



Annual Report - 2018



St Denis School is a Catholic school within the Joondanna Parish. It was originally opened in 1951 by the Servite Friars, together with the Sisters of Mercy. The school community seeks to foster an environment that integrates love, truth and learning, where each individual strives to become a model of Christian living and is nurtured toward his/her full potential. The school is coeducational with a current enrolment of 239 students from Pre-Kindergarten through Year 6. The school also offers an Outside School Hours Care program.

St Denis offers an educational philosophy based on developmental learning, inclusivity and Christian ethos. The integrated curriculum covers all learning areas. The school promotes literacy and numeracy as a key focus, and has adopted a literacy and numeracy program based on the RAISE Program philosophies. This also includes the provision of a Reading Recovery teacher.

St Denis School has an integrated technology plan, implementing tablet technology in the Kindergarten to Year Three classrooms and a 1:to:1 iPad/laptop program in the Year Four to Six classrooms.

Educational Assistants are also employed to assist teachers with students requiring support. Students are involved in a variety of extra-curricular activities that enrich their school experience, as well as a range of academic competitions such as Speak Up Awards.

The Making Jesus Real programme is central to our school and these values are incorporated into our school policies and teaching programmes and permeates all learning areas.

St Denis has put in place Sustainability practices and strategies endeavouring to care for the environment that has been entrusted to us.

At St Denis we take pride in the diversity of cultures, skills and talents of all students.

All teaching staff are registered with the Teachers Registration Board (TRB).

- 3 Masters of Education
- 9 Bachelor of Education
- 1 Bachelor of Arts in Education
- 1 Graduate Diploma in Education

The composition of staff consisted of 29 females and 2 males.

There are no Indigenous members on staff.

Average attendance rate for PP – Year 6 students is 94%

YEAR LEVEL	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	ATTENDANCE PERCENTAGE
Kindy	30	92%
Pre Primary	27	94%
Year One	30	96%
Year Two	27	97%
Year Three	32	95%
Year Four	26	96%
Year Five	28	98%
Year Six	22	98%

Parents are required to inform the school if their child is absent on a particular day.

Student attendance is recorded in SEQTA. Unexplained absences are followed up by text messages and phone calls to parents from the office by 9.30am daily.

Non-attendance is managed by staff who request parents to bring in a written absentee note.

5 Students results in NAPLAN (National Assessment Program – Literacy & Numeracy)-2018

Learning Area and Year Level	% of students at or above national minimum standard
Year 3	
Reading	100%
Writing	100%
Spelling	100%
Grammar & Punctuation	100%
Numeracy	100%
Year 5	
Reading	100%
Writing	100%
Spelling	100%
Grammar & Punctuation	96%
Numeracy	100%

6 Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

During the 2018 school year parent satisfaction has been of a very high level. Parent feedback from P&F meetings, social events and parent teacher interviews is largely positive. Families have indicated satisfaction, pastoral care, educational and support programs offered by the school.

At parent sibling interviews for 2019 many parents mentioned that they are made to feel welcome and that all staff are very personable, going above and beyond.

Parent feedback indicates that they are appreciative of with the high number of extra curricular activities offered by a single stream school. They are also impressed with the generosity of the staff giving of their own time to provide these activities for the students in their care.

In addition, P&F events are well attended which indicates evidence of the school having a strong sense of connectedness to the school community.

Student satisfaction is gauged on student attendance, engagement and participation in the school. The students are always positive and engaged in activities within the school.

7 Post-school destinations

- Aranmore - 1
- Churchlands – 2
- Iona – 2
- Mercedes – 2
- Newman – 2
- Servite 11
- Trinity - 2

8 School income broken down by funding source

Information on this aspect can be found on the My School Website: www.myschool.edu.au

9 Annual School Improvement Plan 2018 – Success Measures

Our Annual School Improvement Plan for 2018 had several smart goals across Learning, Engagement, Accountability and Discipleship. These goals together with our Strategic Plan provided great direction for us throughout the year.

Learning Goal:

To increase the number of students in the top percentile in the reading area.

NAPLAN: Our year 3 students improved 34 growth points above the national mean;
St Denis 467 – National 433;
Our year 5 students improved 29 points above the national mean;
St Denis 538- National 509

- Our teachers were supported with differentiation PD with Kylie Bice and guided reading Professional development. Education Assistants were in classes to support teachers in and out of classrooms. Reading Recovery and rainbows reading are in place to support students in their reading. School based data indicated strong growth.

Engagement Goal:

Increase the skill set in Microsoft 365 suite, developing a scope and sequence for Microsoft 365.

- All teachers are confident in the use of teams as our new form of communication. Staff attended regular PLCs integrating 365 throughout the school including upskilling students with sway, forms and one note. PD was run by CEWA and run by our digital technology leader, Leanne Fanetti.

Accountability Goal:

Increase the staff skill set in inquiry-based learning.

- Each classroom teacher has successfully planned one unit of inquiry for their class.
- Regular PLCs dedicated to Inquiry Based Learning and our teacher leader met with staff to assist with planning their units of work.

Discipleship Goal:

Increase the skill set of teachers to improve their health and well-being.

- Data received from the 2018 National School Improvement Partnerships (NSIP) School Climate, Teacher's Voice survey strongly indicated that this goal has been achieved. Staff collegiality, the provision of individual support, job satisfaction with an overall clear school mission were all in the top quartile of scores received by the school. Structures were put in place to assist the staff with their personal wellness.
- We are all very fortunate to be involved in such a warm, nurturing and caring environment. It is important that we do not take this for granted.

10 Budget & Chair Report

Financial and Infrastructure Report

St Denis Initial Budget 2018	
Recurrent Income	2,465,926
Recurrent Expenditure	2,460,027
Recurrent Result	5,899
Capital Income	80,135
Capital Expenditure	86,034
Building Fund	
Capital Result	-5,899
Income Result	2,546,061
Expenditure Result	2,546,061
Estimated result 2018	0

Board Chair Report 2018

On reflecting back to why I chose to send my sons to St Denis I can't help getting away from the notion that it is a really awesome school. With a career in education spanning close to 25 years I have a very good idea of what a great school should look and feel like. In my opinion St Denis is a flagship school for Catholic Education. Why is this so?

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has completed studies regarding the future of global employment and has identified the required skill set needed by a 21st century workforce. A future employee will have the skills of *problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, adaptability, ability to communicate via many modes, emotional intelligence and be able to build cross-cultural understanding to become global citizens.*

The teachers at St Denis are attuned to the future needs of our children and have developed curriculum programs focusing on these necessary skills identified in the OECD reports. An example of this is the recent Year 4 learning program "How Now Brown Cow" exposing the students to the different types of technologies used in food and fibre production or processing, including how they are used to help meet consumer needs.

It is not only the curriculum at St Denis that is focused on these essential skills of a 21st century employee but also the extra and co-curricular activities the teachers so generously give up their time to organise and run. You only need to cast your mind back to Term 3 when students were required to collaborate to sing and dance together in the Catholic Performing Arts Festival or when students displayed their creativity and problem-solving skills in the National Tournament of the Minds competition or used their communication skills to represent the school in the "Speak Up" awards.

A great school has teachers who are engaged with the latest research in education, are passionate about teaching their students and have a very caring nature. This is evident in the number of staff that have been recognised for their professionalism by being invited to run Professional Development at other schools or to present at seminars on the great things they do at St Denis. As parents we are extremely lucky to have a teacher meeting these criteria in every classroom.

Like every flagship, St Denis could not operate without the inspiration and vision of a great commander. Our principal, Eugene Lee, is one of the best principals any school would wish to have him as their leader. Being a Principal is a difficult job and Eugene handles it with aplomb. As the face and head of St Denis, he is responsible for the care and education that each of our children receives as well as setting the warm, welcoming and friendly tone of the school. One thing that stands out in my mind the most is his personability to be able to form relationships with not only all the students in the school but the families as well. He is dedicated to not only educating our children in an academic sense but he is a firm believer in educating them in how to be good people after the model of Jesus.

It is not only the teaching staff that make St Denis an awesome school it is also the passionate parents who step up to help organise and run events, cut up fruit for morning tea in the Kindy room, assist at a busy bee to help with the maintenance of the playground or attend the fundraising events arranged by the P&F. It is this community ownership of St Denis that adds to its awesomeness as a school.

This year I have been privileged to work with a school board that is committed to further enhancing St Denis' reputation as an awesome School. I'd like to publicly recognise and thank the following Board members for their contribution to the school this year:

- Eugene Lee, Sarah Potts, Cordelia Nicholas, Jay Woodgate, Jodie Denham, Catherine Lech, Justine Richelieu, Rebecca Rodgers, and Sean Daniel.

Without the effort and generosity of these people in leaving their families to attend monthly Board meetings the school would not be in the wonderful state it currently sits with the added bonus of a great future outlook.

The main priority of the 2018 Board was to continue to advance the Capital Development plan of the College by engaging with CEWA to have an architect draw up some plans to refurbish/redevelop the Malley Romeo Centre and

the admin building of the School as part of the Building Master Plan. This project will be ongoing into 2019. The Board also oversaw a number of major maintenance works carried out this year. The limestone fence adjacent to the shops on the northern side of the school yard was replaced, a number of trees removed due to safety issues, permanent gutter guard installed around the school and the leak in the board room was fully repaired.

It is with a tinge of sadness that after being on the Board for a number of years it is time for me to bid farewell as Lucas, my youngest son graduates Year 6 this year. I can honestly say St Denis is in good hands with great educational leaders in administration roles, innovative and exciting teachers at the coalface of the classroom plus a parent support network that is second to none. I am confident that St Denis will continue to grow and flourish in the future.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be a part of this magnificent community. I wish all the families and friends of St Denis a safe, happy and holy Christmas period and a wonderful new year.

Mark Weston

St Denis Board Chairperson