



# St Francis Xavier Primary School

## Geraldton Western Australia 6530

### AGM Principal's Report 2016

This year, St Francis Xavier's faced change in several aspects. A new Assistant Principal, new Principal, and new direction within the region and system of Catholic Education with the Collaborative project being a substantial commitment by the school. Change is constant in schools and I am proud to say that amongst numerous changes continuous improvement is evident across the school. *This is in part not because of the new members of the school but due to the people who have worked tirelessly to establish St Francis Xavier as a flourishing school community.*

Before looking to the future it is important to recognise the past and acknowledge the contributions of departing staff. In 2015, Mrs Therese Asplin was offered and accepted a position at St Lawrence's and Mrs Donna Kempton took a year's leave and subsequent acceptance of a position at St Lawrences. In their combined plus twenty years of leadership, Therese and Donna worked tirelessly at ensuring St Francis had both facilities and educational programs that supported student learning. Their guidance and wisdom has ensured St Francis has the capacity to accommodate students' needs now and into the future. Therese and Donna's leadership will be missed but the foundation of their work will remain for many years.

Spiritually, Fr Michael and Fr Albi ensured students, staff and parents continued to be welcomed into the Church. Their continuous outreach, celebration of liturgical celebrations and friendship allowed the relationship between parish and school to strengthen. I thank Fr Michael and Albi for their tireless contributions to St Francis Xavier School Community.

I thank the School Board and Parents and Friends Association for their contributions.

The Board has been relentless in ensuring the physical needs of our students are met highlighted by the successful completion of the master school plan over the past 4 years. Decision making has always been based on the needs of the school's greatest assets, the children. I thank the board for their dedication, especially the Chair Phil, for his welcome, encouragement, and support of the school leadership team. I thank Steve who is retiring from the school board this year for their contribution.

The P&F contributed in excess of \$35,000 to ensure our children had access to resources and educational opportunities otherwise unavailable. This includes work to the early childhood area that is anticipated to be completed over the Christmas period. In addition, the P&F provided activities for families and parents to develop positive relationships and ensure St Francis Xavier's community spirit is preserved. I look forward to the new initiative of celebrating the school's feast day early next month. I acknowledge the wonderful contributions the Executive and parent volunteers have made, in particular Haley, Mel and Anita.

I thank the staff at St Francis's and their ongoing commitment to Catholic Education. Education has many external challenges. Staff have adjusted to the increasing demands and challenges of new curriculum and of student needs. Staff have embraced learning, developing their own knowledge of the curriculum and pedagogy, continuing the pursuit to provide quality educational experiences for all children. Learning is our business and St Francis Xavier is well placed to enhance and adapt to the educational needs of students.

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I thank the parent community for their initial warmth and welcome. Working collaboratively to develop positive partnerships and a shared vision for our children's education has been greatly valued. I acknowledge that parents are the first educators of children and without your support the full potential of St Francis Xavier School cannot be reached. I look forward to continuing this next year.

St Francis Xavier faces ongoing challenges as we head into 2017. As we continue to make St Francis Xavier the school of choice in Geraldton changes will occur. I look forward to taking some bold steps to respond to the contemporary needs of students and parents in a rapidly changing education landscape and developing a new direction with the Board, P&F and staff in 2017. Importantly, amongst this change, I am assured that the commitment of staff, positive support of the parent body and spiritual guidance of our Priests, St Francis Xavier will continue to ensure the school remains vigilant to its core goals;

- Aspiring to nurture the whole person in a community centered on Gospel values.
- Committed to provide an education that empowers all to become life-long learners.

Thank you

Ben Doyle

Principal