

Semaphore Parish  
Catholic School Board  
Annual General Meeting  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024



Dominican School   
*Celebrating 125 Years of Education in 2024*





# Agenda

- 6.30pm            Welcome  
Angela Scodella, Principal
- 6.35pm            Acknowledgement of Country  
Prayer  
Martina Kovacev
- 6.40pm            Grow Your Mind Presentation  
Courtney Quigley, Wellbeing Leader
- 7.15pm            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  
    President's Report  
    Catholic Identity - REC Report  
    Teaching and Learning Report  
    Information and Communication Technologies 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
- 2024 School Board Members**
- President                      Fr Roderick O'Brien
- Continuing Members        Ben Evans  
  Kevin Blute  
  Lisa Osborne (Staff Representative)
- Nominations                 Henry Klis  
  Angela Petts  
  Greer Tappert (1 year tenure)  
  Vicki Barnes  
  Kelly Lennon  
  Jack Fawkner
- 7.45pm            Discussion and Refreshments

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Semaphore Parish School Board 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023

In attendance:

Alison Tanti-Clark  
Alison Appleby  
Paula Northeast  
Sue Brogden  
Matt Kosta  
Sam Whitton  
Sarah Jackson  
Sara Thompson

Ben Evans  
Jo Freer  
Julia Nofi  
Sofia Agnello  
Kim Murphy  
Greer Tappert  
Kate Lose  
Lisa-Marie Siviglia

Martina Kovacev  
Katy Tatrai  
Lisa Osborne  
Mayumi Wong  
Jeff Feder  
Henry Klis  
Angela Petts  
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 7.00pm

4. Guest Speaker

Alison welcomed and introduced Rua Hashlamoun, and Michael Lambert, architects from Brown Falconer, who presented the preliminary designs for Stage 2 of our Master Plan. This stage includes the upstairs build and refurbishment due to commence in July / August 2023.

Key comments:

- Fr Roderick asked whether the Dominican logo would be prominent in the design of the new build. Alison confirmed the logo will be included in the new front façade.
- It was confirmed by Rua that special attention will be given to the acoustics in the new build.

5. Commencement of AGM

5.1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Moved: Martina Kovacev Seconded: Angela Petts. All in favour.

5.2 Presentation of Chairperson's report by Ben Evans.

Key comments:

- Ben noted that both as a parent and Chair of the Board it is really apparent how hard staff are working for our students and our school

community. This is reflected in staff retention and enrolment numbers. He thanked all staff for their commitment to Dominican.

- Ben also thanked all Board Members for their contribution as well as Phil Holmes for the work he has carried out to put our school in the position it is in today.

### 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.
- Jo thanked Sam and Phil for their work with her as Finance Committee and confirmed she is available at any time for any questions or queries.

### 5.4 Presentation of Principals report by Alison Tanti-Clark

- Alison thanked everyone for their attendance and noted that Dominican is a very special community to be part of.
- Alison went through her report which included the following reports:
  - Catholic Identity (Alison Tanti-Clark)
  - Teaching and Learning (Nick Ryan)
  - Student Representative Council (Kate Lose)
  - Out of School Hours Sport (Martina Kovacev)
  - Parents and Friends (Katy Tatrai)
  - Playgroup (Nichola Lewis)
  - Work Health and Safety (Sarah Ryan)
- Fr Roderick provided his President's report to all AGM attendees.
- Ben confirmed the Board members for this coming year as follows:
  - Fr Roderick (President)
  - Ben Evans (Chair)
  - Chris Russell
  - Henry Kliss
  - Katy Tatrai
  - Kevin Blute
  - Greer Tappert
  - Sara Thompson
  - Angela Petts
  - Sam Whitton (continuing as Finance Officer for a one year tenure)
  - Lisa Osborne (Staff Representative)

6. Conclusion of meeting

8.30 pm

## FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

**Fr Roderick O'Brien**

### Dominican School 125

This year provides a wonderful opportunity to the School Board to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of Dominican School (formerly called Star of the Sea, then Dominican Convent). The school has served generations of Catholic parents and their children. The parish is promoting this anniversary through a series of items in our parish newsletter. These items include remembering notable students and teachers.

### Being Church Together

Our two schools are an integral part of the Catholic life of our parish. A recent document, *Being Church Together*, has enabled us to focus again on our working together. There are many examples of our co-operation, including:

Family Faith Formation (Sacrament Programme), Four meetings per year of the Parish Connections group, School Masses and other Liturgies in our parish churches, Cross promotion through our websites, Parish-School training for sacristans and altar servers, promotion of our schools to families Baptising children, promotion of our schools through Welcome Packs to new residents, promotion through schools of our parish's Adult Faith Formation programme, school participation in and promotion of the works of the Society of St Vincent de Paul (Vinnies), and cross representation of school personnel on the Parish Pastoral Council with parishioner representation on the School Boards.

Historically, we recall that parish Masses and other activities were first celebrated in a shared building which was also a classroom. The nearby Sacred Heart Church came only in 1914-1915.

### School Board Formation

In 2023, we did not have extensive School Board formation. This is something for which we can allocate more time to in 2024.

### Renovations to the Former Convent

The planned renovations to the former Convent building provide an opportunity for the school and parish community to reconsider the uses of the building over its long history (beginning as a residence for a local doctor). At one time, there was a museum or collection displayed in the building.

### The Role of the President of the School Board

Under the authority of the Archbishop, the pastoral care of the parishioners is entrusted to the Parish Priest. As part of that role, the Parish Priest is also President of both School Boards. 2024 may provide an opportunity for clarification of that role, so that it can be better expressed to the benefit of parish and schools.

### A Personal Note

In 2018 I was assigned as parish priest for the Lefevre Catholic Community. For nearly six years, it has been a pleasure to experience the life, spirituality, and community of the students, staff, and parents of Dominican School. Over this time, there have been significant changes in the school, and I am glad to be part of these changes.

**Fr Roderick O'Brien**

**President of the School Board, Dominican School**

## **FROM 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 to reflect on the activities of the School Board for the 2023 school year.

As you would expect, extensive work goes into the running of Dominican School each year and while 2023 was no different, it did commence with a senior leadership vacancy following the resignation of former principal, Phil Holmes. As a testament to the great work of the Dominican staff and their underpinning commitment to creating a thriving community, the school successfully continued with the objectives under acting Principal, Alison Tanti-Clark and the leadership team. By mid-year, new principal Angela Scodella, joined the Dominican community bringing a refreshing perspective and fantastic influence throughout the school.

As with all the years that I have been privileged to hold the role as School Board Chair, the staff at Dominican continue to maintain a strong image of professionalism and positivity, successfully providing the pastoral care and support that our community values so highly.

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Dominican staff, supported by our broader school community, our small Catholic school continues to meet its targets. With a clear vision and a shared commitment, the Dominican school has successfully reached strategic milestones set in 2023. This is evident in the evolving physical environment of the school and the increasing number of individuals joining our community. The Board commends our staff, students, and families for their dedication to nurturing thriving individuals and capable learners with a strong sense of Catholic identity.

The role of the School Board is only small in comparison to the contributions of the dedicated team of staff at Dominican, yet it is none the less an important part of our current success and the path forward.

The central role of the School Board is to assist with the following main objectives:

- Foster harmonious and positive collaboration within the school community;
- Protect children;
- Promote educational excellence within the school;
- Develop policies that nurture the religious dimension and guide the direction of the school;
- Develop the relationship between the school and the local Parish;
- Support the administration of the school;
- Monitor buildings, grounds development and maintenance;
- Exercise financial stewardship of the school; and
- Ensure compliance with legal obligations.

The Board has been excited with the planning, implementation and execution of the strategies discussed and incorporated within the school for 2023 and beyond. The opportunity to provide strategic support to the school administration in the achievement of targets, finance and overall direction has been welcomed.

Throughout 2023, the School Board focused its efforts in the following areas:

- Review of leadership and teaching reports as presented by the principal and teaching staff representatives in scheduled meetings.
- Review of the Mission and Vision Statement, Values and School Profile.
- Discussing strategies that bring consistency to communication methods across the wider school community as well as showcasing Dominican and all its benefits.
- Discussing pilot program initiatives of Catholic Education South Australia (CESA) of which Dominican has been chosen.
- Consultation on the financial performance of the school, investment strategies and discussion around activities to continuously improve.

Serving on the School Board is a privileged opportunity to contribute to and improve outcomes for students, staff, parents, and the wider community. The Board generously gives their time, and I sincerely thank them for their efforts and ongoing dedication. As we look well ahead to the 2025 school year, there will be some vacancies on the Board, and I encourage parents in our community to consider joining.

We began 2024 in a position above our enrolment target, with a positive community impression and the completion of Stage 2 upgrades to the school. It is also the 125th anniversary of the school, which provides an excellent opportunity to celebrate and promote the school, looking back at our history, and looking ahead to a vibrant future in Catholic education.

With everyone's continued support and the guidance of Principal Angela Scodella and team, I am confident that Dominican School will continue to grow stronger as we celebrate the diversity of all faiths and promote intercultural awareness, becoming an even richer and more vibrant community of faith and learning.

**Ben Evans**  
**School Board Chairperson**



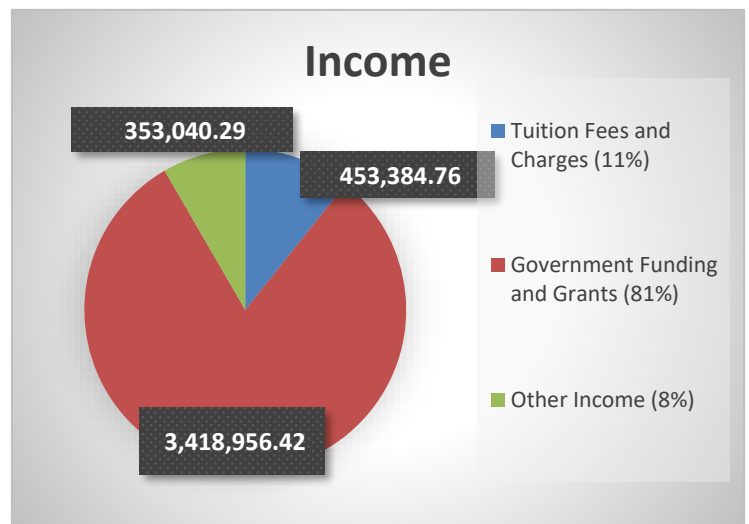
# FROM THE SCHOOL FINANCE OFFICER

**Jo Freer**

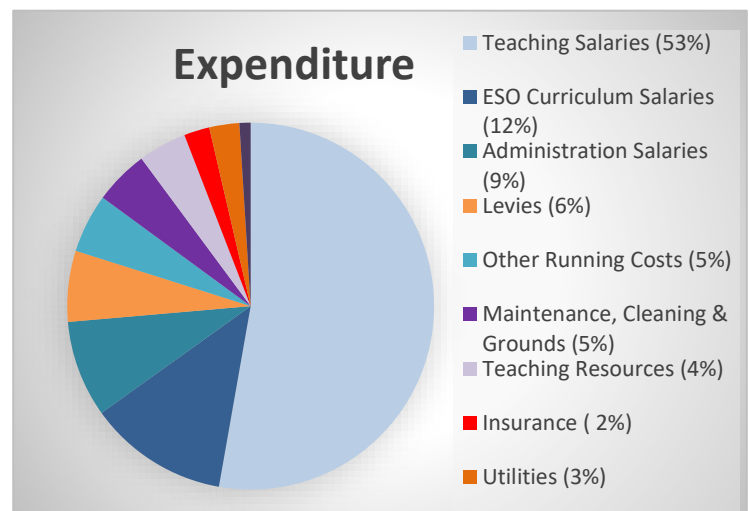
The annual financial statements of Dominican School for the year ended 31 December 2023 are currently being audited by KPMG. This report is based on the draft end of year reports. We ended the 2023 year with a net profit of \$804,735.39, following on from a profit of \$1,004,065.66 in 2022. The net cashflow surplus was \$289,516.59 for 2023 and end of year cash at bank balance \$1,351,716.32.

Total income for 2023 was 5% under budget. Delays in the middle primary refurbishment meant that only \$232,109 of the \$1,000,000 capital grant was drawn upon in the 2023 year. Disregarding the grant, income was 16% above budget, including a 3% over budget Tuition fees and charges collection. Sundry debtors (school fee payments outstanding) were at \$26,107 at the end of the year.

Government funding is our main income source. Additional grants were received in 2023 for Capital Building (\$232,109), EALD/Refugee Funding (\$10,446), High Level Support Funding (\$8,031), Gifted Education Professional Development Funding (\$2,000), Staff Training in SEQTA Funding (\$2,500), Chaplaincy (\$9,000), Leaders of Learning Grant (\$24,424), Commonwealth Sports Grants (\$5,940) and Student Wellbeing Boost Funding (\$13,748). The Student Wellbeing Boost funding was a Commonwealth initiative by Blair Boyer, Minister for Education, Training and Skills and will be used in 2024 to introduce the Grow Your Mind and Dogs Connect Program.



Total expenditure for 2023 was 1% over budget. Salaries and associated on costs account for 74% of our total expenditure. Teaching and Administration Salaries and Superannuation, less reimbursements were on budget. Budget for ESO Curriculum salaries and super was 58% greater than 2022, but expenditure in this area still ended 17% above budget. Teaching Resources were 14% below budget. Utilities and Rates were within budget. Maintenance expenditure was 8% under budget.



Capital Expenditure for 2023:

- Middle Primary Refurbishment \$696,505 (Total Budget \$3,000,000. 2023 Budget \$1,515,000)
- This project was not as far along as expected at the end of 2023, therefore progress payment were less.
- Furniture and Equipment expenditure included Wheels Hub racks (funded by Way to Go grant), BBQ (funded by Parents and Friends), 2 televisions for Junior Primary shared space and meetings, teaching chairs, and camera.
- IT Equipment totalled \$62,572 (Budget \$65,000) included 56 iPads, cases and charging stations, 20 student laptops, 10 staff laptops, and 2 docking stations.

An increase in Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) service usage resulted in a 25% increase in income in 2023, ending the year with a profit of \$52,012.

Our Parents and Friends continued to run community and fundraising events. Funds raised financed a new BBQ, Mother's Day and Father's Day Breakfasts and, along with Kick Start for Kids, supplies for Breakfast Club. \$5,223 profit remained at the end of year. 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.

The 2024 School Fees and draft 2024 cash flow budget has also been ratified by the School Board.

As advised by the Catholic Education Office as part of the making catholic schools more affordable initiative, school fees will remain unchanged, whilst maintaining learning programs and school services.

Tuition fees, levies, student expense and funding are based on estimated enrolment numbers. 2024 Budget was based on 197. In 2023 Census enrolments were 193 and we have started 2024 with 199 students. Government Funding income estimate for 2024 is \$3.04million.

The largest expense in a school is Salaries and Super. Allowance has been made for wage increases and for an additional class teacher from the start of the year. Additional Classroom ESO support has been allowed for 2024 in line with the funding being received for students with additional needs. Additional budget allowance has been made to continue the successful literacy program and introduce a numeracy program.

The \$3 million building project to refurbish the middle primary area of the main school building will be completed in 2024. We will receive the remainder of a \$1 million BGA grant and draw down on a \$1.5 million loan to complete this project.

The bottom line of the 2024 budget is a \$150,000 deficit with an estimated end of year bank balance of \$700,000.

2023 unaudited Finance Reports and 2024 Draft Budget are available at tonight's meeting for your perusal.

I would like to thank fellow Finance Committee members, Sam Whitton, Alison Tanti-Clark and Angela Scodella for their time and support during 2023.

**Jo Freer**  
**Finance Officer**

## **FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

### **Angela Scodella**

It is important to acknowledge the many achievements that have occurred at Dominican School during 2023. Our school theme “To live VERITAS with faith and love” continued to inspire us through our Pillars of Prayer, Study Community and Ministry. With the support of our remarkable staff and in partnership with all our families, every student had access to a learning environment of excellence where they could pursue their goals and realise their full potential to be the ‘best they can be’.

At Dominican School, we are committed to achieving new levels of excellence for every student and for our school. The reports included in this booklet are reflective of our strategic directions in 2023.

The achievements and successes outlined in the following reports have been the result of a strong and vibrant community, striving for hope and working together to ensure that every child in our community thrives.

### **Catholic Identity**

Developing Catholic Identity continued to be a main aspect of our Annual Improvement Plan. It is a fundamental aspect of our mission and plays a vital role in shaping the educational experience we provide to our students. At Dominican, our Catholic Identity is not just a label but a guiding principle that informs every aspect of our academic, social, and spiritual life. It is through our commitment to Catholic values, teachings, and traditions that we create a nurturing and inclusive environment where students can grow academically, morally, and spiritually.

Our Catholic Identity is reflected in our daily prayer, Religious Education curriculum, Sacramental Program, and social justice initiatives that instil in our students a sense of compassion, empathy, and social responsibility. Through these acts of kindness, we aim to cultivate in our students a deep understanding and appreciation of their faith, as well as a commitment to living out the values of love, justice, and service in their daily lives.

Our Catholic Identity also brings together students, staff, parents, and the wider community in a shared commitment to the teachings of the Catholic Church. It is through our collective efforts to uphold and promote our Catholic Identity that we create a sense of belonging, purpose, and unity that enriches the educational experience of all members of our school community.

At Dominican, it is through our unwavering commitment to our Catholic Identity that we strive to create a learning environment that nurtures the whole person and prepares our students to be compassionate, ethical, and responsible members of society.

### **High Quality Teaching and Learning**

Teaching and learning are at the core of our mission to provide a high-quality education that empowers our students to reach their full potential. All educators at Dominican have demonstrated exceptional commitment to creating engaging and inclusive learning environments where every student can thrive. Through their innovative instructional practices, personalised support, and continuous professional development, our educators have inspired a love for learning and fostered academic excellence among our students.

Learning is a lifelong journey that begins in the classroom and extends beyond the school walls. Our students are encouraged to explore, question, and discover new knowledge through a curriculum that is rigorous, relevant, and responsive to their diverse needs. Dominican school provides a well-rounded education that not only focuses on academic achievement but also emphasises the development of critical thinking skills, creativity, and social-emotional competencies.

The partnership between teachers, students, parents, and the broader school community is essential in creating a supportive and enriching learning environment. We value collaboration, communication, and mutual respect as we work together to ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed and thrive.

As we reflect on the past year and look ahead to the future, I am confident that our commitment to teaching and learning will continue to drive our efforts to provide quality education for our students. I am extremely grateful for the dedication and hard work of our teachers, staff, students, and families in making our school a place where teaching and learning flourish.

### **Effective Administration and Resourcing**

To be able to compete in a competitive educational market it is important that school settings need to be continually reviewed and upgraded. This includes outside environments, internal upgrades and upgraded resources. In 2023 several projects, both big and small were completed:

- Stage 1 Building Project was completed - 4 new classroom learning spaces, Maker's Space, flexible learning shared spaces, new community kitchen, new outdoor learning areas, new staff facilities
- Stage 2 Building Project started in August with MOSSOPs willing the tender - \$3 million upstairs build/refurbishment. Received Government Capital Grant of \$1 million and Catholic Education has endorsed \$2 million loan.
- Oval refurbishment - significant time and human resources was put into the upkeep
- New Bike Shed- \$10,000 grant
- Initial discussions and plans were put into place for Stage 3 and 4 building projects
- A significant amount of money budgeted for Professional Learning, was carefully utilised along with the employment of more 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.

### **Strong Home School Engagement**

Both the Parents and Friends Committee and the School Board have played a crucial role in enhancing the overall educational experience at Dominican school.

The Parents and Friends Committee has been instrumental in organising various events and fundraisers that have not only fostered a sense of community within the school but have also provided essential resources for our students. Their dedication and hard work have resulted in the successful implementation of initiatives such as book fairs, school disco, Mother's Day and Father's Day stalls and events and our daily breakfast club. These efforts have greatly enriched the learning environment for our students and have strengthened the community connections between our school and families.

Similarly, the School Board has been pivotal in making strategic decisions that have positively impacted the academic and operational aspects of our school. Their commitment to ensuring the highest standards of education, as well as their focus on continuous improvement, have been evident in the policies and programs they have implemented. The School Board's guidance and support have been invaluable in shaping the direction of our school and in promoting a culture of excellence.

Thank you, Fr Roderick, for your leadership and guidance. I know you want the very best for our students, families, and staff. Your energy and enthusiasm are admired, and 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 Joanne Freer and Sam Whitton, who worked diligently to ensure we are fiscally prudent and always looking for ways to improve the overall ascetics of the school. Sincere thanks to our Board chair Ben Evans for his guidance, leadership, and obvious care about the wellbeing of the school.

Thank you to all the Board members for their insight and vital input and contributions throughout the year: Fr Roderick, Alison Tanti-Clark, Ben Evans, Kevin Blute, Kati Tatrai, Chris Russell, Angela Petts, Henry Klis, Greer Tappert, Sara Thompson, Sam Whitton, Lisa Osborne, Kathleen Connellan and Alison Appleby.

The collaborative efforts of the Parents and Friends Committee and the School Board have been essential in advancing the mission and vision of our school. Their dedication, passion, and commitment to the well-being of our students have been truly commendable. I look forward to continued collaboration with both entities as we work together to provide the best possible educational experiences for our students.

I wish to thank the dedicated staff of Dominican. Our teachers 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 also like to thank the members of the Leadership Team, Alison Tanti Clarke, Martina Kovacev, and Nick Ryan for their support, enthusiasm, and commitment to their role.

I am honoured to lead this faith community and value the trust that people place in our staff as we work to sustain and build a school where each student is able to develop a love of learning and a sense of belonging and where we can inspire hearts and minds to ensure every student can be the best they can be.

I extend sincere gratitude to each member of the Dominican school community for your collaborative effort and partnership in making the 2023 school year a successful one.

**Angela Scodella**  
**Principal**  
**Dominican School**



# CATHOLIC IDENTITY

**Martina Kovacev**

At Dominican School our strong Catholic Identity is grounded in our Catholic faith and Dominican charism where the message of Jesus is embedded in all dimensions of school life. Our motto of Veritas, guides us to seek the truth through right relationship and action lived through our Pillars of Prayer, Study, Community and Ministry. In 2023, our school theme to **LIVE VERITAS WITH FAITH AND LOVE** inspired us on our journey to shine Christ's light and give God's love to follow the Dominican way.

## Prayer

In 2023 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. A particular highlight of 2023 was our staff retreat day held at Cabra Dominican College and Sophia Conference Centre. As a staff, we gathered to celebrate Our Dominican Story - Inspired by our Past and Shaping our Future. We celebrated Mass in the Cabra College Chapel with Fr Roderick O'Brien, took a guided tour of Cabra College, the Convent Museum and a historical walk led by Sr Bernadette O'Kiley who shared the Dominican Story. We were blessed to hear stories from eight Dominican Sisters who spoke about faith, life and education at Dominican School.

## 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 2023 our staff professional learning centered on the redesigned RE Crossways Curriculum and the Made in the Image of God Human Sexuality consolidation. As a teaching staff, we collaborated to review and refine our School Scope & Sequences for RE and MITIOG curriculum and engaged in professional learning in rich RE assessment and moderation to report on the enduring understandings of the Knowledge Strands of the Crossways Curriculum. Staff unpacked the Crossways Performance Standards and used these to develop rich transfer level assessment tasks and rubrics.

In 2023 the Religious Literacy Assessment Tool (ReLAT) was undertaken by all Year 4 students across Catholic Schools in South Australia. This is an online assessment tool consisting of a series of multiple-choice questions designed to assess the general religious knowledge of students. It provides a snapshot of children's learning in Religious Education and contributes to the rich data that is collected to inform teaching and learning for continuous improvement in this key learning area. Our school results reflected that more than half of our Year 4 students achieved above the state average. An individual ReLAT report was provided to all parents of the Year 4 cohort.

## Community

We are blessed at Dominican to share in strong partnerships that build the life of our Catholic school community. In 2023, we had continued support of Fr Roderick O'Brien, our Parish Priest, the Lefevre Catholic Parish and the Dominican Parent Community. Throughout the year we had Sr Marie Egan and Fr Roderick 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 2023, 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: Beginning of Year Mass, Ash Wednesday Mass, Year level Masses, Buddy Masses, Family Masses, Feast Days of St Dominic, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, the Assumption of Mary, Harmony Day, Nativity of Mary, Family Mass and our End of Year Thanksgiving and Blessing Mass.

We had eleven students in the 2022-2023 Family Faith Formation Program who prepared for and celebrated the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion. In the lead up to the celebrations, the sacramental candidates and their families attended multiple weekend workshops led by Sr Marie Egan, Fr Roderick O'Brien, Alison Tanti-Clark, Martina Kovacev and Jhovana Fenu (OLV Acting 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 2023, 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
- Catholic Education Week 'Be a Rainbow in Someone Else's Cloud' Catholic Charities fundraiser raising \$408
- St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal with a Winter Warmers casual day collecting an amazing 489 food items and 100 winter warmers as well as raising over \$350
- Socking it for Justice Day Catholic Charities Mission Appeal
- The work of the Dominican Sisters at Sophia Centre with a Black and White Casual Day on the Feast of St Dominic
- Vinnies Christmas Appeal with hundreds of donations for Christmas Hampers.

We also celebrated Catholic Education Week, Harmony Week, Laudato Si Week, Child Protection Week and Reconciliation Week, 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 ten of our Year 5/6 students serve as Sacristans to prepare the Church for our Eucharistic celebrations. We also had three students accompany us on the piano for the sung responses of the Mass with the guidance of Helen Birch, one of our instrumental tutors. We give thanks for these students for their faith-filled ministry and service to our school and parish communities.

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. 2023 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.

2023 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**

Over the past two years, there has been a very noticeable change in the teaching practices that are occurring within Dominican, with a higher sense of accountability for student success. There have been many new initiatives to improve teaching pedagogy to ensure it is founded in evidence-based practices, and support all students to be the best they can be. The most noticeable initiative that has shown recognisable improvement is consolidation of the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), ensuring supports and opportunities are provided for all students to be successful. This has been successfully implemented with our approach to literacy, and over the past twelve months has also begun with a focus throughout numeracy, gifted education, and wellbeing. Our school MTSS models can be accessed on our school website.

For our school MTSS for literacy, we have implemented a whole-school approach to structured synthetic phonics and explicit direct instruction through the implementation of Playberry. This is a program that sequences sounds that students need to learn and know to be successful readers. This is being implemented from Reception to Year 6 with all staff engaging in professional learning to upskill themselves in this approach to literacy. For our Tier 2 approach, we use multiple forms of data to select students to participate in intervention groups which target students' basic literacy skills and support the development of these skills to be successful readers and writers. ESOs have taken on the responsibility with great commitment and rigor and have provided many students with the opportunity to feel confident and successful in their learning. We continue to hear positive feedback from ESO staff, students and families of the increased confidence to participate in learning activities. It has also been a catalyst for some families to seek external support for their children to better aid them on their learning journey.

We have also identified a number of students with high needs who participated in a Tier 3 program, founded in the practices of Orton-Gillingham Multi-Sensory Structured Language (MSL). This program is designed to support students who are struggling with reading and provide them with strategies to break down words and make meaning of texts.

Throughout Semester 2 there was also an emphasis on data-informed practices to ensure all students' growth is being monitored. This was to ensure that all students' learning is being regarded as a priority and that their needs are being addressed in teaching and learning programs. This included ensuring that all classes from Reception to Year 6 had an emphasis on phonological and phonemic awareness to provide opportunities to fill in any gaps in student learning. This was reflected in the opportunities to present and analyse the NAPLAN data, reflecting positive outcomes of student learning with a number of students performing in the top two bands for their year levels. It was pleasing to see that the students who performed at or below benchmarks had already been identified by teachers as students who required additional support with their learning. Last year, there were a number of data sets presented to the Board to inform them of these practices, with an aim to increase parent awareness of these data sets to better support their child at home.

Throughout this year there was a greater focus on the use of SEQTA as a platform for teaching and learning purposes along with reporting. Staff started utilising SEQTA for planning their timetables and teaching units to ensure they are continuing to follow the system priorities and move to system approaches. Last year was the first year we reported home to parents electronically. This year, we are hopeful to move forward with the platform SEQTA Engage to allow parents to access reports electronically. More information will be shared with families in early Term 2.

Last year, there will also be an emphasis on further development of the teaching of Mathematics. From reflection on the numeracy results from NAPLAN and PAT, it was clear that we needed to improve the understanding of mathematical concepts and how to apply these skills. This was a reflection across the state and also recognisable in national data. This year, we aim to support staff through professional learning, working with system coaches from Catholic Education South Australia (CESA), and utilise resources to improve the teaching of Mathematics at Dominican.

Many of these initiatives will continue to be consistent focus points throughout the year in line with our strategic priorities, with teachers and ESOs taking on the challenges to inspire the hearts and minds of students to be the best they can be, ensuring the academic success and growth of every individual.

**Nick Ryan**  
**Leader of Learning**



# **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES**

## **Matthew Kosta**

2023 has seen further increased purchasing of devices to allow for greater access for student learning. We now have 1:2 iPads for Reception and Year One, 1:1 iPads in Year 2, 1:1 laptops in Years 3-6 (plus 10 iPads for shared use). We have 5 laptops in OSHC for student use. Staff all have new laptops and iPads allowing them to plan and execute quality teaching and learning experiences, and an iPad for assessment use.

The school has invested in a Vivi device for each classroom, allowing for streaming to the classroom televisions seamless for staff and students at any time from laptops. Professional development on how to use Vivi has supported staff with this implementation.

NAPLAN testing has continued online at Dominican School, with minimal interruptions for Year 3 and Year 5 students.

School online subscriptions for Reception, Year One and Year Two students to the online literacy program, Reading Eggs continued, allowing students to consolidate their skills.

Further SEQTA training occurred and all teaching and learning programs, assessment and other documents were stored on the platform to improve efficiency and transparency for staff. All mid-year and end of year School Reports were all generated using SEQTA.

Three staff members attended Makers Empire 3D printing workshops to begin teaching this as part of the Technologies curriculum. A host of 3D printing objects were designed and printed by the Years 3-6 students and our senior enrichment program students.

Alex Klajn, our ICT technician has worked extensively with leadership, the architects and builders ensuring that appropriate audio and communication systems are installed school wide, including the new and existing learning spaces. We take this opportunity to thank Alex for his support and we wish him success and all the best in his new role.

**Matthew Kosta**  
ICT Coordinator

# WELLBEING

## Lisa Osborne

In 2023 Dominican joined the Partners in Inclusive Practice (PIP) Project for a period of 2 years. As part of this project, we appointed a Wellbeing Champion, Kate Lose for the first 6 months, then Lisa Osborne for the remaining 6 months. Dominican is one of four schools in the project working with Courtney Quigley as a Wellbeing Cluster Leader. Courtney has provided multiple 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, has been working at Dominican two days a week with individual students in consultation with teachers and parents, this will continue in 2024.

Wellbeing practices at Dominican in 2023 included -

- Daily Breakfast Club available for students. This is provided by Kickstart for Kids and is run by parent, staff and student volunteers.
- Wellbeing dog Boston began visiting Dominican in Term 4. Boston 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 Boston throughout the day.
- Paula Northeast worked with small groups of students using the "What's The Buzz" social skills program from each year level. The students involved were selected by class teachers in consultation with parents.
- A parent workshop with Natalie Galarello - 'My Child and Me - Connecting, Understanding and Guiding...Everyday Parenting' was planned for Term 2, however was unfortunately cancelled due to lack of numbers.
- Class teachers attended a small group Pulse Check In session with Leader of Learning Nick Ryan to examine the results of the Term 4 check in and to plan for conversations with individual students as needed.
- Teachers introduced a range of brain breaks and mindfulness strategies into classrooms to use throughout the day.
- Individual student sessions with Allied Health therapist Karlee Cave

### Staff Training on Wellbeing in 2023

- Staff Professional Development - introduction to the PIP Project
- Staff Meetings
  - Positive Psychology and Trauma
  - Allied Health Therapists Karlee Cave and Gaby Barendregt ran a staff meeting on 'Understanding Behaviours'
  - Character Strengths
- Pupil Free Day - Wellbeing Distillery with David Bott with other schools participating in the PIP Project with the focus on foundational wellbeing science and the link to teacher effectiveness and student performance. Staff engaged with practical strategies and tactics to enhance pedagogy and learning.

- 7 staff attended Mental First Aid training
- 2 staff members attended PESA Conference (Positive Education Schools Australia)
- 3 staff members attended Angela Davies Workshops on Autism and Complex Behaviours
- PBIS (Positive Behaviour Interventions and Support) - 6 staff members attended initial PBIS training sessions
- Termly Wellbeing Champion meetings with other PIP Project schools

Lisa Osborne  
Wellbeing Coordinator

# OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS SPORT

## Martina Kovacev

Dominican School has a proud history of representing After School Hours Sport and 2023 was no exception. In addition to Basketball and Soccer, we also offered cricket and netball however there wasn't enough interest to form a team.

In 2023, we continued our R-6 Basketball competition at St Clair Recreation Centre at Woodville. St Clair runs an elite and professional out of school sports program and has excellent facilities. We've had fantastic feedback from our families and look forward to continuing our partnership with St Clair in 2024.

Last year we entered five basketball teams into the competition, an increase of two from the previous year. This competition is available right through the year from Term One to Term Four. Our basketball teams would not be viable without the support of coaches, scorers, and supporters to cheer them on. We thank all of these people who generously gave of their time, energy and expertise on the court.

Our Saturday Soccer program is run by the North West Junior Soccer Association. The program runs for approximately 16 weeks in Terms Two and Three and is available to all students from Reception to Year 6. The games are played locally at Jubilee Park, West Lakes Shore.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Carlee Lukje who has taken on the role of school delegate for 2023 helping us coordinate school soccer. Carlee's role included: attending meetings of the North West Junior Soccer Association, registering players and teams, communicating important information from the association, and organising teams and liaising with coaches and parents.

In 2023 we had 60 students registered for School Soccer, which made up six teams from U6 to U12. This was an increase of two from the previous year. We experienced many successes on the soccer pitch. Dominican students went onto the field with confidence, courage, and determination every week and displayed great sportsmanship both on and off the field. Our thanks once again to Carlee Lukje and all team coaches and managers for their time, commitment, and participation.

## Sporting Schools

Sporting Schools is an Australian Government initiative designed to help schools increase children's participation in sport and connect them with community sport opportunities. Each term we apply for sporting schools funding which allows us to bring in outside organisations to run sport clinics for our students. These clinics usually run for a 4 week block. The sport clinics we had in 2023 were soccer and touch football.

## SAPSASA and SACPSSA Carnivals

Dominican School students always achieve great success at the sport carnivals they attend. All of the students are to be congratulated on their efforts as they all strive to do their best for Dominican School. They continuously show great sportsmanship, enthusiasm and determination which goes a long way in making the carnivals such a great success.

- Port SAPSASA Athletics Carnival - 28 students attended - 2nd place
- Port SAPSASA Swimming Carnival - 18 students attended - 1st place
- Port SAPSASA Cross Country - 50 students attended
- Catholic Schools Athletics Carnival - 39 students attended
- Catholic Schools Swimming Carnival - 22 students attended
- Catholic Schools Cross Country - 44 students attended
- Catholic Schools Netball Carnival - 59 students attended
- Catholic School Lacrosse Carnival - 38 students attended

**Martina Kovacev**  
**Sport Coordinator**



# **OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE (OSHC)**

## **Paula Northeast**

In 2023, Dominican School continued to offer a quality Before and After School Care service and Vacation Care Program to our families, as well as care for students on school Pupil Free Days. Supported by a passionate team of staff dedicated to providing an engaging and varied program, our Out of Hours School Care service continues to grow. Numbers have doubled in Before School Care and are very high in After School Care with new enrolments from our Reception intake and new families moving to Dominican.

Significant events of 2023:

- Janine May was appointed Co-Director in January 2023. Janine's position involves working alongside Staff in our After School Care Sessions and Vacation Care Sessions.
- Director, Paula Northeast works in Before School Care Sessions and is the Administration Officer.
- New Staff members appointed -
  - Toni Zuanic - After School Care/Vacation Care
  - Natasha Cicchiello - After School Care/Vacation Care
  - Mitchell Grzeszkiewiic - After School Care/Vacation Care
  - Abby Cenco - Vacation Care
  - Jessica Fulford - Vacation Care
- National Quality Framework and program continues to be a high priority for the year. The introduction of Staff meetings, two per term, has been successful. One in person in week 4 and one via email in week 8.
- Staff members involved in Professional Development Training. Compulsory Training Course - Food Safety Supervision Skills Set Course via IIFP (Independent Institute Food Processing). Paula, Janine and Scott participating - 8 hour online course.
- OSHC communication to families is supported by SPIKE our Billing and communication system. Great platform for families to also see our Program via photos and detailed description of daily activities.
- Staff contribute to daily activities based on our termly themed focus.
- Angela Scodella (School Principal) began her OSHC Journey with our Service in Term 3 2023. Angela is our Services' Nominated Supervisor.

In 2023 the Vacation Care Program was very successful, and students had the opportunity to take part in a number of fun excursions and incursions. A big thank you to all the staff who worked hard to support the Vacation Care Program.

**Paula Northeast**  
**OSHC Director**

# **PARENTS AND FRIENDS GROUP**

**Katy Tatrai**

Our Parents and Friends committee is made up of volunteers who work behind the scenes to organise events for our Dominican students and their families; events that bring our community together and also that raise funds for school improvements, specifically for the students.

In 2023 we worked on succession planning by creating worksheets for events to enable new members to be able to access information quickly and easily about how events have run in the past, aiming to make the responsibility less daunting.

Another busy year saw us work together to organise celebrations such as Shrove Tuesday, an Easter Raffle, Hot X Bun drive and recess, Sports day, Mother's Day, Crazy hair day / sausage sizzle lunch, the Scholastic Book Fair, Father's Day, the Christmas Concert and the long awaited return of the Dominican Disco as well as our daily Breakfast Club (with the support of Kickstart for Kids) and weekly ice block / popcorn days. Our biggest purchase from funds raised was a new BBQ which will hopefully get a lot of use in the coming years.

We are grateful for all the support we receive from our volunteers and look forward to welcoming our new families to Dominican and recruiting many new enthusiastic members. Our focus on planning events for 2024 will be events that not only bring joy to our students but build our community and bring our families together.

**Katy Tatrai**

**Parents and Friends**

# **PLAYGROUP**

## **Nichola Lewis**

Our Dominican Playgroup is a multi-sensory, play inspired, inclusive community.

This past year has seen many events and changes all of which have been extremely positive. In 2023 Playgroup joined the school community in their annual Book Week parade. This was an exciting opportunity for the children and families to be a part of and see our school spirit and thriving community.

Playgroup currently runs on Tuesdays with an increasing number of families joining. Thursdays will restart in Term 2, 2024, which coincides with the completion of the new refurbished upstairs building. The parents share an enthusiasm in our school growth and new leadership.

It has been wonderful to have so many playgroup Alumni in last year's midyear Reception intake and this year's Reception class. Being in Playgroup gives them an added sense of confidence, familiarity and belonging, not only for the students but more importantly the families when beginning their school journey.

We have many craft activities which are linked to various holidays and celebrations. We have weekly songs and music, along with play corner, dress up, and sensory and fine motor activities. All of these activities meet the learning outcomes expected for early learning.

**Nichola Lewis**  
**Playgroup Coordinator**

# WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY

## Sarah Ryan

At Dominican school we are committed to ensuring that we provide a safe work environment for our staff, students, volunteers, contractors, and visitors. We aim to ensure that the risk to health and safety of 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 2023, 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
- New Emergency Evacuation plans designed
- 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
- Implementation of 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
- Transition from paper filing system to an electronic database
- Employee Assistance Program- Information made available to all staff
- Return to Work/Early Intervention claims processed and reported to leadership/CS&IM/Lawsons
- Induction Checklists updated for new staff, volunteers, contractors, specialist 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

Sarah Ryan  
WHS Coordinator

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



**Dominican School, Semaphore**  
*Celebrating 125 Years of Education*