Principal’s Annual Report  
 to St Andrew’s School Community  

‘Never see a need without trying to do something about it.’

One of the most significant events for the Catholic church of Australia in 2010 was the Canonisation of St Mary of the Cross. We rejoiced with Sister Wendy, herself a Josephite Sister, and our school and parish community at this momentous time. St Mary’s well-known saying to her Sisters was “never see a need without trying to do something about it’. Her teachings about forgiveness, compassion and faith, and about working together to correct injustice are messages that we in Catholic education need to heed. Our ‘Making Jesus Real’ programme seeks to address this need by developing individuals who consider others and seek to do good through W.E.S.T. behaviours: Welcome, Encourage, Sorry and Thanks and we delight in working with children and families who act this way. Our Parish based, school supported and family focussed Sacramental programme continues to develop and assists us in building our community and reaching out to others in evangelisation.

A review process called Quality Catholic Schools was initiated and developed this year and will result in a continuous review of each school over a five year cycle with the goal of sustainable improvement in our schools. The components include Vision and Mission, Curriculum, Engagement with the Community and Resources and all members of the community will have the opportunity to be involved in the process through discussion forums and surveys and I encourage you to join in the review process to the extent that you are able.

Improved literacy and numeracy outcomes remain the focus of our teaching and learning and while classes have high numbers of students, we have blessed with teachers and teacher assistants whose teaching strategies cater for the needs of all students. The myschool website has provided the opportunity for parents to be well informed about the educational standards of the school. Further development of the myschool site is occurring and the basis upon which a school’s ICSEA (Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage) is calculated has changed from a general figure based on your postcode, to a figure calculated according to parent provided information about education and income. This has meant a marked jump in our ICSEA from 968 to 1033 and I wait with interest to see what this will
mean to our ‘like’ schools comparison. I have to say though, that my aim is to meet the All Australian Schools figure. Our children deserve an excellent education and I believe that our staff provide a comprehensive programme which encourages children to achieve to the best of their ability. Specific additional programmes and opportunities for children include EMU, Reading Recovery, JETS, CHEKS. TOM, Instrumental lessons, Chess, Seasons for Growth and Bushrangers.

The National Curriculum is due to implemented from 2011. All students in Australia will be working from the same curriculum documents which are explicit in nature in regard to the aims and content of each learning area. This an exciting time for curriculum leaders and we are looking forward to working with the English and Mathematics documents in 2011. History and Science have also been completed and other learning areas will follow in the next few years. Students should be able to move easily from one state to another with little variation to the curriculum expectations for their age.

While our focus is to keep education at the forefront of all we do, many other activities took place during the school year. They included various sporting events including the swimming and athletics carnivals, lightning carnivals and a variety of sporting clinics, both inside and outside of school hours. The installation of tennis nets has been well received by the students and has renewed activity on the courts to the extent that classes are rostered into this area. Our involvement and success in the Catholic Schools Performing Arts Festival continues to grow and our Open Night which highlights the children’s work in the arts, draws large numbers of parents and friends who view the performances. A look through the newsletters for this year, provide you with a snapshot of the activities that have taken place at St Andrew’s this year. These can be found on our website.

Our Reflection Garden is almost complete with the shade sail soon to be installed and a statue added to the area. We have several memorial plaques on the seats and children are encouraged to quietly sit in this space and reflect on their life and the lives of others. Our involvement in the community continues with our association with the City of Wanneroo through the Anthony Waring Park partnership acknowledged with signage, our students work being displayed at the Clarkson Library and our involvement in Remembrance Day and Harmony Day events. The school grounds upgrade looks impressive with the treed area
being maintained more rigorously and seating installed, and the Yr 2/3 eating area being paved, walled and planted out. Vegetables are being grown and eaten from the gardens near the UCA. My thanks go to Tony and Simon for their tireless work in ensuring our grounds look so attractive.

Our building project under BER, *Building the Education Revolution* has continued all year and we have watched with growing excitement the Hall’s construction. Unfortunately, there have been delays so we are not yet able to access the building but it will be ready and in use late in December. It will be used for school assemblies, instrumental tuition lessons, PE lessons, school and parish meetings, and the parish office will be relocated there. Our school canteen is also moving and will operate from the Hall. With the movement of the canteen to the Hall, the Uniform Shop will be installed in new premises – the old canteen! We recognise that a facility such as this, would not have happened without the recognition by the Australian Government of the need to fund the building programmes of primary schools in Australia and on behalf of our children, I thank them for this initiative.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Board members for their support of St Andrew’s, in particular Ray Mackie, Reti Wisnesky and Michelle Varley whose time on the Board has come to an end. A strong school Board empowers the entire community, yet many are unaware of its role in the financial and strategic management of the school. Father Andrew has made it through his first year in our community and we love his quiet presence among us. His liturgies are joyful and relevant to the children, as demonstrated in today’s St Andrew’s Day Mass.

I thank the staff for their tireless efforts working with our wonderful children, who make coming to work each day a pleasure, and you, the members of our wider community who appreciate and support the work we do, sharing the growth and development of your children with you, their parents.

Eileen Climo, Principal. November, 2010