

2022 – Another amazing year for St Damien's

We started the year full of hope and it hasn't disappointed us. We welcomed Mr Peter Hazebroek as our newest Assistant Principal to the Leadership Team. Peter has brought with him years of experience and for the first time in many years we have had a full compliment of leaders at St Damien's.

Mr Gooch, Mrs Leighton, Mr Hazebroek and the office staff need to be commended for their efforts. We have had many ups and downs, but the focus on our students and staff has never been lost. Our finances remain strong and our planning and growth for the future is in safe hands. We are a very lucky school to have these leaders.

Our enrolment numbers continue to grow and we now have over 500 students (501 to be exact) which is an amazing achievement! We've seen new teachers come, we've had teachers return from maternity leave and some teachers have moved year groups for their own growth and that of the school.

Our grounds continue to grow and develop. The new carpark on our southern boundary has been approved with works to be completed by the start of the 2023 school year. Classrooms continue to improve, our new WIFI has been rolled out throughout the school improving the classroom experience for our staff and students. Air purifiers have been purchased and installed in all classrooms and our security system upgrade has been completed.

We have had to say goodbye to one of our favourites; Father Vince has left us and moved to sunny Albany. He will not only be missed by the students and staff, but the whole St Damien's community. We will miss the bike rides through the school, the joy on the kids' faces when he joins in the running race or the cricket game on the oval. Take care Father, you will be missed. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Father Christian to our school, we hope you enjoy your time with us.

I would like to mention and acknowledge our school P&F committee, it has been a slow recovery from Covid restrictions. This year has seen us bring back some of the fun activities that have been missing for 3 years. Our School Disco was a huge success, and we look forward to getting back to some normality and continuing to put the kids and school needs first. A big thank you to Natarlie Woodman and the P&F Executive for all of your support this year.

In closing, I would like to thank all of our staff, parents and students for an amazing 2022. We have had challenges and together we always get through them. Our community spirit is acknowledged and applauded by CEWA Leadership and is the envy of other schools.

Thank you,

Ben Dell – School Advisory Council Chairperson