



2022 Annual Report

St Therese School



St Therese School

Chairperson's Report

2022 was another challenging year for St Therese School as together we sought to emerge from the most intense aspects of the COVID-19 Pandemic and find some new sort of normal. Our hope at the beginning of the year was that it was all behind us.

And yet, 2022 kicked off with by far the highest new COVID cases of the whole Pandemic, peaking in January at over 100,000 per day. Should I take my child to school with a runny nose? Can I afford to take another day off work? We were answering these questions on a daily basis.

And the staff at the school were on the other side of the ledger trying to work out who was available, how big my class will be today, and what are the learning gaps that are being created. It has been a difficult time for all, involving challenges from many angles.

And yet, as the year progressed, things started to settle down. Parents started to come back onto the school grounds and some of the uncertainty about what we were doing reduced.

Through all this time, the board has been very impressed with the dedication and hard work of the teaching, administrative, and leadership staff of the school. Significantly, our Strategic Plan for 2022-2025 was launched, and this has given us a valuable road map for the future.

It is not the sort of plan that has been lost in a bottom drawer somewhere. It forms the structure for all our board meetings and many other aspects of school life. The wider school community can be confident that board and staff are regularly referencing what they do against the key areas in which we want to succeed, seeking: authentic Catholic identity and formation, quality teaching and quality learning, a thriving school community, and effective stewardship of all our resources.

It has been fabulous to welcome four new members to our board this year: Jo Brown, Merwyn Gomez, Kate McKeough, and Patrick O'Leary. Together they are bringing fresh energy and enthusiasm to our group. We are very thankful for the long and helpful contribution of Ann Simnovec, who stepped down at the end of the year.

Mark Peterson
Chairperson of the School Board

Principal's Report

Throughout 2022 we continued to adapt our lives to manage life with COVID which continued to disrupt our usual routines at school and in the community. The first weeks of the 2022 school year saw students in Years 3-6 accessing their learning at home through online learning, while students in Reception – Year 2 attended school onsite. SA Health protocols and regular updates became our norm. When spatial distancing restrictions were lifted later in the year, we were finally able to welcome parents back to our school events. Overall, we continued to provide high quality continuity of learning for our children and discovered new ways of celebrating and building community within St Therese school.

In 2022 we officially launched the new St Therese School Strategic Plan. During the year prior, we completed a thorough strategic planning process that was facilitated by an external consultant and included staff, students, school board and a parent representative group. This plan will be active until 2025.

I would like to thank the School Board members for their partnership and for working collaboratively in our school. I would personally like to thank Fiona Matters who stepped down as School Board Chair and thank Mark Peterson for taking up the position. I thank Fiona for her time and dedication to this important role and I deeply appreciate her spirit of generosity and being so inclusive in every decision she made during her time as Chair. I wish to thank Carmel White for her input as the parish representative on the School Board again in 2022. Ann Simnovec resigned

from the board in 2022 after many years of dedicated service. I thank Ann for her commitment and input during her time on the Board. We welcomed four new board members in 2022: Patrick O’Leary, Jo Brown, Kate McKeough and Merwyn Gomez. I thank all our board members for their time and commitment to making St Therese such an inclusive and welcoming school.

I thank the dedicated staff of St Therese. Our teachers, administration and support staff are highly motivated professionals who provide a rich learning environment for the students and tireless support of the multitude of activities within the school.

I would like to acknowledge Paul Snelling as he stepped down from his teaching role after working for Catholic Education South Australia more than 40 years. Paul is a well-respected educator in our community, and we look forward to Paul continuing to be active in our school community well into the future.

I would also like to thank the members of the Leadership Team, Jacky Swanson, Margaret McCarthy and Anne Whitters for their support, enthusiasm, and commitment to their roles. It is a privilege to lead this faith filled community and I value the trust that people place in our staff as we work to sustain and build a school where each student can deepen their love of learning, and together with their family, deepen their appreciation of our school values of Grace, Courage, Community, and Respect.

Dee-anne Peters
Principal

Catholic Identity & Formation

Our APRIM Jacky Swanson was seconded to St Albert’s School, Loxton mid-way through 2022. I thank Jacky for her outstanding work with the St Therese community. We are fortunate to have such a highly qualified staff at St Therese and I acknowledge my gratitude to Anne Whitters who accepted the opportunity to step up as Leader of Catholic Identity in Jacky’s absence for Term Three and Four in 2022.

Social Justice

The social justice initiatives at St Therese continued to thrive. Our parent community continues to be particularly generous in supporting the various initiatives whether through gifting donations or volunteering their time to support school activities. Project Compassion, Vinnies Winter Appeal, St Therese Little Way Day, Catholic Charities and Vinnies Christmas hampers are just some of the ways our communities show how we can do little things with great love. Student leaders from the Social Justice Team assisted Jacky Swanson and Anne Whitters in planning and delivering these events across all year levels.

Sacramental program

The continued success of the sacramental program reflected the strong collaboration between St Therese School, the Emmaus Parish and the Emmaus cluster schools, St Thomas, Goodwood and St Joseph’s, Kingswood. Young people from the Emmaus parish along with students from Mercedes College and local schools were also welcomed.

Diocesan Assembly

The Diocesan Assembly was held in October 2022. This was a wonderful opportunity for parishioners from all over South Australia to gather, celebrate and discuss creative ideas on being church together.

Year Six Graduation

At the end of 2022 we farewelled a fantastic group of Year Six children. We celebrated with a beautiful Graduation Liturgy and had the privilege of local MP Nadia Clancy join us.

She presented Haya Yousef with the Nadia Clancy Community award. Georgin Santhosh was presented with the St Therese Dominican Award.

No matter how long the student's St Therese journey had been, we have loved the opportunity to be a part of their life and learning journey. We sent them forth hoping that they will forever remember their time with us.

Reception Family Welcome Liturgy

In Term Three we held a beautiful welcome liturgy for our newest students. Families were warmly welcomed, and they helped pot an apple tree which will remind us of the growth of the children during their time at St Therese school.

Quality Teaching, Quality Learning

Staff professional learning with Corwin University and the Visible Learning project continued to be a high priority for staff in 2022. Although the project was completed at the end of 2022, our learning continues to enable us to provide an excellent learning program for each child.

We continued to build teacher capacity in analysing, interpreting, and using student data, including our student 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. Coaching was provided to staff by Margaret McCarthy, Leader of Learning, and Marita Carman.

Our 2022 NAPLAN results were excellent. All tests were completed online, except for Year Three Writing, which continues to be a paper-based test. In summary, St Therese results were:

- Above the national average in 8 out of 10 tests:
 - Reading, Writing, Spelling and Grammar in Year 3
 - Reading, Spelling, Grammar, and Numeracy in Year 5

There was an increase in overall student achievement in both Spelling and Grammar in Year 3 and in Writing, Spelling and Grammar in Year 5.

2022 NAPLAN results were not able to be compared to 2020 results to calculate progress rates for Year 5 students. Year 5 students completed NAPLAN for the first time in 2022, due to NAPLAN being cancelled in 2020 in response to the disruption to learning and teaching due to COVID.

Of the 14 students across Year 3 and Year 5 scoring in the bottom 2 bands of any assessment, 13 of these students were already being case managed at the time of the results becoming available. The 14th student has been identified and is receiving support as required.

Congratulations to our dedicated staff for continuing to provide excellent support for our children to achieve such successful results. Our results can be accredited to the extra work devoted to the intervention programs of MiniLit, MSL, MSM, extension maths and the high-quality classroom teaching encompassing both explicit and inquiry teaching and learning.

Inclusive Education

2022 was a positive and productive year in Inclusive Education. Inclusive Education at St Therese School provides equal educational opportunities for all children. We create an inclusive school culture, promoting inclusive attitudes and practices among our teaching and learning community. We were audited for our NCCD data and received excellent feedback for the high-quality and reliable data recorded for these students.

Throughout the year staff participated in professional development to consolidate their understanding about the collection of National Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) and SEQTA (CESA's system data collection point for schools). The NCCD collects data about children with

disabilities who are receiving adjustments to their learning in a consistent, reliable, and systematic way and teachers record and upload the evidence onto SEQTA.

Staff work with children, families, and Allied Health Professionals to ensure the best care, support, and education for our children with disabilities. We have a 'wrap around' approach for our children who have complex needs and work in partnership with the whole team who support the children. This enables us to nurture and educate the whole child, who are at the centre of all we do at St Therese School.

Our Inclusive Education Coordinator participates in CESA's Central Region Network days each term to connect with our CESA consultant and other schools. These sessions have a specific focus and priorities for Catholic schools. They enable our school to keep up to date with the most recent information and best teaching practices to ensure children are thriving in an inclusive environment.

Transition to School Program

The Learning Tree Transition to School Program was again a successful experience for students beginning Reception at St Therese in Term 3 of 2022 and in Term 1 of 2023. The program was facilitated by Margaret McCarthy (Leader of Learning). Enrolled children attended Learning Tree Transition for one session each week from 9am to 12pm, during the two terms prior to commencement in Reception. During this time the children became familiar with the school environment and began to build relationships with each other and staff members. Transition commenced with a Welcome Liturgy for the children and their families. Our Reception students presented the children with a potted plant to take home and care for, as they are cared for in our St Therese School community.

Clarity Learning Suite

The Quality Performance Team (QPT) includes Margaret McCarthy, Anne Whitters, Gabrielle Foster, and Dee-anne Peters. The QPT commenced the CLARITY modules led by Dr Lyn Sharratt in Term Three 2022. The QPT attended A Day with Dr Lyn Sharratt working on Catholic Education SA's Blueprint for Step Change school and system improvement strategy. This CESA wide initiative ensures high quality teaching and learning is at the forefront of all our schools. The focus of the day was Leading and Managing Change Through Collaborative Inquiry. These practices have been adopted by our teachers and are becoming embedded in everyday teaching practices to ensure our teachers have high expectations for all children achieve success.

Performing Arts

In the performing arts, it was wonderful to see the Catholic Schools Music Festival Choir perform at the Festival Theatre. 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 Alice's Wonderland over two nights at Tower Arts Theatre. Our senior students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to perform to a live audience.

Forte Music provided tutors for our students who have private piano lessons and Robin Pratt provided guitar tuition. Cello and Voice tutors were also appointed in 2022.

Languages

Italian

Thank you to Signora Alannah Prestwich for sharing her passion of the Italian language and culture with our students. We celebrated with a fantastic Italian Fiesta in Term Four. Pizza and gelato lunch was enjoyed by all, along with tarantella dancing and other Italian cultural activities.

Mandarin

The Year 5 and 6 students participated in online Mandarin lessons throughout 2022. This highly engaging and challenging language is enjoyed by all and fascinating for the children to know their teacher is in a classroom as far away as Shanghai!

Physical Education

Physical Education engages students with purposeful, authentic learning experiences through game-based pedagogies. This is guided through the outcomes and personal social capabilities of the Australian Curriculum. We promote to our students the importance of including physical movement as a part of living a healthy and active lifestyle. We also assist children in developing their personal and social skills so they can thrive and be purposeful members in communities.

The Physical Education Program offered our students a diverse range of experiences such as athletics, soccer, AFL football, tennis, invasion field games and striking games so fundamental movement skills, co-ordination and strategies are developed and refined for play and purpose.

Physical Education played a major part in the school community with Sports Day and Out of Hours Sporting Teams. Selected students also participated in various sporting carnivals offered through the South Australian Catholic School Sporting Association (SACPSSA). This included Swimming, Athletics, Cross Country, and Touch Football.

The success of Physical Education in our community would not be possible without the contributions made by our parent volunteers who invest their time and energy into roles such as coaching teams, marshalling at sporting carnivals, logistics and administration. I also thank all the staff for all their efforts in ensuring that Physical Education is a rewarding and high-quality experience.

Camps

All the camps offered at St Therese have an outdoor education focus and meet the Australian Curriculum Outcomes.

- Year Three students spent one night at Nunyara, Belair
- Year Four and Year Five students spent two nights at Aldinga Beach
- Year Six camp to Robe- Unfortunately this was cancelled due the death of Queen Elizabeth II. The public holiday in Australia was called during the scheduled camp. The students had a one-night experience at AFL Max and other outdoor education activities in Adelaide.

Stretch Programs

Mathematics

Thank you to Mike Spinelli who worked with small groups of children on an extension maths program. The students from Year 3 to Year 6 had the opportunity to participate in the Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC) which is one of Australia's largest school-based competitions. All students achieved excellent results.

Tahlia Metcalfe worked with a small group of Early Years students to provide them with stretch opportunities in mathematics. The students worked collaboratively to solve open-ended problems.

Early Years Dance

Dance was introduced to the Reception-Year 2 classes in 2022. Studies show that dance helps reduce stress, increases levels of the feel-good hormone serotonin, and helps develop neural connections, especially in regions involved in executive function, long-term memory, and spatial recognition. The children have really enjoyed the choreography taught by our dance teacher.

Thriving Community

CESA Living, Learning, Leading survey

In 2022 all teaching staff, children and families were invited to take the CESA Living, Learning, Leading survey which collected perception data to assist schools rate their 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.

Classroom Pulse

All students take the Classroom Pulse survey each term. They are asked 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.

Parent Engagement

During 2022 many opportunities for parents to engage in learning took place.

Home School Partnership Meetings

Home School Partnership Meetings were held during the week before Term 1 commenced. As the school year began with Learning from Home for our Years 3-6 students, the meetings became phone conversations due to COVID restrictions. The St Therese staff and families continued to be highly adaptable to the ongoing changes and although the format was altered, the result was a smooth beginning to the school year for all.

Learning Conversations

Parents were invited to attend a learning conversation with their child and their teacher at the end of Semester One. This was a wonderful opportunity for the children to discuss their learning progress with their teacher and family.

Student Review Meetings

Parents of children with additional needs are invited to attend review meetings to discuss and collaborate in their child's Personal Plan for Learning (PPL).

Mission Australia

CESA and Mission Australia formed a collaborative partnership in 2022 to strengthen inclusion, learning and wellbeing of students with disability. Mission Australia is a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) partner in our school community. They aim to provide information, resources, and guidance to assist families to engage with relevant supports and services.

Kudos Services is the partner in South Australia for Early Childhood (EC) supports, for children aged 0-6yrs.

Mission Australia consultants led sessions for staff and parents in Term Three and the partnership is planned to continue into 2023.

Parents Supporting Parents

This is a parent initiative which works alongside Mission Australia. This group meets periodically to informally support families in our school community.

Playgroup

St Therese SPICE (Supported Playgroup in Catholic Education) Playgroup was held each Thursday morning throughout 2022. With COVID restrictions in Term One, Playgroup was held at Mortlock Oval playground. We welcomed children aged 0-5 years from the St Therese School community, Emmaus Parish, and the wider community. Tamara coordinated a quality Playgroup that experienced an increase in attendees as the year progressed.

Playgroup proved to be a great educational experience for the children and is also a perfect opportunity for parents and grandparents to socialise and connect with other families. Playgroup has been a wonderful opportunity for families to get a feel for our beautiful community with many school enrolments being initiated by our Playgroup.

Community events

Parents received beautiful flowers and rosemary for Mother's Day and Father's Day as children delivered them kerbside. Other events held at school for our community included the SAPOL Cyber Safety Parent Workshop, Walk Safely to School Day, and 'coffee and chat' mornings.

We were grateful to be able to hold our annual sports day at Mortlock Oval, with visitors permitted to attend. Many parents were also able to enjoy the many sporting carnivals and out of hours school sport throughout the year.

Students had the opportunity to represent St Therese in a school choir who performed at the City of Mitcham Carols night. Thank you to Nicole Moxham, the children, and their families for supporting this lovely community event. We ended the year with a Christmas concert in St Therese Church. This was a festive celebration and a delightful way to end the year.

Lisieux House Opening

Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions in place, the opening was limited to invited guests. We held a beautiful liturgy at St Therese Church with the staff and students with Archbishop Patrick O'Regan as celebrant, followed by afternoon tea.

Stewardship

Thank you, Fr John, for your leadership and guidance. Your energy and enthusiasm are much admired, it is evident through your words and actions that you show a keen interest in the spiritual growth of our students. Thank you to our finance team, in particular Chair of Finance, Patrick O'Leary, who worked closely with our Finance Manager Sonya Arnett to ensure we are fiscally prudent and always looking for ways to improve the overall facilities of our school.

Enrolments

2022 saw steady enrolment of 228 students.

Staffing

In 2022, we welcomed Oscar Leonard as a graduate teacher. Oscar was well known to the community as he had been working here as an Education Support Officer (ESO). We welcomed Caroline Cullen as an additional Reception teacher. Amy Brockman and Breanna Brockman were welcomed into the Year 1/2 classrooms.

Lesley Marsland began her role in the school office, Carrie Basso and Lindy Apostolidis started as ESO's throughout the year.

Paul Snelling resigned from his teaching position at the end of 2022 to enjoy new adventures. Liliana Spinelli reduced her working days. Matt Richards has been on leave since early 2022.

Stage Two Building Project

Stage Two of our Master Plan was approved by CESA. Planning began straight away with Stallard Meek Flightpath Architects winning the contract for the refurbishment of the Horgan building. Meetings with the architects to fine tune the plans occurred, drawing on data gathered at earlier community consultation meetings. Tenders for builders for this project will be sought early in 2023.

Marketing

In 2022 we decided to think bigger to get our St Therese brand out in the wider community. We participated in the CESA campaign, and you might have seen the smiling faces of our students pop up on bus shelters and in shopping centres late last year.

Finance

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 accountability process, auditing of the school finances occurs in January/February for the prior year. Financial reports are then forwarded to the Catholic Education Office, which has responsibility for reporting on the expenditure of Government funding. A large part of our income is due to State and Federal funding and an increase in student numbers.

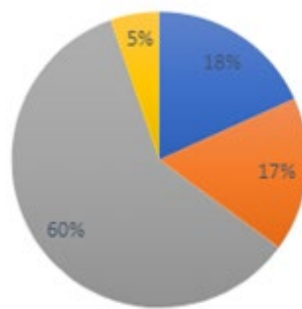
Several small projects were completed in 2022, being:

- replacement of handrails into Mortlock Building
- additional outdoor musical instruments installed
- planter pots & benches in the breezeway
- additional flagpole installed
- tradesperson access roof safety ladder installed on the Dominican Building
- upgraded alarm system
- two hand washing troughs and two water chillers installed
- roller blinds installed throughout Lisieux House

These relatively minor expenses did not significantly impact the school finances enabling us to keep the school finances at a healthy level.

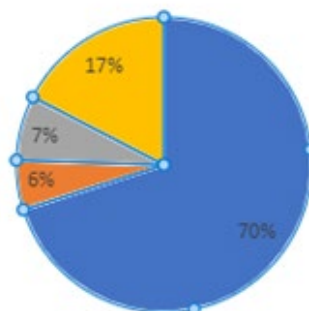
School expenditure continues to be closely tracked with emphasis on attaining savings where possible without compromising the children's education or our commitment to the community.

2022 Income



■ Fee Income ■ State Government ■ Commonwealth Government ■ Other

2022 Expenditure



■ Teaching Salaries ■ Other Teaching related Costs
■ Utilities/Rates/Levies ■ Admin Other
