



Semaphore Parish
Catholic School Board
Tuesday 18th March 2025

DOMINICAN SCHOOL

AGM

REPORT

2024

Agenda

6.00pm	Guest Presentation Carly Ryan Foundation
7.40pm	Welcome Angela Scodella, Principal
7.45pm	Acknowledgement of Country Prayer Martina Kovacev
7.50pm	Commencement of AGM Meeting Ben Evans
	Apologies
	Acceptance of Previous AGM Minutes
	Presentation of Reports
	Chairperson Ben Evans
	Finance Jo Freer
	Principal Angela Scodella
	Tabled Reports
	Pastoral Director
	Catholic Identity – REC Report
	Teaching and Learning Report
	Wellbeing Report
	Out of School Hours Sport Report
	Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) Report
	Parents and Friends Group Report
	Playgroup Report
	Work, Health and Safety (WHS) Report
	2025 School Board Members
	Pastoral Director Deacon Tim Grauel
	Principal Angela Scodella
	Religious Coordinator Martina Kovacev
	Staff Representative Genevieve Spencer
	Continuing Members Henry Klis
	Angela Petts
	Vicki Barnes
	Kelly Lennon
	Jack Fawkner
	Nominations Karina Miller
	Tom Dunstan
	Emma Jeffs
	Angiline Wati
	Sarah King
8.00pm	Discussion and Refreshments

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Semaphore Parish School Board 20th March 2024

In attendance:

Angela Scodella	Ben Evans	Martina Kovacev
Alison Appleby	Jo Freer	Katy Tatrai
Paula Northeast	Julia Nofi	Lisa Osborne
Genevieve Spencer	Mayumi Wong	Kim Murphy
Lisa-Marie Siviglia	Sophie Teakle	Kelly Lennon
Erin Russell	Carlee Lukje	Angela Petts
Vicki Barnes	Ben Evans	Henry Klis
Jack Fawcner	Fr Roderick O'Brien	

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| 1 | Welcome | 6.30pm |
| 2 | Acknowledgement of Country | 6.35pm |
| | We were shown the Dominican School Acknowledgement of Country, planned and produced by the Dominican School Nunga Club. | |
| 3. | Prayer led by Martina Kovacev | |
| 4. | Guest Speaker | 6.40pm |
| | Welcome to Courtney Quigley, Wellbeing Leader with her presentation on the Grow Your Mind program. | |
| 5. | Commencement of AGM | |
| 5.1 | Minutes of the Previous Meeting | |
| | Moved: Ben Evans Seconded: Greer Tappert. All in favour. | |
| 5.2 | Presentation of Chairperson's report by Ben Evans. | |
| | Key comments: | |
| | AGM Report: Key Comments | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leadership Transition<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Acknowledged the change of leadership at the beginning of 2023.o Referenced key points from Ben's written report.• Social Media and Local Profile<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Highlighted the role of social media in raising the organisation's profile within the local community.• Communication Improvements<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Noted the increase in communication methods.o Discussed which methods are effective and identified key contributors to successful communication strategies. | |

- **Acknowledgements**

- Recognised outgoing board members for their contributions.
- Officially welcomed new board members.
- Spoke to Angela's commitment and significant contributions to the board.

5.3 Presentation of Finance report by Jo Freer.

- Jo went through her report and advised that copies of the full budget and her report were available for perusal at the meeting and at any other time if required.
- OSHC - finished year with profits and acknowledged Paula Northeast for her commitment in process and debt follow-up.
- Acknowledged P & F for their continued support for school.
- Budget pre-approved by school board.

5.4 Presentation of Principals report by Angela Scodella

- Angela went through her report which included the following reports:
 - President's Report (Fr Roderick O'Brien)
 - Catholic Identity Report (Martina Kovacev)
 - Teaching and Learning (Nick Ryan)
 - Information and Communications Technologies (Matthew Kosta)
 - Wellbeing Report (Lisa Osborne)
 - Out of School Hours Sport (Martina Kovacev)
 - Out of School Hours Care (Paula Northeast)
 - Parents and Friends (Katy Tatrai)
 - Playgroup (Nichola Lewis)
 - Work Health and Safety (Sarah Ryan)
- Ben confirmed the Board members for this coming year as follows:
 - Fr Roderick (President)
 - Ben Evans (Chair)
 - Henry Kliss
 - Angela Petts
 - Kevin Blute
 - Greer Tappert (one year tenure)
 - Kelly Lennon
 - Vicki Barnes
 - Jack Fawkner
 - Lisa Osborne (Staff Representative)

6. Conclusion of meeting

7.45pm

Reports

FROM THE PASTORAL DIRECTOR **Deacon Tim Grauel**

Grace and peace to you and your family.

It has been a rich blessing to serve as Pastoral Director of the Lefevre Catholic Community following the retirement of Fr Roderick O'Brien in May 2024. A large part of this blessing has been the privilege of working closely with the Catholic primary schools within the parish, Dominican School and Our Lady of the Visitation School.

Dominican School, especially, is a vital gift that animates our parish, led by dedicated and inspiring leaders. They know that every student, family, teacher and staff member represent a vibrant dimension of our parish—seeds of hope in a world yearning for hope that does not disappoint.

With delight I witnessed this year Dominican School actively participate in weekday Masses, Feast days and liturgies, each celebrated meaningfully with youthful joy. I attended teacher in-service days, award ceremonies, and met regularly with the School Board. Like you, I rejoiced in the opening of new classrooms, meeting rooms, and play spaces—with more development to come.

Quickly I discovered others who experience Dominican School as a blessing. Many young couples desire to hold their wedding in the parish, or to have their children baptised in one of our churches! Often, they are proud old scholars of Dominican School. Years following their earliest schooling, they desire to share something of their early-formed faith with a new generation. Blessing begets blessings!

As we await the appointment of a new Parish Priest of the Lefevre Catholic Community. I am confident that 'he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus' (Philippians 1.6).

May the Peaceable Realm of Jesus the Christ bring you and your family peace and happiness, now and forever.

Your servant in Christ,

Deacon Tim Grauel
Pastoral Director

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

Ben Evans

On behalf of the Dominican School Board, it gives me great pleasure to provide the Chairperson's Report for the 2024 school year. This is a particularly significant report for me, as it marks my final year in the role with my tenure concluding in 2024. It has been an absolute privilege to serve as Chair for the past five years, and as a former student of this school, I take immense pride in having had the opportunity to represent the Board and support the school community in this capacity.

Reflecting on the past year, the growth and transformation of Dominican School continue to be remarkable. Student numbers continue to grow, a testament to the reputation and excellence that Dominican upholds in Catholic education. Seeing the smiling faces of students thriving in this nurturing environment has been one of the greatest rewards of my time in this role.

Community support and engagement have gone from strength to strength. The bond between students, staff, families, and the broader community is fantastic to see. The active involvement of families and the unwavering commitment of staff have contributed to an enriching school culture that fosters belonging, faith, and academic excellence.

The school has also seen significant investment in upgraded facilities, with millions of dollars already allocated to ensuring a high-quality learning environment for our students. These enhancements have supported not only academic and co-curricular success but also the well-being of every student who walks through our doors. I have no doubt that the future holds even greater developments as Dominican continues to strive for excellence.

The role of the School Board, while modest in comparison to the tireless contributions of Dominican's dedicated staff, has been integral in guiding the school's strategic direction. We have worked diligently to support the administration, ensure strong financial stewardship, and uphold the values and mission of Dominican School. Key areas of focus for the Board over the past year have included:

- Providing governance and oversight on strategic initiatives and policies.
- Supporting the review and continuous improvement of leadership and teaching programs.
- Enhancing communication and engagement strategies to strengthen school-community relationships.
- Overseeing financial and facilities planning to accommodate the school's growth.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank my fellow Board members for their dedication and invaluable contributions over the years. Serving on the Board is an incredible way to give back to the school community, and I encourage parents and caregivers to consider joining and helping to shape Dominican's bright future.

As I step down from this role, I do so with immense gratitude and confidence that the Dominican School community will continue to flourish. With the guidance of Principal Angela Scodella and the outstanding leadership team, Dominican School is well-positioned for continued success, embracing its rich Catholic identity and commitment to student development.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve and for the support and collaboration over these past five years. I look forward to seeing the school continue to thrive in the years ahead.

Ben Evans

School Board Chairperson

FROM THE SCHOOL FINANCE OFFICER

Jo Freer

The annual financial statements of Dominican School for the year ending December 31, 2024, are presently under audit by KPMG. This report is derived from the draft end of year financial statements. We are pleased to report a net profit of \$862,694.07 for the 2024 fiscal year, an increase from the net profit of \$804,735.39 in 2023. Our year-end cash balance stood at \$1,013,992.38.

Financial Overview

Total income for the year was 8% higher than budgeted with a total variance of \$349,648. The income from tuition fees is slightly under budget. Government funding and other income sources exceeded expectations significantly, which more than compensated for the tuition shortfall.

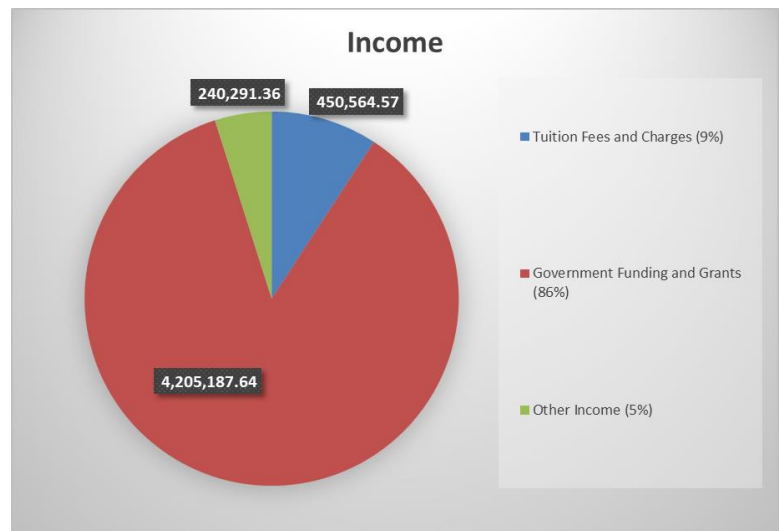
Total expenditures for 2024 exceeded the budget by 8% with a total variance of \$265,530. While some categories, such as Teaching Salaries and Levies, are over budget, there are notable areas of savings, including ESO Curriculum Salaries, Maintenance, and Utilities. These savings were leveraged to offset the overspending in other categories.

Summary of Key Income

- Total Actual Income: \$4,936,734
- Total Budgeted Income: \$4,587,086
- Variance: \$349,648 (8% over budget)

Overall, total income exceeds the budget by \$349,648, or 8%. This positive variance indicates that the financial situation is better than expected, primarily due to higher than expected government funding and other income.

Below is a summary comparing actual income against budgeted amounts in key areas:



Government Funding and Grants (86%)

- Total Actual Income: \$4,205,187
- Total Budgeted Income: \$4,076,05
- Variance: \$129,131 (3% over budget)

Government funding and grants received were higher than the initial estimate. In 2024, we received additional grants for various initiatives: \$767,890 for Capital Building, \$4,640 for EALD/Refugee Funding, \$15,480 for Chaplaincy/Student Wellbeing, \$37,955 for the Leaders of Learning Grant, \$3,588.50 for Commonwealth Sports Grants, and \$5,000 for the CESA Aboriginal Education Community Engagement Grant. The CESA Aboriginal Education Community Engagement grant was allocated to our Nunga Club collaboration with Pat Caruso for an Indigenous artwork that captures the essence of our Dominican School community and our indigenous students.

Tuition Fees and Charges (9%)

- Total Actual Income: \$ 450,564
- Total Budgeted Income: \$458,530
- Variance: -\$7,965 (2% under budget)

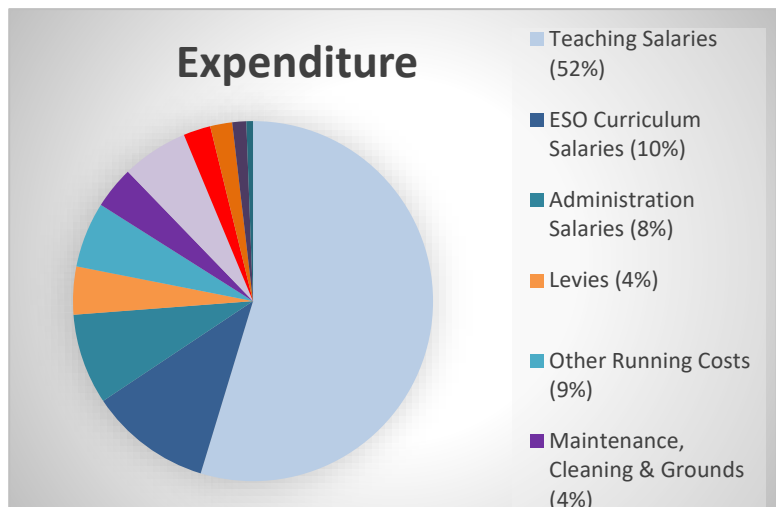
The actual income from tuition fees was slightly lower than the budgeted amount. Sundry debtors (outstanding school fee payments) amounted to \$25,528 at year-end.

Summary of Key Expenditures

- Total Actual Expenditure: \$3,748,694.02
- Total Budgeted Expenditure: \$3,483,164.00
- Variance: \$265,530.02 (8% over budget)

Total Salaries and associated costs comprised 70% of total expenditure and were within 2% of budget. Teaching resources were 5% over budget, while utilities and rates remained on budget and Maintenance expenditures reflected a positive variance of 4% under budget.

Below is a summary comparing actual expenditures against budgeted amounts in key areas:



Teaching Salaries (52%)

- Actual: \$1,948,755
- Budget: \$1,900,191
- Variance: \$48,564 (3% over budget)

Teaching salaries were 3% over budget. While the variance is relatively small, this category represents the largest expenditure, making it an area that is always monitored closely.

ESO Curriculum Salaries (10%)

- Actual: \$390,156
- Budget: \$419,069
- Variance: -\$28,912 (7% under budget)

ESO Curriculum salaries were 7% under budget. This surplus has helped offset other spending in tuition support areas.

Administration Salaries (8%)

- Actual: \$290,149
- Budget: \$283,969
- Variance: \$6,180 (2% over budget)

Levies (4%)

- Actual: \$153,350
- Budget: \$161,245
- Variance: \$7,894 (5% under budget)

Maintenance, Cleaning & Grounds (4%)

- Actual: \$135,072
- Budget: \$178,290
- Variance: -\$43,217 (24% under budget)

Maintenance, cleaning, and grounds costs are 24% under budget, indicating savings in this area.

Teaching Resources (6%)

- Actual: \$212,458
- Budget: \$203,000
- Variance: \$9,458 (5% over budget)

Insurance (2%)

- Actual: \$87,073
- Budget: \$72,000
- Variance: \$15,073 (21% over budget)

Insurance costs were 21% over budget, and this increase aligns with a higher than expected increase in premiums.

Utilities (2%)

- Actual: \$70,480
- Budget: \$83,500
- Variance: -\$13,019 (16% under budget)

Interest Loan (1%)

- Actual: \$44,575
- Budget: \$87,550
- Variance: -\$42,974 (49% under budget)

The interest loan costs were significantly under budget by 49%, reflecting a delay in drawing down on building loan.

Capital Expenditure for 2024

The Middle Primary Refurbishment project was completed, with expenditures totalling \$2,282,351, which is within the budget of \$2,303,495. A final claim of \$16,753.48 will be settled in 2025 upon closing out of defects.

Fixed Equipment included a new Outdoor Advertising Screen costing \$54,000.

IT Equipment expenditures amounted to \$41,063, including 65 iPads along with their cases and charging stations, a server, projector, and sound system.

Trading Accounts

In 2024, a 35% rise in Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service usage generated increased income; however, a 78% rise in salary costs resulted in a loss of \$30,948.

Our Parents and Friends Group continued to run community and fundraising events, yielding a profit of \$3,518, which supported initiatives like Mother's Day and Father's Day Breakfasts and provided supplies for Breakfast Club.

Celebrating 125 years of Dominican School community events raised an additional \$7,070, which has been allocated for STEM resources and a new portable PA system.

We appreciate the effort of all families, and those volunteers involved in running the P&F events in bringing this additional income into the school.

2025 Budget

The 2025 School Fees and draft budget have been ratified by the School Board. In alignment with the Catholic Education Office's initiative to make Catholic schools more affordable, school fees will remain unchanged, whilst sustaining learning programs and services. The 2025 budget is based on an anticipated enrolment of 256 students, noting a census enrolment of 221 in 2024, which has increased to 231 for the start of 2025 with enrolments for 2025 mid-year students at 25.

Government funding for 2025 is projected to be \$3.69 million.

Dominican School has been approved to receive \$2.4 million in state and federal government funding to begin our upcoming building project in 2025. This project will involve refurbishing the Convent Building to house administration, offices and staff amenities, creating additional learning areas, and installing a lift.

Summary

Unaudited finance reports for 2024 and the draft budget for 2025 are available for review at tonight's meeting.

My sincere thanks to my fellow Finance Committee members, Vicki Barnes and Angela Scodella, for their dedication and support throughout 2024.

Jo Freer
Finance Officer

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Angela Scodella

The year 2024 began with a new leadership team at Dominican, consisting of Angela Scodella as Principal, Nick Ryan as Leader of Learning, and Martina Kovacev as Acting REC. Alison Tanti Clarke (APRIM) was seconded to the Catholic Education Office RE Team for two years, creating an opportunity for Martina to step into the Acting REC role and for Nick to assume both the Leader of Learning and Inclusive Education roles.

This transition presented an exciting opportunity to review and enhance our school structures under the five key elements of our strategic plan, focusing on student wellbeing and academic excellence. At Dominican, we strive to inspire hearts and minds, enabling our students to achieve their personal best.

Our school theme for this year, *"Living Veritas with Truth and Love,"* underscores the values of respect, responsibility, and resilience. These principles guide us in fostering a community where every individual feels valued and supported, and where we extend this ethos to all members of our school family.

Enrolment numbers continued to grow steadily, with 18 new Reception students starting mid-year and an extra 13 students starting in classes ranging from Years 1-6. This is reflective of our strong reputation for prioritising both academic success and the mental health and wellbeing of our students. The reports included in this booklet are evidence of our strategic directions in 2024 and highlights not only the remarkable work being undertaken at Dominican but also the vibrant, supportive community that lies at the heart of our school.

Welcome New Staff

The following staff were welcomed to Dominican throughout 2024:

- Lisa Osborne took on an extra day as a School Counsellor and Wellbeing Co-Ordinator
- Matt Annetta was seconded to Dominican for 2 years as our PE Specialist and Sport Co-Ordinator
- Chelsea Fiore and Olivia Andrew as Year 1 teachers
- Sophie Teakle stepped out of her ESO role and into a Year 5/6 class teacher role
- Cathy Sellan started in Term 4 as our WH&S Co-Ordinator
- Hayley Manning as our mid-year Reception teacher
- Louisa Martino started in Term 2 as our Performing Arts specialist
- Michael Hunjet as a Year 3/4 class teacher
- Katy Tatrai and Sally Guthrie as ESO support

Farewell to Staff Leaving

As 2024 came to a close, we bid farewell to some remarkable staff members who have played a crucial role in the growth and development of our school. Their dedication, hard work, and commitment to our students have left a lasting impact on our community. We are deeply grateful for their years of service and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

- Michael Hunjet- permanent position at St Columba
- Sue Brogden- resigned
- Sally Guthrie- ESO position at West Beach Primary
- Karlee Cave- fulltime position at St Michael's College
- Lisa-Marie Siviglia- Maternity Leave

- Olivia Andrew- moved interstate
- Alison Tanti Clarke- permanent position at CESA

125 Year Celebrations

In 2024, we proudly celebrated 125 years of Dominican School—a truly remarkable milestone. The festivities began with a High Tea and *Back to Dominican Day*, where past students, staff, and families were invited to reconnect and tour our new facilities. The convent was transformed into a museum, and our senior student leaders guided visitors, creating an atmosphere filled with reminiscing, laughter, and the rekindling of old friendships and acquaintances. Despite the cold and rainy weather, the event saw over 250 attendees, making it a memorable afternoon.

The celebrations continued with a Gala Ball held at The Lakes Resort—the same venue where our 100-year celebration took place. Over 100 families and staff members joined the event, raising approximately \$7,000 through wine walls, silent auctions, raffles, and ticket sales. Guests were entertained by the musical talents of St. Michael's students, and Greer Tappert added a special touch by conducting a live painting, which was later sold in the silent auction.

We are deeply grateful to our Semaphore community, whose generosity and support played a significant role in the event's success. Numerous local businesses donated money and prizes, helping to make this celebration truly unforgettable.

The Parents and Friends Committee (P&F) also hosted a Quiz Night for our families, which turned out to be an evening filled with fun, trivia, and laughter. With over 80 attendees, the event successfully raised approximately \$2,000 to support the upgrade of our current playground facilities.

The year concluded with a joyous celebration as students and staff came together to mark the end of 2024 with a grand birthday cake shared by all.

Celebrating 125 years of Dominican School was truly an extraordinary milestone. It was a year filled with gratitude, community spirit, and countless memories, reminding us of how much we have to be thankful for as a school.

Effective Administration and Resourcing

Successfully managing the school's human and physical resources, finances, and infrastructure to maximise student learning outcomes has been a collaborative and ongoing effort. This work has involved the leadership team, our Finance Officer Jo Freer, school staff, the School Board, and the Finance Committee. I extend my gratitude to everyone for their dedication and partnership in ensuring the school's financial stability and growth.

In 2024, we were thrilled to secure a \$2.4 million dollar State Government Grant to support the Convent upgrade and extension and upgrade of our classroom learning spaces in 2025. This significant achievement marks an exciting step forward for Dominican, enabling the advancement of Stage 3 of our building plans.

As part of this stage, we will undertake the upgrade and refurbishment of the Convent, as well as an extension and upgrade to our classroom learning spaces. This will include 5 new classrooms, 2 learning hubs, a teacher prep area, breakout spaces and an outside area for the Junior Primary classes.

These enhancements will provide exceptional facilities for Dominican, ensuring a vibrant and supportive learning environment for years to come.

In 2024, several projects, both large and small, were successfully completed:

- Stage 2 Building Project was partially completed at the beginning of Term 2, with the rest being finished at the beginning of Term 3. This included 4 new classroom learning spaces, STEM room, flexible learning spaces, sensory room, meeting room, music suites, new staff facilities, new student toilets and an upgrade to the performing Arts Space.

- Plans were finalised for Stage 3 and 4 building projects and this included consultation from both students, staff and the School Board.
- A significant amount of money budgeted for Professional Learning, was carefully utilised along with the employment of extra Education Support Officers to assist students both in the classroom, Tier 2 small group work and in some cases in the yard through play coaching.
- Marketing was a priority to boost enrolments. This included an update of our school Facebook page, new Prospectus completed, big screen TV installed at the entrance of school, further connections with Kindy's and Childcare centres in the area
- Facade of the school completed

Fostering Strong Home School Engagement

The partnership between the Dominican school community and its families has been significantly strengthened through the active involvement of the Parents and Friends Committee (P&F) and the School Board. Both entities have been integral to enhancing the educational experience and fostering a supportive and collaborative environment.

Parents and Friends Committee

The Parents and Friends Committee has played a pivotal role in building a sense of community within the school while providing essential resources to support student learning and wellbeing. In 2024 they took on the motto 'what we can, when we can, and that's fabulous'. Through their tireless efforts, the committee has successfully organised the following events and initiatives:

- Thursday treats- Ice-creams (Term 1 & 4) and Popcorn (Term 2 & 3). Change to ice-cream cones proved to be better option and more environmentally friendly. Although popcorn is not highly profitable, the partnership with Odeon Star has been beneficial for the school and enhances our engagement with the local community.
- Sports Day BBQ
- Easter Raffle
- Mother's Day/Father's Day Gifts – special arrangements for the 125th anniversary were made. In 2025 we will return to stall gifts. Remaining stock was sold at Carols on the Green BBQ.
- Showdown Donuts/Mother's Day and Father's Day Breakfasts
- Disco
- Quiz Night
- Book Fair
- Daily Breakfast Club

These activities have not only enriched the school environment but also strengthened connections between families and the broader school community.

Angela Scodella
Principal
Dominican School

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Martina Kovacev

At Dominican School, our strong Catholic Identity is grounded in our faith and Dominican charism, where the message of Jesus guides all aspects of school life. Our motto Veritas inspires us to seek truth through our Pillars of Prayer, Study, Community, and Ministry. In 2024, our theme "Living Veritas with Truth and Love" encouraged us to live with love and understanding- *"to study and teach the truths of Christ and awaken in all the love and understanding that are a response to these truths."* St Dominic

Prayer

In 2024 we continued to enrich the praying life of our school community through our commitment to shared practices in daily class prayer, community prayer to commence our R-6 Assemblies, sharing in grace each day before eating, weekly class prayer in our beautiful Chapel in the Convent building, the practice of Christian Meditation, and the celebration of liturgy and Mass.

Our staff gathered for prayer each Monday morning to commence the week and each Tuesday afternoon to begin staff meetings. These sacred times were prepared and led by staff with a focus on scripture and the process of doing theology.

In 2024, the practice of holding class liturgies each term was introduced. Deacon Tim facilitated a professional learning session for the staff, focusing on liturgy, which equipped teachers with the skills and confidence to plan and lead these significant events. The class teachers took responsibility for organising and conducting their class liturgies, with all families warmly invited to participate. These occasions were consistently meaningful celebrations and served as a wonderful opportunity to bring more Church and faith opportunities to our families.

Study

At Dominican we strive for excellence in all aspects of learning to be the best we can be. In this endeavour, we value and support the Catholic Professional Formation of our staff. We dedicate one staff meeting per term to professional learning in Religious Education, and one staff retreat day per year to Staff Spiritual and Religious Formation.

In 2024, our focus was on the redesigned RE Crossways Curriculum and the Made in the Image of God Human Sexuality program. We collaborated to refine our School Scope & Sequences for RE and MITIOG, engaged in rich assessment practices, and developed meaningful tasks and rubrics. Staff also participated in professional learning on Liturgy, gaining valuable insights and resources from Martina Kovacev and Deacon Tim. A key focus was the formation of the Dominican Sustainability and Ecological Conversion Action Plan.

All Year 4 students completed the Religious Literacy Assessment Tool (ReLAT), providing valuable insights into their religious knowledge. Our results were slightly below the state average overall but exceeded it in key areas like Sacred Texts, Moral Life, and Sacramentality and Prayer. Parents received individual ReLAT reports to support their child's learning journey.

At Dominican, we are committed to excellence in learning and continuous growth. We prioritise the Catholic Professional Formation of our staff, dedicating one staff meeting per term to professional learning in Religious Education and an annual staff retreat for spiritual and religious development.

Community

We are blessed at Dominican to share in strong partnerships that build the life of our Catholic school community. In 2024, we had continued support of Fr Roderick O'Brien, our Parish Priest, Deacon Tim Grauel, the Lefevre Catholic Parish and the Dominican Parent Community. Throughout the year we had Sr Marie Egan, Fr Roderick, Deacon Tim, Bernadette Smith and other parishioners visit our classes to support our students on their faith journey. This allowed students to ask wondering questions to support their understanding of our Catholic faith, traditions, and rituals.

In May, we celebrated the retirement of Fr. Roderick, expressing our heartfelt gratitude for his leadership and guidance. For the remainder of the year, we were blessed to be under the stewardship of Deacon Tim Grauel (Pastoral Director), who diligently coordinated visiting priests to preside over all our school Masses. We extend our sincere thanks to Deacon Tim for his unwavering support and exemplary leadership as we await the appointment of a new Parish Priest.

In 2024, we were fortunate to share in liturgical celebrations and Masses at Sacred Heart Church with families and parishioners. These proved to be special times for our Catholic community as we celebrated Opening Beginning of Year Mass, Ash Wednesday, Year level Masses, Buddy Masses, House Team Masses, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, the Assumption of Mary, All Saints Day and our End of Year Thanksgiving and Blessing Mass.

We had six students in the 2024 Family Faith Formation Program who prepared for and celebrated the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion. The sacramental candidates and their families attended multiple weekend and after school workshops led by Bernadette Smith (Sacramental Coordinator), Martina Kovacev and Linda Caldinez (OLV APRIM). All students were supported on their faith journey and celebrated the Sacraments in meaningful and reverent services with family involvement.

Ministry

At Dominican we have a deep commitment to our Catholic mission, embracing the work of social justice and outreach to serve with love. Throughout 2024, our passionate and dedicated Year 6 Justice Leaders were instrumental in raising awareness and funds for various Catholic charities and organisations. Our school community generously supported:

- Project Compassion Appeal with a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Morning Tea
- Showdown colours and casual day Catholic Charities fundraiser raising \$477
- "Be the sunshine on someone's cloudy day" Catholic Charities fundraiser collecting food items and winter warmers as well as raising over \$320
- Socktober 'Kicking Goals for Good' Catholic Mission Appeal raising over \$380
- the work of the Dominican Sisters at Sophia Centre with a Black and White Casual Day on the Feast of St Dominic
- St Vincent de Paul Vinnies Christmas Appeal with hundreds of donations for Christmas Hampers and toys for the Giving Tree.

We also celebrated Catholic Education Week, Harmony Week, Laudato Si Week, Reconciliation Week, Season of Creation, ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day, to deepen our learning about Catholic Social Teaching.

Our students continued to be actively involved in serving our community at School and Parish Masses. We had 13 Year 4-6 students train and serve as Sacristans to prepare the Church for our Eucharistic celebrations. These students also took part in Altar Server training. We give thanks for these students for their faith-filled ministry and service to our school and parish communities.

This year, our 14 Year 6 Justice Leaders commenced regular visits to the Philip Kennedy Centre Nursing Home. These visits have been deeply enriching, fostering joy and connection among all involved. Residents and students engaged in a variety of meaningful activities, including prayer time in the chapel, painting AFL Showdown signs, playing board games, sharing stories, and participating in the Fitness for Life Program. This initiative has cultivated a wonderful bond between the participants, highlighting the power of intergenerational connection.

A particular highlight of 2024 was our staff retreat day where staff immersed themselves in the Dominican Spirit, embodying the pillars of Study, Prayer, Community and Ministry. The morning began with a focus on Study as Eileen Young and Rob Napoli from Dominican Education Australia shared their wisdom about how the Dominican Spirit is alive in our world today. From study to a soulful Liturgy in the chapel, staff were guided in Prayer. The afternoon focus shifted to community and ministry as staff visited various centres, extending their hands and hearts to help people in need. Grounded in the Dominican tradition, this Retreat Day gave staff the opportunity for deep reflection, continuous learning, and spiritual renewal, as they journeyed together in faith.

We are all stewards of God's creation and all members of the school community worked for justice to care for our common home. We put our faith in action to care for our school community by participating in nude food lunchboxes, class indoor and outdoor environmental responsibilities, waste management processes, and garden programs. 2024 also saw the continuation of our school composting system, initiated by our Justice Leaders, to recycle our food scraps into natural fertilizer for our gardens. Our school was awarded a \$500 grant through the *Student Call for Ecological Conversion and Action* initiative, inspired by *Laudato Si'*. This grant, prepared by our Student Representative Council (SRC), was utilised to revitalise our Wellbeing Garden by acquiring new plants for the garden beds. A Dominican Sustainability Committee was established which consists of staff, parents, students and a Green Adelaide representative. The committee came together multiple times throughout the year to develop the Dominican School Sustainability and Ecological Conversion and Action Plan.

2024 reflected the collaborative partnership of students, staff, families, and the parish to support and strengthen our Catholic Identity at Dominican School.

Martina Kovacev
Religious Education Coordinator

TEACHING & LEARNING

Nick Ryan

In 2024, Dominican staff implemented a Shared Literacy and Numeracy Practices Guide, outlining High-Impact Teaching Strategies (HITS) across all classrooms. These strategies include goal setting, structured lessons, explicit instruction, worded examples, and multiple content exposures, fostering metacognitive skills that enhance student learning.

The Playberry Laser Literacy program has been successfully implemented from Reception to Year 6, ensuring consistent literacy development. This program provides daily content review, scaffolding, and sequenced learning to help students transition from guided to independent practice. It is complemented by phonics programs and high-impact strategies focused on *The Big 6 of Reading*. Early Years students benefit from Oral Language Reading Packs, promoting vocabulary, phonemic awareness, and comprehension. Whole-school phonics assessments track student progress, ensuring targeted support for literacy development.

In numeracy, teachers collaborated with the CESA System Coach to align with the Australian Curriculum (Version 9.0) and enhance daily review practices. Staff also received training in using OCHRE for content reinforcement and reteaching.

Students engaged in various excursions and incursions, extending their learning beyond the classroom, including visits to museums, libraries, and science performances. Curriculum planning for 2025 aims to further integrate experiential learning opportunities.

Data Analytics

Staff participated in ongoing professional development to effectively analyse school-based data for informed decision-making, progress monitoring, and targeted intervention. This approach enhances accountability, strategic planning, and continuous improvement in student learning.

DIBELS Data

DIBELS assessments track foundational literacy skills from Reception to Year 6, focusing on phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary. The data informs targeted interventions for students requiring additional support. This assessment is completed three times a year.

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

This phonics assessment measures students' ability to decode words. In 2024, 64% of students met the benchmark (28 words correct), reflecting steady improvement and surpassing regional averages. Students needing additional support were identified early through teacher observations and assessments.

Year 1 Number Check

This diagnostic tool evaluates foundational numeracy skills, including number recognition, counting, and basic operations. 68% of Year 1 students met the benchmark, with targeted interventions implemented for those needing further support.

NAPLAN

2024 marked the second year of NAPLAN's revised reporting structure. The results for Year 3 and Year 5 indicate ongoing improvement, with students requiring additional support already identified through school assessments and intervention programs.

Inclusive Education & NCCD

In 2024, 30.4% of students required adjustments under the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD). A total of 62 students were supported across cognitive, social-emotional, and physical categories, with varying levels of adjustments provided.

Neurodiversity Awareness was enhanced through staff training and student presentations by Georgia Payze (Sunny Day Speech), emphasising inclusive language, diverse learning approaches, and strengths of neurodiverse students. Future initiatives include a parent information session to further promote awareness and engagement.

SEQTA Engage

The SEQTA Engage platform was successfully introduced for reporting in 2024, with most parents accessing student reports. However, some families have yet to activate accounts. In 2025, the platform's capabilities will hopefully be expanded to provide real-time assessment updates, term overviews, and year-level information to enhance parental engagement.

Intervention & Enrichment Programs

This year, 55 students participated in targeted literacy intervention programs (MiniLit Sage & MacqLit), showing progress in phonological awareness and classroom application. Parents received progress reports for transparency and engagement.

Additionally, 16 students engaged in the Enrichment Program, identified as gifted or performing in the 90th percentile of assessments. They participated in design-thinking activities and partnered with GATEWAYS Eureka, allowing collaboration with high-achieving peers across schools. This initiative will continue in 2025 to further develop problem-solving and creative thinking skills.

ATSI Program

The Nunga Club engaged in cultural learning experiences, including collaborating with Indigenous artist Pat Caruso to create a community mural and producing an updated Acknowledgement of Country video featuring ATSI students.

An excursion to Carclew House provided students with hands-on experiences in Indigenous dance, wood carving, and weaving, fostering a deeper connection to their heritage. This initiative strengthened their cultural identity and allowed interactions with other Indigenous students across Catholic schools.

Nick Ryan
Leader of Learning

WELLBEING

Lisa Osborne

In 2024 Dominican School was part of Partners in Inclusive Practice: Wellbeing for All Project for a second year. Dominican was one of four schools in the project working with Courtney Quigley as a Wellbeing Cluster Leader. Courtney provided training sessions for staff and provided support for the Wellbeing champions in initiating wellbeing practices and programs into the school. Karlee Cave, Inclusion and Wellbeing Consultant worked at Dominican two days a week with individual students and with small group social skills, in consultation with teachers and parents. This was the final year of the project, with the school continuing its own Wellbeing program from 2025.

Wellbeing practices at Dominican in 2024 included –

Daily breakfast club available for students. This is provided by Kickstart for Kids and is run by parent and staff volunteers.

Coffee van available at school events, eg. assembly mornings, Father's Day, Mother's Day.

Wellbeing dog Molly has been building up her time spent at the school and in classrooms. Molly visits classrooms throughout the day and spends time in the yard with the students. Students requiring breaks from their learning and/or classrooms have the opportunity to spend time with Molly throughout the day. She also accompanies students to class in the morning to help them to transition to the classroom.

Individual student sessions with Allied Health therapist Karlee Cave.

Every class began using the Social and Emotional Wellbeing program called Grow Your Mind within their Health lessons. A scope and sequence was created for each year level, with all classes beginning with 'the animals in your brain' to help students understand how their brain works.

Teachers introduced a range of brain breaks and mindfulness strategies into classrooms to use throughout the day.

In Term 2, a parent expo was held so that parents could see and be involved in some of the Grow Your Mind activities as well as a parent workshop run by Courtney Quigley.

We held our first Wellbeing Day in Term 3, with a theme of kindness and joy. Students spent the day in their house teams participating a range of activities, as well as having a shared lunch.

Courtney Quigley ran a 3 session parent workshop called the Strength Switch in Term 4. These sessions focused on parents identifying and using their child's character strengths to help them to flourish.

Lisa Osborne began a counselling role and worked with 14 individual students as well a social skills group.

Staff Training in Wellbeing

- 3 staff attended Mental First Aid training
- 6 staff members attended PBIS training sessions (Positive Behaviour Interventions and Support)
- All staff attended training sessions with Courtney Quigley about Trauma and the impact on children's learning as well as Positive Psychology and it's use in the classroom.
- Staff meetings -
 - Creating a whole school Scope and sequence for Grow Your Mind
 - Focusing on the Grow Your Mind Program and its resources
- Termly Wellbeing Champion meetings with other PIP Project schools

Lisa Osborne

Wellbeing Coordinator

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS SPORT

Matthew Annetta

In 2024, Dominican School continued to provide students with opportunities to engage in competitive sports, fostering teamwork, skill development, and school spirit.

This year, we successfully fielded four basketball teams across Reception to Year 6. These teams participated in competitions at St. Clair Recreation Centre, playing throughout the year from Term 1 to Term 4. The commitment and dedication of our parent volunteer coaches were instrumental in the success of our teams. We extend our heartfelt appreciation for the time, effort, and care they invested in mentoring our students.

Our soccer program, running on Saturday mornings during Terms 2 and 3, was once again a highlight for many students. The competition, managed by the North-Western Junior Soccer Association, saw Dominican fielding six teams ranging from Under 6 to the Senior age group. Matches took place at Jubilee Park, West Lakes Shore. We are grateful for the invaluable support of our parent delegate, Carlee Lukje, who played a pivotal role in managing administrative duties in preparation for the season.

While we also aimed to offer Netball this year, there was a lack of interest from students, and we were unable to form teams. We will continue to explore opportunities to promote and encourage participation in a variety of sports.

Sporting Schools

The Sporting Schools Grant is an Australian government initiative that aids schools in promoting student participation in sports. Each term, we apply for this funding to enhance our sports programs and resources. In 2024, we were successful in securing the grant twice—once in Term 2 for Basketball and again in Term 3 for Athletics. This funding enabled us to purchase new sports equipment in alignment with these sports, ensuring our students had access to quality resources for training and competition. Additionally, the grant provided teachers with professional development opportunities, allowing them to upskill and deliver these sports effectively to our students.

SAPSASA and SACPSSA Carnivals

Dominican School had an outstanding year participating in various SAPSASA and SACPSSA carnivals. Many of our students were selected to represent the Port SAPSASA District teams across multiple sports, including Tennis, Cricket, Football (AFL), Athletics, Cross Country, and Swimming. Furthermore, some of our students had the honour of competing at State SAPSASA Carnivals, showcasing their dedication and talent.

We are incredibly proud to celebrate two major achievements this year:

- **1st place in the Port SAPSASA Athletics Carnival (Small Schools Division)**
- **1st place in the Port SAPSASA Swimming Carnival**

These accomplishments are a testament to the hard work and determination of our students, as well as the encouragement and support from our school community.

The 2024 school year was another successful one for Dominican School's sports program. Our students demonstrated enthusiasm, teamwork, and perseverance across various competitions and activities. We extend our sincere gratitude to all the parents, coaches, and staff members who contributed to the success of our sporting programs. We look forward to continuing to build on these achievements in 2025.

Matthew Annetta
Sports Coordinator

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE (OSHC)

Paula Northeast

Our year began with January Vacation Care with numbers averaging in the high 30's on most days.

Janine May continued her role as OSHC Assistant Director and worked each After School Session and Vacation Care Session.

Paula Northeast continued her role as OSHC Administration Officer and Educational Leader in Before School Care Sessions.

We appointed new Staff to our Team - Ashleigh Caspar, Harper Keneally, Katy Tatrai and Nick Johns.

We have a Team of Staff who work various shifts over the year, including Before School Care, After School Care and Vacation Care.

Our Staff Team consists of the following educators-

- Paula Northeast
- Janine May
- Scott Hillard
- Georgia Solly
- Nichola Lewis
- Natasha Cicchiello
- Hannah Freer
- Holly McGorman
- Mitchell Grzeszkiewicz
- Ashleigh Caspar
- Katy Tatrai
- Nick Johns
- Sarah Muir

The Vacation Program in 2024

April Holidays	July Holidays	October Holidays	December/January 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Board Game Bonanza▪ Silent Sounds▪ Lil Ninjas/Kung Fu Panda at Semaphore Odeon▪ Tye Dye Day▪ Adelaide Gaol and Playground▪ High Tea and Baking Day▪ Mystery Movie Day▪ Adelaide Zoo▪ Anzac Crafts and Baking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Old MacDonalds Farm Visit at School▪ Cakes and Cooking Day▪ Funtopia▪ OSHC Fashion Parade and Karaoke Fun▪ Semaphore Odeon▪ AFL MAX▪ Sustainability Day▪ Semaphore Odeon▪ Teddy Bear Making and Picnic▪ Inflatable World	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Wheelie Day▪ Semaphore Odeon▪ Silent Sounds▪ Let's Create Movies▪ OSHC letter C Day▪ Playground Hop▪ Interactive Games▪ Camping 101▪ Amazing Race	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Board Games▪ Xmas Crafts and activities▪ Xmas Cooking and games▪ Semaphore Odeon▪ Semaphore Hotel - Xmas Lunch▪ Water Play▪ Op Shopping▪ Minecraft Day▪ Emergency Services Day▪ PJ Movie Day▪ Largs Bay Swimming Centre▪ AFL MAX▪ Marty McBubble Visits OSHC▪ Cookie Day▪ Carclew Mansion▪ Semaphore Odeon▪ Inflatable World▪ Water Play Day▪ Lego Day▪ Australia Day Fun/sausage sizzle and lamingtons

Our OSHC Program is centred around the Children's interests. Each day there is a focus in After School Care and Before School Care for educators to take observations of individuals or groups of children and from there we plan and program for the following week. This method of programming is working well with all staff involved.

Numbers have increased with the influx of new Reception children.

National Quality Standards and QIP (Quality Improvement Plan) continue to be a focus.

Staff have been involved in Staff meetings which are planned in week 4 (in person) and week 8 (via email)

Professional Development

- o Janine May went to St Francis Lockleys to visit their OSHC Service
- o Paula Northeast attended OSCH Director's Meeting at the CEO Adelaide.

Late November 2024, we applied for a waiver through the Education Standards Board for Staff to work in our OSHC Setting. A waiver exempts our service from meeting a standard or regulation. Our waiver was for our Educators that are studying towards an OSHC Qualification, to be working with other non-qualified educators on their own. The waiver is simply there for when we have staff needed to work when other qualified staff cannot, or we need that extra staff member working to fulfill the staff ratios.

Families are continuing to use the Spike App for all bookings, viewing their accounts, any newsletter items/announcements and daily contact with Staff.

2025

Paula Northeast is still OSHC Director and will be working Monday - Thursday am/before school care and pm/after school care sessions. Paula will still be involved with administration duties daily.

Janine May will be working after school care sessions on Monday to Fridays and continue her Vacation Care role.

Angela Scodella and Martina Kovacev are Nominated Supervisors for Dominican OSHC in 2024.

Professional Development will continue and planned for all Staff.

Paula Northeast
OSHC Director

PARENTS AND FRIENDS GROUP

Sue Barrett

Our Parents and Friends committee is a vibrant group of volunteers who are committed to building a strong school community and to supporting our school and students through organising various events and fundraisers. The P&F event calendar seeks to both raise valuable funds for the school and help to foster the healthy Dominican School spirit we are so proud of.

The highlight for 2024 was our spectacular Gala Ball celebrating 125 years where the P&F sought the support of local business by way of prize donations. The response was heartwarming to say the least and the overwhelming support meant not only a wonderful hoard of prizes for the event but continued to strengthen our connections within our local community.

We continued the traditions of many celebrations including Shrove Tuesday pancakes, Easter Raffle, Sports Day and Christmas Concert BBQs, Showdown Donuts and a Mother's and Father's Day breakfast that was enjoyed by all. The Scholastic Book Fair was a great success in raising the love of reading and close to \$600 in Library resources. On the social front, the annual Disco was a glowing triumph raising \$1150 and our Quiz Night was filled with fun and facts and much laughter, raising friendships and close to \$2000. Popularity remains for our daily Breakfast Club and Ice cream/Popcorn Thursdays, and we give thanks to Semaphore Bakehouse, Kickstart for Kids and the Odeon Star for their involvement in keeping the smiles coming.

At the heart of our work is the belief in the power of community and we greatly appreciate the efforts of all those who donate their time. We look forward to another exciting calendar for 2025 and to welcoming all new parents and friends, continuing to grow our community and bring families together.

Sue Barrett

Parents and Friends

PLAYGROUP

Nichola Lewis

Thank you to all members of the playgroup community. We thank you for your ongoing support and participation throughout the year.

Dominican Playgroup continues to serve as a vibrant, supportive environment for early childhood development, aligned with the values of fun, learning, and community involvement.

Key Achievements

Successful Partnerships & Programs:

This year, we strengthened our educational offerings through our affiliation with the SPICE Network, providing children with access to the *Red Reading* and *Mind Growth Packs*, which have significantly contributed to their cognitive development and love for learning.

Our multi-sensory playgroup sessions, held twice a week, have been a tremendous success. These sessions engage children through a variety of sensory experiences, enhancing their motor skills, creativity, and emotional intelligence.

Alignment with School Celebrations:

Our playgroup has successfully aligned with local school celebrations, fostering a stronger connection with the broader educational community. These celebrations allowed us to celebrate milestones with both the children and their families.

Semaphore Fair:

The Semaphore Fair was a standout event, offering a fantastic opportunity to introduce our playgroup and affiliated school to the wider community. We saw a great deal of interest, with many new families eager to learn more about our offerings. The fair helped raise awareness about our playgroup and encouraged new enrolments for the coming year.

End-of-Year Celebration:

To close the year, we hosted a large Christmas Party, which was a wonderful way to celebrate our children's growth and achievements. The highlight of the event was a special visit from Santa, much to the delight of all the children and their families.

Attendance & Growth

Mid-Year Intake & Transitions:

Our mid-year intake brought in several new families, contributing to a steady increase in numbers. We are also excited to see many children transitioning from Dominican Playgroup into our school, ensuring a smooth and supportive transition as they prepare for their next stage of education in 2025.

Goals for the Coming Year:

Our goals include expanding our enrolment, increasing community involvement, and ensuring our programs continue to meet the needs of our growing group. We are committed to providing an environment where children can thrive and develop to their full potential.

Thank you to our wonderful staff, families, and volunteers for their support throughout 2024. Your engagement has been vital in making this year a success. We look forward to an exciting 2025 and encourage everyone to stay involved, as your contributions make all the difference.

Nichola Lewis
Playgroup Coordinator

WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY

Cathy Sellan

At Dominican School Semaphore we are committed to providing a safe and working environment for all workers, contractors, volunteers, and visitors. We aim to ensure that the risk to health and safety to all workers and other persons is minimised and that the Catholic Church Work Health and Safety Injury Management System is implemented, monitored, reviewed, and continuously improved. Catholic Safety Health and Welfare have implemented an Annual WHS Task Schedule which is used to ensure compliance within the school.

During 2024, the following occurred:

- Risk assessment on all school events / excursions / Plant / Equipment / Chemicals
- Safe Operating Procedures created and displayed
- Workplace Inspections (Bi-Annually)
- Reviewed and updated the emergency evacuation / lock in procedures
- Renewed Emergency Diagrams drafted for new building space
- Ladder Register updated- corrective actions addressed
- Staff Training as per CESA requirement- SALT. Reports sent to leadership
- Attendance at WHS Coordinators meetings/ training throughout the year
- Testing and tagging of electrical plant including the implementation of 'new to service tags' for new equipment register
- 6 monthly RCD push button test and Annual Trip Time test performed on RCD's register maintained
- Automated External Defibrillator Register conducted quarterly
- Accident / Incident / Hazard reporting and Investigations to Rapid Incident Database
- Updated the schools Hazardous Substance Register
- Maintenance of register for all Fire Equipment, Emergency Exit Lights, Smoke and Thermal alarms
- Ergonomics checklist completed by applicable staff
- Report to School Board
- Hazard Alerts, Safety Bulletin's and Product Recalls distributed to all staff from CSHWSA
- Transitioned from paper filing system to an electronic database
- Employee Assistance Program- Information made available to all staff
- Induction undertaken for all staff
- Staff training scheduled and certificates filed
- Updated policy and procedures provided by the Catholic Safety Health and Welfare SA
- WHS and IM Policy Displayed in front administration
- Preventative Maintenance Schedule created
- Assist OSHC Director with WHS Compliance
- Backflow testing organized
- Fire equipment serviced
- Passtab updated/maintained

Cathy Sellan
WHS Coordinator

"Inspiring Hearts and Minds to be the best we can be"

