



ANNUAL COMMUNITY GENERAL MEETING

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT 2023

Annual General Community Meeting

Principal's Report

Tuesday 14 November 2023

I begin by acknowledging the Wadjuk Noongar peoples and pay my respect to their Elders, past, present, and future. We acknowledge their deep, ongoing spiritual and cultural connection to this Country – and to this land on which our college has been and continues to be built.

In the words of Pope Francis in his first homily as Pope:

“The eternal mission is to bring Jesus Christ to humanity, and to lead humanity to an encounter with Jesus Christ: the Way, the Truth and the Life, truly present in the Church and at the same time in every person.”

The Catholic School forms part of the ‘eternal mission’ of the Church especially for education in faith.

“As the primary educators of their children, parents have special responsibilities regarding Catholic schools. Chief among them is the responsibility to contribute towards the distinctively Catholic ethos of the school through active participation in its life and practices.” (Mandate #76)

Your presence here this evening as members of our College community bears witness to your commitment to Mother Teresa Catholic College – thank you!

2023 has been another successful year of growth, across many different facets, of our College

ENROLMENT SUMMARY

Our Student Enrolment as of today 14 November 2023, from 3yo Kindy to Yr 12, is **1343**. This time last year our total enrolment was **1171** students.

Our expected enrolment for 2024 includes: 20 in 3yo Kindy with more enrolling regularly once they turn 3.

380 for K-Yr 2 (triple-stream); **314** in Years 3 to Yr 6 with a total Junior School enrolment of **694**

In Middle School - Years 7-9 – we expect to have **500** students enrolled, and in Senior School – Years 10-12 there will be **323** students. So, our secondary enrolment will be **823** and our total college enrolment for 2024, from the 3yo Kindy to Yr 12, will be **1517** students.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023 have included (but are certainly not limited to) the following:

- Our first whole-school Mass celebrated by our new Parish Priest at the time, Fr Alexis, on the Junior School oval with over 1300 students and 170 staff.
- We celebrated our 10th year since Foundation with a celebration on the Junior School oval complete with cake-cutting and drone footage of all 1300-plus students forming a large human circle around the figure 10 featured in the centre.
- **Christian Service Learning:**
 - Over 30 students helping at Surfing with the Disabled – helping a handful of people with disabilities to surf waves at Leighton Beach.
 - Over 6 trips to Wheelchairs for Kids – making over 60 wheelchairs for those in need internationally.
 - Helping at St Vincent De Paul, sorting through thousands of donations.
 - Over 2500 sandwiches made with the afterschool ‘Eat Up!’ program which gives them to hungry children throughout the state
 - Students making wooden crosses for St John of God Hospital and frozen meals going to Lucy Saw Women’s Refuge
 - Increasing number of students helping at Wednesday morning Breakfast Club
 - First ever CSL Award for graduating Yr 12 students

Year 7 highlights:

- Transition into high school
- Year 7 Camp
- Year 7 Retreat
- Year 7 Mothers’ Day Mass
- Year 7 Leadership Team Initiative – Dress-up costumes for athletics carnival race.
- Year 7 Student Leadership Lunch with Principal
- Marty Ogle MJR – STUDENTS LOVED IT!
- Paul Litherland – 2022 West Australian of the year – was a police officer with the technology crime unit.
- Lorin Nicholson – blind electric guitarist
- Azalene Williams – Vape information.

Year 8 highlights:

- Father’s day liturgy and breakfast
- Marty Ogle MJR – STUDENTS LOVED IT!
- Paul Litherland – Online safety
- Azalene Williams – Vape information.
- Student Leaders’ Lunch with Principal
- Future Pathways information – Kelly Liley

Year 9 highlights:

- Canberra HASS Civics and Citizenship Tour
- Career Tasters – Rockingham TAFE, Northbridge TAFE,
- Rottneet Outdoor Education Excursion
- Curtin University Humanities Outreach Program
- Paul Litherland – Online safety
- Azalene Williams – Vape information.
- Marty Ogle – MJR

Year 10 highlights:

- Year 10 Retreat where they learned about respectful relationships.

- Two separate Careers conventions where they went to the Perth Convention Centre to talk to various professionals in fields that they may be interested in.
- Having examinations twice in a year for the first time and rising to the challenges that this presented.
- Experiencing two weeks of work placement at the end of Semester One, with several students achieving the Workplace Learning Endorsed program counted towards WACE (Western Australian Certificate of Education).
- Some Year 10 students have also completed the Employment Advantage Endorsed unit through the Year 10 Careers class run this year.

Some important student achievement data for our **Years 10 & 11** students include:

- Introduction of student access to Skill Sets at SMTAFE (South Metropolitan TAFE), providing students opportunity to become more competitive candidates for TAFE courses. We have three students currently completing UoCs (Units of Competencies) through Skill Sets at SMTAFE
- Year 11 2023 1179 hours of workplace learning completed, with more hours being completed as we work towards the end of the academic year.
- **New VETDSS (Vocational & Educational Training delivered to Secondary Students) already enrolled for 2024** (current Year 10 and 11). With numbers to grow as NMTAFE (North-Metropolitan) & SMTAFE (South Metro) complete their second round of offers. KIC (Kwinana Industries Council) = 8; SMTAFE = 25; and NMTAFE = 6
- **There have been many external awards earned during the year by our students:**

Catholic Performing Arts Festival:

- 22 performances
- 19 Soloists
- 4 Ensembles
- 99 Students represented The College
- Outstanding Award and Archbishop Hickey Award for Bible Reading
- Outstanding Award and Catholic Super Shield for Drama Production [The Tempest]
- Outstanding Award and Shield Playoff's Bass Guitar Solo
- Outstanding Award for Vocal Solo

Instrumental Music:

- 128 students enrolled for 2023.
- 7 Instruments [Brass, Flute, Violin, Piano, Drums, Guitar, Vocal]
- 7 Tutors are currently employed.
- Over 4000 instrumental music lessons have been provided in 2023.

YOH Fest:

- 1 Dance Performance
- 1 Video Submission
- Overall winner of Short Film for YOH Fest 2023 [Natalia Jaramillo]

Angelico Arts Exhibition:

- 2nd Prize 2-Dimensional Artwork: Year 4 student - "Surrounded By Dunes".
- 2nd Prize 3-Dimensional Artwork: Year 5 student - "Into The Woods"
- Group Submission Prize Winner: Year 6 students "Bird Circle"
- **3rd Prize Overall:** Year 7 student - "Duck In Hot Water – The Misadventures Of Mr Cheese".

Science & Maths:

- The popularity of Science has grown with high numbers of students choosing Science and STEM electives.
- The Kwinana Industries Council (KIC) iScience and iEngineering courses have attracted an increasing number of students.
- In the recent Australian Math competition, of 105 participants, 49 attained Proficiency, 18 Credits, 7 Distinctions and one high distinction.
- Year 9 female students have also enjoyed an excursion introducing them to Engineering.

English & HASS:

- 2023 Year 9 Canberra Tour – 50 Year 9s for the College's first-ever interstate trip
- Visits from politicians such as Senator Sue Lines (President of the Senate), Federal MP Madeleine King and local Member of Legislative Assembly, Reece Whitby
- Indonesian visit to the Consulate General
- Various Book Week activities
- Launch of the proposed 2024 Indonesian Cultural Tour

Sports:

ACC Swimming Carnival:

- U/14 runner up boy and U/13 Champion boy.
- MTCC 2nd place to South Coast Baptist College in the Meritorious Shield

Netball: The year 7/8 team progressed to the regional finals with potential to grow the sport of netball as a strong co-curricular offering at the college.

Two firsts for the college in sport this year where a U/18 Soccer team and a Year 7/8 Rugby Union team.

Soccer: Year 11/12 boys with some talented year 10s won 2 games and finished 3rd in their pool.

Rugby: The Year 7/8 team finished top of the Rockingham/Kwinana district and was invited to the Western Force Rugby Carnival Day in Perth.

ACC AFL football: Year 10 Boys won Division 6 at the ACC Carnival.

ACC Basketball: Yr 9 boys team reached the finals.

ACC Athletics Carnival: U14 Champion Girl, Under 15 Champion Girl and U/19 Champion Boy

Yr 12 student Skye Bowron, once again was awarded ACC "All Star" status making it into this team 3 years in a row.

We also have several State representative athletes across a variety of sports including Athletics, Touch Football, Rugby League, Taekwondo and Equestrian.

MTCC Sport is heading in a very positive direction. However, this can only continue with support from the community as well as our dedicated and passionate staff from both within Physical Education and other learning areas, graciously giving of their time and energy to continue moving forwards.

COLLEGE MARKETING:

- Launched the online College Virtual Tour, providing prospective families the option to tour the College from the comfort of their own homes.
- Successful launch of the new College Podcast, 'The Student Lounge': available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts and YouTube
- The launch of various successful social media campaigns and growth of our online community
- New College bus decals
- Updated business cards, brochures, and enrolment packs
- Formstack newly implemented for all external College forms.
- Newly purchased camera and drone

As well as the usual annual highlights:

- Yearbook
- E-News
- Event photography & video

COUNSELLING:

- The College continues to support our MTCC community through our Pastoral Care Team providing mentoring, health information and counselling for students, caregivers & staff.
- The two College Counsellors provide counselling through a person-centred approach which is focused on acceptance, positive regard, and acknowledgement of the dignity of everyone who comes for support.
- They refer members of our community to outside agencies if continuous on-going specialised support is required.
- CEWA also provides counselling services, through Converge International, to stakeholders within our Catholic Schools communities.

COMMUNITY SURVEY:

For four years now, (2019 and 2021-2023) our College community has been surveyed through the National School Improvement Partnership we have through Curtin University. This year the number of respondents to the online survey have been 94 Parents/Caregivers, 69 Teachers, 63 Non-teaching staff, 198 Early Learning students, 132 Middle-Primary students, 105 Upper-Primary students and 457 secondary students who responded to the online survey – altogether 1118 respondents (Core Leaders are excluded from completing the survey.)

Our College has a **School Improvement Team** of elected staff-members representing the different work-groups here at the College. One of their main tasks is to interrogate the survey data with a view to formulating recommendations for school improvement across its many aspects. Their recommendations will be presented to the Core Leadership and will inform our improvement foci for 2024.

While the number of parent/carer participants in the survey has increased over the four years of the survey, 94 participants for this year's survey would be less than 10% of the total number of families in the College, if one parent per family responded.

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY

Stage 5 – Arts and Technologies Buildings

The College received full Practical Completion and Occupancy of the Stage 5 buildings (Arts, Café, Technologies, and Maintenance sheds) in January 2023 and have had the use of these facilities this year.

A very successful and well-attended MTCC Arts and Technologies Showcase was held over Week 3 this term.

The Vocations Building – now re-named Technologies Building was finally available to the College by the end of Term 1 this year, and the technologies staff are to be congratulated on their extraordinary generosity of time and effort in readying the building spaces and equipment for teaching and learning of the various technologies, in addition to taking their regular classes, in first semester this year.

Stage 6 - Gymnasium including 3 additional classrooms.

The original date of Practical Completion for this 58-week build is 18-04-2023. The twice-revised date is now 24 November 2024. We plan to be using the gym and classrooms from the commencement of the 2024 school year.

Stage 7 – Oval, Courts, and Access Road at the northern of the College

Practical Completion of these works by builders BE Constructions is scheduled for Practical Completion on 15 December. We plan to be using the facilities from Term 1 2024. Takeover the responsibility of ovals etc. in March 2024

Stage 8

The Junior School Multi-Purpose building in Junior School has been formerly rejected from inclusion in both Stage 5, 6 and 7 Builds). It is now set for inclusion in future Stage 8, but the brief has had to be completely re-worked. It is now planned to build in Stage 8 (for completion in 2025), two additional classrooms in the circle around the JS oval. When completed, the original Multi-Purpose double rooms (at the Western end of the JS oval, will revert from its current usage as two classrooms to being a large, divisible Multi-Purpose space.

Secondary Sustainability Centre

Our 2024 budget has seen the removal of this project for the foreseeable future. We shall retain the plans and project details with the plan to build it in the future when financial resources allow. This project is additional to our Master Plan and is therefore self-funded by the College. The project will eventually provide accredited subject offerings in the areas of horticulture /permaculture/ aquaculture etc., to our secondary students and can potentially become a student-run, College-owned business.

Staffing for 2024

Current, as of the 14 November 2023 our 2024 staff are as follows. Please be aware that staff changes may still occur.

CORE LEADERS

Principal,

Vice-Principal,
 Head of School (Early Learning Pre-Kindy- Year 2)
 Head of School (Primary Years 3-6)
 Head of School (Middle Years 7-9)
 Head of School (Senior Years (20-12),
 Business Manager,
 Community Engagement Manager

TEAM LEADERS

Team Leader: (Religious Education / English & Humanities / Mathematics)
 Team Leader: (Science, Math's, Physical Education, Health & Sport)
 Acting Assistant Team Leader (Physical Education, Health & Sport)
 Team Leader: (Arts and Technologies)
 Acting Assistant Team Leader (Technologies)
 Team Leader: (Information Technology)
 Team Leader: (Digital Learning & Innovation)

COORDINATORS

Year Levels x 5 for Years 7-12
 Sports – 1 x primary
 Learning Diversity & Special Needs (1 x secondary and 1 x primary)
 Christian Service Learning
 Future Pathways
 VET
 Aboriginal Liaison Officer
 Defence School Mentor

CONVENORS:

Making Jesus Real & Mission Pillar
 Inquiry Learning Pillar
 Wellbeing Pillar
 Cultures Pillar
 Sustainability Pillar
 Student Learning Data Pillar
 School Improvement Team
 Social Club

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

As you know Catholic Education Western Australia Limited (CEWA Ltd) commenced operating as an incorporated body on 1 January 2020. All 163 diocesan schools in Western Australia are now part of CEWA Ltd.

The Catholic Education Commission of WA (CECWA) is the board of CEWA Ltd and has responsibility for governing Catholic education in WA and for ensuring its financial sustainability. To reflect CEWA Ltd.'s new governance structure, each Catholic School Board is now the Catholic School Advisory Council.

The current Catholic School Advisory Council and Terms of Reference were effective from 1 January 2022. The members of our Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC) represent 5x portfolios related directly to major areas of need in our College.

On behalf of our whole College community, I would like to thank the members of our CSAC for giving their time and expertise for the good of all in our College community this year:

Sincere thanks to –

- Parish Priest and Chaplain to the College: Fr Alexis Vegasorio.
- CSAC Chairperson and Traffic Management Portfolio - Mr Ted Simpson.
- CSAC Vice-Chairperson and Finance Portfolio – Mr Rick Bryant.
- Friends of Mother Teresa Portfolio – Mr Jonathan Kain.
- Marketing Portfolio – Mrs Gillian Collisson.
- Sports Club Portfolio – Mr Alan McDonald.

There is a vacancy on our College Advisory Council after one member and his family moved out of the area.

While his portfolio had been Capital Development, a current need on Council is for a portfolio around seeking out and preparing grant applications which would greatly assist our current financial situation. If anyone could take on this portfolio, or if anyone knows of a person who would take on this portfolio, please forward name and contact details so that such a person could be seconded to the College Advisory Council immediately.

[Access to the Chairperson's report is located HERE](#)

[Access to Finance report is located HERE](#)

FAREWELLS AND THANKS

There are usually staff farewells to announce at the end of each year – and this year is no exception. With 186 on our staff list this year, including those on Leave, the list of staff changes is quite long. Additional financial constraints on our recurrent budget for 2024 have also meant that several staff who were on fixed term contracts due to end on 31 December this year, have not had their contracts renewed. The last few weeks have brought a certain amount of uncertainty and unrest among staff regarding employment for next year. So here I want to sincerely thank those staff who, with grace and dignity, have accepted either non-renewal of their contracts, or a reduction in their current work hours for next year, or indeed a different workload from one which they would have preferred. The generosity and flexibility of our staff here at MTCC is a special feature of our culture here which is not necessarily evident in other schools.

Thank you to the following staff who are leaving us for new opportunities.

- Patrick McNulty
- Lily Collica
- Catherine Fry Walker
- Jade Schrandt
- Amanda McLaughlin
- Melanie Dredge
- Patricia McLoughlin
- Giorgia Priede

- Bruce Martin
- Talynt Newton-Webb
- Tracey Edgell
- Caroline Sampson
- Kayla Walker
- Thiri Watkins
- Amy Smith
- Yatin Adam
- Julie Leijser

Thank you to all our departing staff for your generous service and commitment to our College community.

The following staff will be on leave from our College in 2024.

- Amanda de Gooijer
- Kiara Barlow
- Aisling Keaney

To all staff who are continuing to serve the Mother Teresa College community into next year, I thank you for your unwavering generosity and dedication. **Every year the college changes significantly, but what has remained is the pioneering spirit of our staff. You consistently go beyond the call of duty – embracing constant change, physically moving, and setting up new learning spaces, providing reliefs for colleagues during this year without complaint, taking on administrative duties in addition to your current workload, working after-hours and weekends in training students for sports events, arts/technologies events, musical productions, mock trials, out of school competitions and more. For our staff, it has always been about ‘what is best for the kids.’**

I particularly want to thank Vice Principal Mrs Susan Macdonald, who during my 4 weeks of Long Service Leave this year, has seamlessly and capably assumed the role of Principal. **With over 40 staff who commenced at the College through this year, there will of course be a few new staff commencing in January 2024. Each of them will be introduced in our first E-News edition for 2024.**

In our current staffing climate in schools across the nation it is anticipated that there may be further movement in and out of the College before the start of the 2024 school year (Wed 31 January for students).

As a staff we are grateful for the partnership we enjoy with our college families. We are both edified and energised by our families who cherish and work to preserve **the strong sense of connectedness and community we have had here since we began. Thank you for the way you parents have expanded the college at an extraordinary rate purely by ‘word of mouth.’**

Together here at Mother Teresa we have built and nurtured a distinctive culture of mutual respect, service and outreach to others, and a generosity of spirit in all our endeavours – a culture which I personally cherish as being fundamental to who we are as a school community here in Baldivis.

School improvement is an ongoing process. Our Annual Improvement Plan comprises our strategic intents, our planning of staff formation and professional learning, and our improvement goals and progress milestones.

I look forward to continuing to work on our College improvement in partnership with you all – our Parish Priest, Fr Alexis, parents, staff and most importantly our students – as we together continue to develop our College, providing an outstanding Catholic education for children and young people in the broader Baldivis community.

In Mother Teresa's words:

"I can do things you cannot; you can do things I cannot.

but together we can do great things."

So, let us continue our journey together, in the spirit of our patron Mother Teresa – "Strong in Faith and Love." And may our God continue to be blessing for each of us, and for all of us together in this community of Mother Teresa Catholic College.

Ms Geri O'Keefe - PRINCIPAL