$469,983.71	
	Total For Accumulated Funds		\$5,759,683.38	\$5,578,919.29
	Total For Liabilities And Equity		\$8,097,063.61	\$7,068,475.85