

# 2023 Annual Report

St Francis of Assisi College

Annual General Meeting

27 March 2024





# St Francis of Assisi College

## 2023 Annual Report

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# St Francis of Assisi College Board Agenda AGM

**Date** Wednesday 27 March 2024 **Time** 7:00pm **Venue** Collaboration Centre (Yr 7–9 Building)

| Agenda Item | Description   | Presenter  | Time    |
|-------------|---|--|---------|
|             | <b>Welcome and Apologies</b>  | Tim Pfeiffer   | 5 mins  |
|             | <b>Acknowledgement of Country and Prayer</b>  | Sheridan Bonney,<br>APRIM                              | 5 mins  |
|             | <b>Correspondence</b> – Nil   |  |         |
|             | <b>Guest Presentations:</b><br>- Principal's reflections<br>- Student Leaders reflections on first year | Nathan Hayes<br><br>2023 Student<br>Leadership Council | 20 mins |
|             | <b>Minutes from Previous AGM</b>  | Tim Pfeiffer   | 5 mins  |
|             | <b>Presentation of Reports</b><br>- As tabled in Annual Report  | Tim Pfeiffer   | 5 mins  |
|             | <b>General Business</b>   | Tim Pfeiffer   | 5 mins  |
|             | <b>Board Overview</b><br>- <i>Newly nominated members, Positions Vacant</i>                             | Nathan Hayes   | 5 mins  |
|             | <b>Closure</b>  | Nathan Hayes   | 10 mins |
|             | <b>Meeting to be followed by General Meeting of newly elected Board</b>                                 |  |         |

# College Board

St Francis of Assisi College Board is comprised of members from the school community, parish community and staff. It is an advisory group that oversees the strategic planning, financial management and policy ratification for the College Community.

The President of St Francis of Assisi College Board was Fr Hau Le.

The efforts of our Board during 2023 have been greatly appreciated, including through the work of Board Sub-committees:

- Finance Sub-committee
- Industry and Community Engagement Sub-committee

## Board Members

### Ex-Officio Members

|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| President              | Fr Hau Le         |
| Principal              | Nathan Hayes      |
| Finance Manager        | Anthony Pickering |
| Board Minute Secretary | Claire Smith      |

### Elected Members

|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Chairperson           | Tim Pfeiffer    |
| Deputy Chairperson    | Tanya Allan     |
| Parish Representative | Julie John      |
| Staff Representative  | Amber Burgess   |
| Committee             | Ben Dring       |
|                       | Michael Atsaves |
|                       | Courtney Tippet |
|                       | Scerina Rasheed |

### Retiring Board Members (have completed their two-year term and nominated for re-election)

Tim Pfeiffer  
Tanya Allan  
Ben Dring  
Michael Atsaves

## New Members

We accept nominations from the following and welcome them to the Board for 2024/2025

Jonathon Sutton  
Kirsty Johnson  
Natalie Coote  
Jodie Clark



St Francis  
of Assisi College

*Laudato Si'*

# St Francis of Assisi College

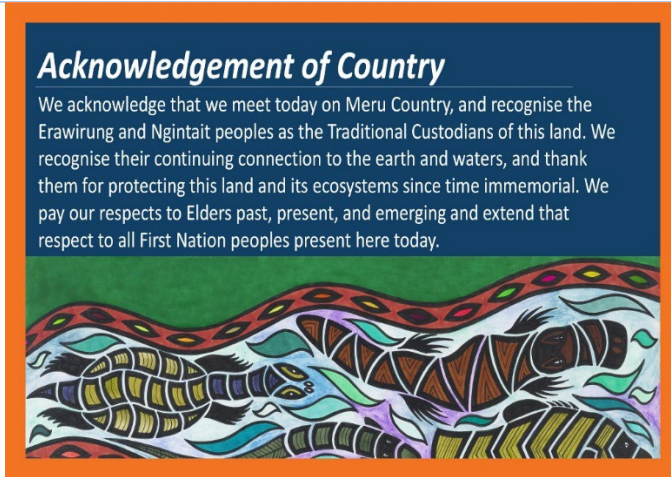
## Board

### AGM 2023 Minutes

Date Wednesday 29 March 2023

Time 7:00pm

Venue Collaboration Centre

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Present</b>  | Nathan Hayes, Tim Pfeiffer, Darija Atsaves, Michael Atsaves, Ben Dring, Luke Cotter, Emma Warner, Courtney Tippet, Serina Rasheed, Lee Rasheed, Lawrence Kimberley, Blossom Kimberley, Anthony Pickering, and Claire Smith.  |
| <b>Apologies</b>  | Fr Hau Le, Nick Dowling, Julie John, Tanya Allan, Paul Searle, Annika Newman and Amber Burgess.  |
| <b>Welcome<br/>Acknowledgment<br/>of<br/>Country and Prayer</b> | Blossom Kimberley, College Student Leader, welcomed attendees, Blossom read the Acknowledgement of Country and provided the opening prayer for the Annual General Meeting.   |
| <b>Acknowledgement<br/>Country and Prayer</b>                   |  <p><b>Acknowledgement of Country</b></p> <p>We acknowledge that we meet today on Meru Country, and recognise the Erawirung and Ngintait peoples as the Traditional Custodians of this land. We recognise their continuing connection to the earth and waters, and thank them for protecting this land and its ecosystems since time immemorial. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging and extend that respect to all First Nation peoples present here today.</p> |
| <b>Quorum</b>   | Tim Pfeiffer, Board Chairperson noted that unfortunately due to some last-minute apologies there was not a quorum of Board Members in attendance at the meeting.   |
| <b>Correspondence</b>   | Correspondence – Nil   |
| <b>Principal's Report</b>                                       | Nathan Hayes, Principal, gave a reflective presentation on some of the College's wonderful achievements in the first twelve months of operation.   |

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Annual Report 2022</b> | The College 2022 Annual Report was tabled.   |
|                           |  |
| <b>Board Nominations</b>  | <p>Elected members serve a two-year term on the Board. Since the Board was newly formed in May 2022 all current Board Members have another year to serve of their two-year term.</p> <p>To ensure continuity of knowledge and experience the Board extended an invitation to the College community for new members to join the Board. As a result the following nominations were received from:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Courtney Tippet<br/>Scerina Rasheed<br/>Emma Warner</p> <p>Attendees acknowledged that these three candidates would add valuable expertise to the Board and their Board positions would be formally endorsed at the May 2023 Board Meeting.</p> <p>Currently the College has two sub-committees being the Finance Committee, and Industry and Community Engagement Committee. Tanya Allan, Chairperson of the Industry and Community Engagement Committee has been seeking interest from the College community for new members to join the sub-committee.</p> |
| <b>Meeting Closed</b>     | 7:47pm   |





# Board Chairperson's Message

What a year it has been! At the end of our second year, our Board has begun to change gears as St Francis of Assisi College continues to grow and build momentum.

It is exciting to see the brand new Year 10, 11 and 12 facility rising out of the dirt and it is satisfying to know that this critical piece of infrastructure will support our kids right through to the end of their secondary education.

It is also pleasing to see enrollments approaching sustainable target levels. The growth of the College proves that the great experiment of having a Catholic secondary school in the Riverland has worked. Its success is entirely due to you; the families who decided to get in from the beginning and back something that was new and different.

Under the great leadership of Nathan Hayes, the College has also further deepened its talent pool of both teaching and non-teaching staff. The high calibre of staff being attracted to the College lies at the heart of the great educational opportunities that are being afforded to our kids.

The Board has now established all of its core functions, systems and processes for reporting and providing oversight. This has therefore allowed us to spend more time on strategy, values (*Laudato Si'*), current and future building projects, future opportunities, potential environmental projects, and deepening the College's relationship with the broader community.

I would like to thank the current Board, comprising; Tanya Allan, Ben Dring, Michael Atsaves, Scerina Rasheed, Courtney Tippet, and Fr Hau Le. With the support of Riverland Parish representative, Julie John and College staff representatives, Nathan Hayes, Claire Smith, Anthony Pickering and Amber Burgess.

It has been an exciting year and I look forward to early 2024, when the next vital piece of our College is unveiled.

**Tim Pfeiffer**  
Board Chairperson

# Principal's Message

Last year we reflected on the wisdom of St Francis of Assisi:

***“Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”***

**— St. Francis Of Assisi**

This year again gave countless examples of our school community achieving what could be considered 'the impossible'. The pride, ownership and care for our College community is tangible and our students continue to support and challenge each other and our staff team, to ensure we collectively strive to be the best we can in all we do.

It is an absolute privilege to be Principal of St Francis of Assisi College community. There are times during the busyness of the school year, where I remind myself to pause and take the time to truly appreciate the efforts and achievements of all members of this outstanding community. I sincerely thank our staff team for their ongoing support and commitment, the School Board for the expertise and discernment, Fr Hau Le for his personal support and that of our students and staff, our parents for their trust and support, and of course, I thank our amazing students for their stewardship.

## **Excellent Catholic Education**

Throughout 2023 we have re-visited, and re-enforced the development of our agreed collaborative, professional learning-based school culture.

The 'true-north' of our school culture, is a student-centred faith based Catholic education, with a focus on our school community. This means continually challenging what we do and why, and whether it adds value to learning and wellbeing outcomes for our students. The student-centered mindset is about making a difference and focusing on what it means for our students and our families.

As our school community grows, the initiatives and opportunities for students continue to grow, we continue to maintain a relentless focus on daily high standards to enable the overall success of all we do, keeping our students at the centre.

## **Community**

### **Community and Industry Engagement Committee**

We continued our focus on building our opportunities for families to engage with their child's education, and with other parents and families. This year the School Board hosted our Family Night, and it was terrific to see families from across the Riverland socialising, and new connections being made between students and families. There is a great deal of evidence supporting educational outcomes for students and the level of parent engagement to the school, and their child's learning.

This year we formalised our Community and Industry Engagement Sub-committee made up of School Board members, parents, and staff. An early focus of the committee has been to support initial consultation for the development of our productive garden, and to continue the evolution of our parent engagement group.

## College Strategic Plan

During 2023 our College Leadership Team and School Quality Performance Team led a consultative process to work up our first strategic plan. The consultation process included our broader College community, School Board, staff members, Bishop Karol, Director Nichii Mardon, and other key stakeholders. The high-level priorities confirmed in our strategic plan are:

Catholic Identity and Mission

Learning

Student Life and Wellbeing

Community

People

Our Place

This process and the completion of our strategic plan was a significant milestone in our journey to date and will continue to inform where we commit our time and resources in the years ahead.

### 2023 Strategic Priorities

Captured in our Annual Improvement Plan, below is a summary of key Strategic Priorities that were a collective focus throughout 2023. These key Strategic Priorities had specific initiatives attached to each, and concrete outcomes identified.

#### 1. Catholic Identity and Mission

1.2 St Francis of Assisi College reflects of our commitment to developing a school based integral ecology.

1.3 Our expressions of Catholic Identity and Mission are explicit.

1.4 The wisdom and collaboration of our First Nations People is critical.

#### 2. Learning

2.1 Students experience curriculum, teaching and learning that is engaging and rigorous.

#### 3. Student Life and Wellbeing

3.1 Students have agency regarding their learning, wellbeing, and College environment.

#### 4. Community

4.2 Community partnerships enable opportunities for family and wide community involvement.

#### 5. People

- 5.1 The St Francis of Assisi College Leadership Team provides a safe and healthy environment for our staff.

## 6. Our Place

- 6.2 Establish and maintain efficient systems and processes to support an outstanding education for students.

### **Catholic Identity and Mission**

#### ***Laudato Si'***

Bringing to life our ethos of *Laudato Si'* remains an ongoing priority for our College community, and core to this is ensuring our staff team continue to deepen their understanding of Pope Francis' call to action in his *Laudato Si'* encyclical. We dedicated two staff professional learning days exploring this, and how our ethos will be visible in the everyday at St Francis of Assisi College. David Kelly from the Life Buoyancy Institute, and Jacqui Remond, a lecturer in Integral Ecology, both facilitated sessions with our whole staff to support understanding of *Laudato Si'*, and how we see this in tangible ways in the years to come.

This explicit professional learning and exploration of our ethos as a staff, supports our work in bringing this to life with our students and families.

#### **Catholic Education Week**

All CESA schools celebrated Catholic Education Week from May 15 – 19. We hosted St Joseph's School Renmark, Our Lady of the River School Berri, St Albert's School Loxton, and St Joseph's School Barmera on the Wednesday of this week. The day began with a combined outdoor Liturgy and continued with an afternoon of activities engaging all students and staff from our five Riverland Catholic schools.

#### **Staff Retreat Day**

All staff gathered at Banrock Station to engage in a day of reflection and dialogue. We were joined by Jacqui Remond, who guided staff through the day.

The purpose of the retreat day was for the staff of St Francis of Assisi College to engage with Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* – On Care for Our Common Home, to deepen our individual and collective understanding of Integral Ecology in response to the ecological, economic, cultural and social crises and discern the implications and co-creative responses for the common good. The day focused on *Laudato Si'* Goals 1, 2 and 4: Responding to the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor, Ecological Spirituality.

The day finished with staff re-visiting some of our agreed priorities that will embed our commitment to *Laudato Si'* as a school community. These priorities are:

1. **Bookmark Creek** – ongoing engagement with stakeholders to grow our student engagement with Bookmark Creek in a range of ways.
2. **'Empow-her'** – wellbeing initiatives catering for specific needs of our female students.
3. **The Community Garden** – developing beyond the kitchen garden aspect and engaging with key stakeholders, our regions First Nations people, agricultural and industry links,

and bringing the local community in to our College.

4. **First Nations Partnership** – An ongoing relationship with the Meru/ Erawirung people is a critical element of the *Laudato Si'* vision.
- 5.
6. **The *Laudato Si'*** approach for engaging students in social justice issues.

### **Religious Education Curriculum Planning**

The Religious Education Team have spent time planning an engaging curriculum using a new Scope and Sequence following the Crossways Curriculum Framework. The Scope and Sequence has been designed to interconnect themes from Years 7 to 10 so that students can gradually build on their knowledge and understanding. The main goal for unit planning has been to provide a variety of ways for students to connect with their Religious Education Learning. Using feedback from students and staff from previous units, staff have been able to create a program that includes:

- A balanced mix of practical and theory tasks
- Topics that are relatable and of interest to students
- Social justice initiatives
- Links with Aboriginal spirituality
- Links with other religion and cultures around the world
- Opportunities for cross-curriculum integrated planning, teaching and learning.

Ongoing feedback will be an important part of continuing to grow in this Religious Education Curriculum space.

**Nathan Hayes**  
**Principal**

# President's Message

The many achievements of St Francis of Assisi College in 2023 belies the fact that the school is still only in its second year. Much has been accomplished to accommodate for the growing community at the College with now Stage 2 underway in preparation for the new intakes next year and the transition into Year 10.

The College's commitment to Pope Francis' vision for the Church and the world as laid out in his Encyclical Letter, *Laudato Si* is inspiring. And this year, on the feast day of the College's Patron Saint, St Francis of Assisi (4 October), Pope Francis offers us a sequel to this document with his Apostolic Exhortation, *Laudate Deum*. It reinforces our need to appreciate the environment as God's gift to humanity, therefore, it is something that we should cherish, esteem, care, and praise God for.

The challenges it presents to our stewardship of the earth is abundantly met by our students at the College, as they are given ample opportunities to engage in various activities, especially with Bookmark Creek at the College's doorstep, that has enabled our young learners to become environmentally conscious people.

This is all part of the excellence in education that is provided for the students at the College, and this can be seen when you simply walk through the College and see the broad curriculum offered to them through learning, creativity, leadership, and faith. It is always a great privilege to be able to converse with the students and see their growth with each year.

The College's engagement in the community this year has allowed it to grow beyond the confines of the school grounds and gives our students a broader perspective on their education. As the College grows, it is enriched with each family we welcome, and it is becoming a vital meeting place for students and families across the Riverland who converge on our College for learning, friendship, and an encounter with God.

The whole community at St Francis of Assisi College are to be congratulated for their constant care and concern which has allowed the success hoped for in such an endeavour to be realised each and every year. Blessings to all.

**Fr. Hau Le**  
**Board President**

# Finance Sub-committee Report

KPMG were engaged by Catholic Education SA to undertake the end of year audits across both archdioceses. Given the volume of work this entails, we are yet to receive a completed audit report for 2023. The draft report however indicates no areas of concern, so we expect a positive outcome when it is completed.

Operating Cash Surplus recorded for 2023 was \$758k (all figures in \$,000's). This was a positive variance against budget of \$156k. This was largely due to increased enrolments throughout the year by way of grant funding, student funding needs profile changes and various additional smaller grants.



|                            | 2023   | 2022   |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|
| Net Operating Cash Surplus | \$758k | \$642k |

St Francis of Assisi College by comparison, is a low fee College that offers very generous sibling discounts and is supportive and flexible for those families experiencing financial difficulties. Families have welcomed the College flexibility for spreading payments over the calendar year. The College Bus service costs have been subsidised by Catholic Education SA due to Government funding keeping inter-town bus fees low for families.

Main College operating expenses for the financial year were Salary and Wages for teachers and support staff, tuition expenses, transportation and interest expenses. The College reduced its environmental impact with additional solar panels installed as part of Stage 2 construction works and the Renmark Paringa Council supplied recycled water for irrigating the oval and garden beds is now fully operational.

The College has started to develop a Master Plan for the College in consultation with staff, students and families. This plan takes in to account expected future enrolments, student needs, community needs, human resource requirements, operating and capital expenditure.

The College currently has only two existing loans, one for Stage 1 of the Master Plan and one for Information Technology. The balance of the current loans as at 31 December 2023 is:

- Construction Loan Stage 1 \$7.0m
- Information Technology Loan \$412k



## **Capital Works**

Stage 2 construction commenced in 2023 with anticipated Capital Expenditure of \$9.5m. The capital expenditure is fully funded by Catholic Education SA and will have a nil impact on the College cash position. Stage 2 will be finalised Mid-April 2024.

Stage 2A will see the development of an athletics field, oval extension and landscaping, this will commence in the later half of 2024.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Finance Committee consisting of Michael Atsaves, Nathan Hayes and Anthony Pickering for their support throughout the year.

**Ben Dring**

**Chairperson of the Finance Sub-Committee**



# School Performance Report

## Teaching and Learning

### **Whole School Literacy Focus**

In 2023, the College continued its commitment to enhancing student learning by investing in professional development for our staff with an emphasis on Literacy. At the beginning of the year, our staff engaged in Tactical Teaching Reading Training which explored various strategies to support students in their reading across all subject areas, ultimately enhancing student literacy achievements. The training emphasised the explicit teaching of reading strategies to help students activate background knowledge, clarify vocabulary, monitor comprehension, and synthesise the information they have read.

Near the end of 2023, the College embarked on an authentic partnership with the CESA System Coach, Clare Collier. During term 4, Clare worked alongside Natalie Meuret and English teachers to provide structured support. This support focussed on the capacity building of teachers to analyse and interpret data, using CESA performance standards to inform task design and mapping of the Australian Curriculum Achievements Standards to ensure the entire Achievement Standard is assessed across the year. This extensive and frequent support will continue in 2024, to ensure consistency in our approach to literacy and improving literacy outcomes for students at St Francis of Assisi College.

### **Data-Driven Approach**

We also prioritised the use of assessment data to inform teaching and learning. Our staff honed their ability to analyse and interpret data from diverse sources to guide learning and teaching practices and to assess student and school progress over time. With the support of Jarrod Carter, Educational Data Analyst from Catholic Education SA, our staff delved into the components of

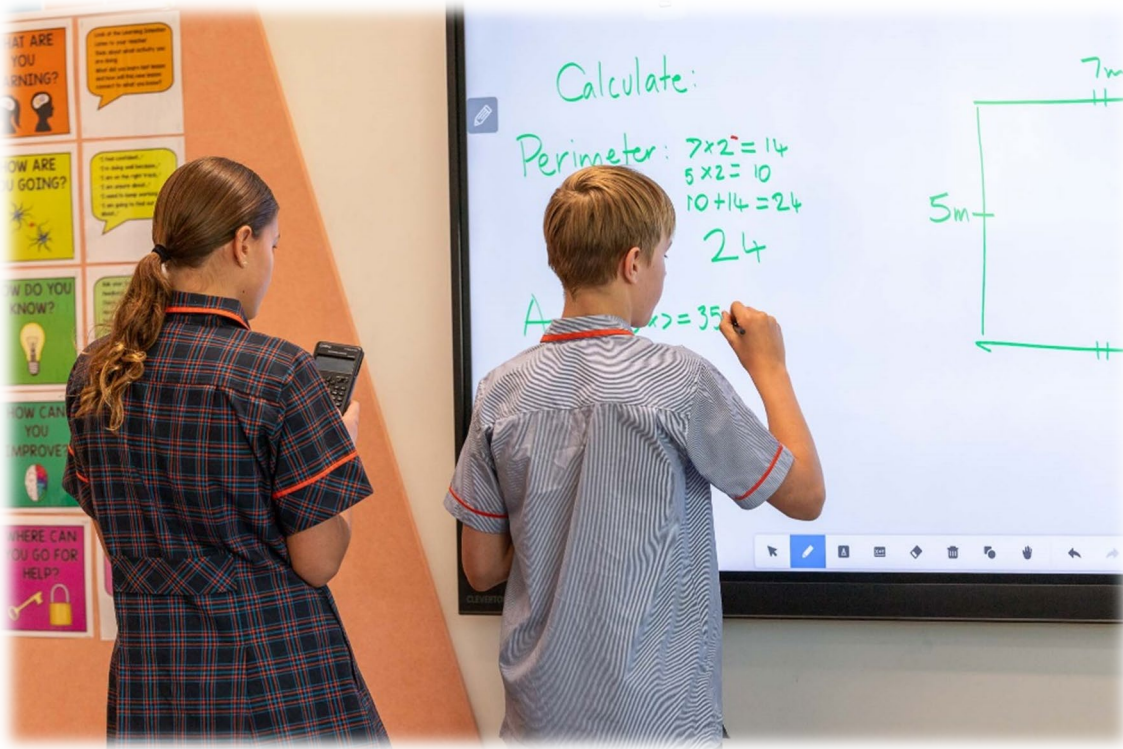
the newly released Literacy and Numeracy Strategy from CESA, which centres on cultivating literate, numerate, and effective communicators within Catholic Education. Additionally, staff examined the College's Student Dashboard, enabling them to gain a comprehensive understanding of students' progress by leveraging academic and wellbeing data. This data-driven approach allowed staff to work collaboratively to identify students who are exceeding expectations and those in need of additional support, thereby facilitating academic planning and programming tailored to students' literacy and numeracy data in order to improve learning outcomes for all students.



### **Showcase of Learning**

On the evening of Monday, September 25, St. Francis of Assisi College opened its doors to parents, carers, and the wider community for a remarkable event: the Showcase of Learning Night. This event provided a platform for our Year 7–9 students to shine and exhibit their academic prowess, creative talents, and the skills they've developed so far over the year. The heart of the evening was the \$20 Boss Twilight Market. Our year 8 students sold their products with enthusiasm and pride, with most stalls selling out and making a profit. Another highlight was the Year 9 Limitless Possibilities Exhibition, which showcased students' products or business which aimed to drive social or environmental change within our Riverland community. The event was not just an opportunity for parents to see what their children have been up to; it was also a chance for the community to come together. We look forward to holding this event again in 2024.





## School Information Statement

### Enrolments

St Francis of Assisi College enrolments in our second year of operation was 125 students following our inaugural year with 72 enrolments.

### Term Attendance

| Term         | 1            |              |              | 2            |              |              | 3            |              |              | 4            |              |              | Total        |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Year Level   | F            | M            | Total        | F            | M            | Total        | F            | M            | Total        | F            | M            | Total        |              |
| 07           | 93.1%        | 94.5%        | 93.8%        | 86.7%        | 92.1%        | 89.5%        | 84.6%        | 88.0%        | 86.2%        | 79.3%        | 84.2%        | 81.6%        | 87.8%        |
| 08           | 90.7%        | 92.6%        | 91.8%        | 86.3%        | 85.4%        | 85.8%        | 78.2%        | 86.0%        | 82.8%        | 78.9%        | 87.7%        | 84.0%        | 85.9%        |
| 09           | 91.0%        | 88.7%        | 89.7%        | 83.6%        | 84.3%        | 84.0%        | 79.3%        | 84.8%        | 82.3%        | 83.7%        | 81.8%        | 82.7%        | 84.7%        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>91.7%</b> | <b>92.1%</b> | <b>91.9%</b> | <b>85.7%</b> | <b>87.2%</b> | <b>86.5%</b> | <b>81.0%</b> | <b>86.3%</b> | <b>83.8%</b> | <b>80.3%</b> | <b>85.0%</b> | <b>82.8%</b> | <b>86.2%</b> |

### 2023 Breakdown of Students

| Year Level   | Gender | Total Enrolments |
|--------------|--------|------------------|
| Year 7       | M      | 20               |
|              | F      | 20               |
| Year 8       | M      | 29               |
|              | F      | 17               |
| Year 9       | M      | 17               |
|              | F      | 14               |
| <b>Total</b> |        | <b>117</b>       |

## Where Students Come From

| Post Code | Area              | No. of Students |
|-----------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 5341      | Renmark           | 63              |
| 5345      | Baramera          | 15              |
| 5340      | Paringa           | 13              |
| 5343      | Berri             | 12              |
| 5344      | Glossop           | 4               |
| 5333      | Loxton            | 4               |
| 5342      | Monash            | 1               |
| 5346      | Cobdogla          | 1               |
| 5332      | Moorook           | 1               |
| 3496      | Lindsay Point     | 1               |
| 5342      | Monash            | 1               |
| 5331      | Kingson on Murray | 1               |

## Student's Previous School

| Previous Schools                | Year 7 - Year 9 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| St Joseph's School, Renmark     | 47              |
| St Joseph's School, Baramera    | 16              |
| Our Lady of the River, Berri    | 9               |
| St Albert's School, Loxton      | 2               |
| Other Local Schools             | 35              |
| Schools from outside the region | 8               |

## Language Spoke at Home

| Languages Spoken at Home |     |            |   |         |    |
|--------------------------|-----|------------|---|---------|----|
| English                  | 103 | Greek      | 1 | Punjabi | 11 |
| Arabic                   | 1   | Vietnamese | 1 |         |    |

# National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)

Please refer to the following charts for NAPLAN 2023.

We are close in achievement to students from similar schools in all areas.

The College continues to put considerable effort into improving the literacy and numeracy learning of all students through investing in professional learning for staff and increasing our use of data to identify learning needs for all students and plan interventions.

The following tables show the School Mean Score for all NAPLAN components for 2023.

| 2023       |                                  |         |                         |         |          |
|------------|----------------------------------|---------|-------------------------|---------|----------|
| Compare to | Students with similar background |         | All Australian students |         |          |
|            | Reading                          | Writing | Spelling                | Grammar | Numeracy |
| Year 7     | 517                              | 520     | 513                     | 507     | 519      |
| Year 9     | 549                              | 539     | 542                     | 534     | 545      |

NAPLAN participation for this school is 96%  
 NAPLAN participation for all Australian students is 95%

<sup>NB</sup> A school's NAPLAN test must have a minimum of 11 participants and 80% participation rate for a comparison to be available. Grey shading indicates participation did not meet these thresholds.

**Interpreting the table**

Selected school's average when compared to students with a similar background

- Well above
- Above
- Close to
- Below
- Well below
- No comparison available



# Community Wellbeing

## LIVING LEARNING LEADING SURVEYS

In 2023, surveys were conducted with NSI Partnerships using the Living Learning Leading Framework.

The Living Learning Leading Surveys have been developed to support schools in rating their performance and progress towards meeting the intent of the Framework. Data collected using the Surveys will be interpreted and used, with support from Schools Performance Leaders, to assist in our endeavours to position Catholic Education South Australia as a leading Catholic system. Seeking stakeholder perceptions through the administration of the Living Learning Leading Surveys will provide evidence that can be used by schools to support their self-assessment of performance against the four components of the Living Learning Leading Standard (namely, Catholic identity; Curriculum and co-constructed learning and assessment design; Students agency, identity learning and leadership; and Community engagement). Further, the perception data will provide important information that can be triangulated with other data when making school improvement decisions.

A guide on how to read the survey's can be located [here](#).

## PARENT / CAREGIVER SURVEYS

### Parent and Caregiver Feedback

In 2023, surveys were conducted with the NSI Partnerships. 27 parents and caregivers completed this survey. The results can be found [here](#).

## STUDENT SURVEYS

### Student Voice – Middle School (Years 7-9)

In 2023, surveys were conducted with the NSI Partnerships. 104 students in Years 7-9 completed this survey. The results can be found [here](#).

## STAFF SURVEYS

### Teacher and Leadership Feedback

In 2023, surveys were conducted with the NSI Partnerships. 8 teaching and leadership staff completed this survey. The results can be found [here](#).

### Education Support Officer Feedback

In 2023, surveys were conducted with the NSI Partnerships. 5 education support officers completed this survey. The results can be found [here](#).

## COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Student, staff, and family wellbeing underpins everything we do at St Francis of Assisi College.

Nurturing a positive self-concept, providing opportunities for social connection, and developing the skills to bounce back when faced with challenges support young people to flourish and be at their best.

At the heart of our framework is our commitment to our students and our understanding of all people – we see them as 'thriving people, capable learners, leaders for the world God desires.'

## WELLBEING PARTNERSHIPS

In 2023, we continued partnerships with several wellbeing-based content providers to support the work we do with the young people in our care. All partnerships were intentionally decided upon and have core values that align to our strategic plan.

### Orah Nurture

Orah Nurture provides staff with real-time wellbeing data and an opportunity to connect with students during times of stress. All students utilise Orah Nurture to complete a 30-second Mood Check every Monday and Thursday during school term. Students can book meetings with Wellbeing staff to receive counselling or to share information.

Our data collated from the last twelve months shows a consistency across the College of happiness and energy levels for 2023. As you can see from the influences chart, sometimes what is under the surface for each child cannot be categorised by specific categories as we have attempted. It is pleasing to note however that the overwhelming emotions are generally positive (as demonstrated by the orange and green bars/emotions).

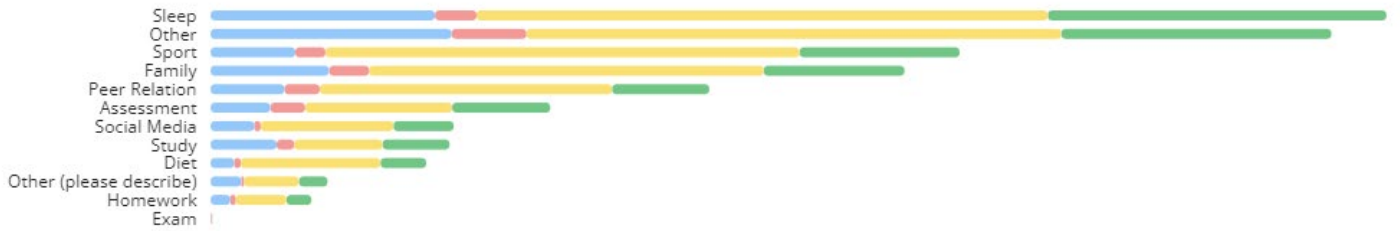
Over the year, we recorded on average 42 mood checks per student which equates to just over 1 check in per week from each student.



## Mood Map



## Influences of all mood status

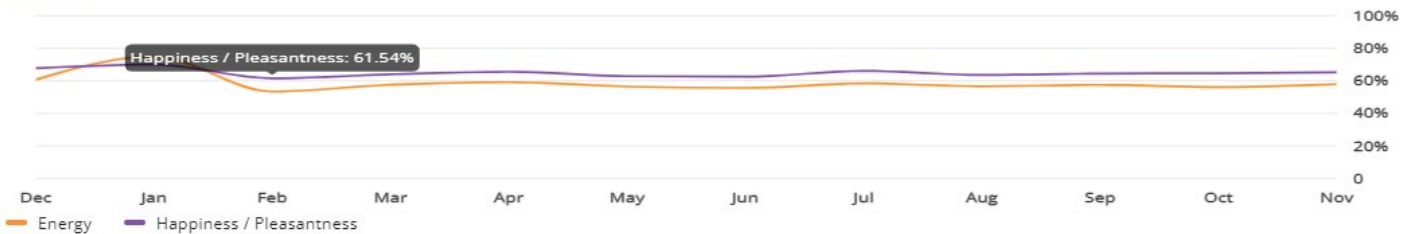


All ● ● ● ●

## Climate



## Trends



5184

Mood Check Records

125/127

Active Students

2/127

Inactive Students

## Wellio

Wellio works with the College to develop a Scope and Sequence of lessons that we deliver to our Year 8 cohort. Topics covered include Relationships, Emotions, Finding Meaning, Accomplishment, Engagement and Health. Within lessons, staff receive up to date information from surveys to measure the impact of the content delivery upon student wellbeing over time.

## LifeChanger Foundation

LifeChanger Foundation is a preventative mental health and wellbeing non-profit that empowers young people to live thriving, resilient lives by developing social, emotional and resilience skills. LifeChanger worked explicitly with our Year 7 in Term 1 to develop critical foundational skills that empower students to successfully navigate life, overcome challenges and pursue their unlimited potential. Additionally, they run a personal development retreat for our Year 9 cohort in Term 3 which builds upon themes covered in Year 7.

## Open Parachute

The goal of the Open Parachute program is to teach practical mental health skills to students. The focus is on prevention, giving students an opportunity to practice skills for addressing any current or future challenges that might impact their mental health. By taking a proactive approach, we will move towards a transformational, proactive approach in responding to student needs. The Open Parachute program was delivered in selected Health & Physical Education lessons.



# People and Culture

St Francis of Assisi College recruited additional teaching and non-teaching workforce to align with increased enrolments as the College expands and to meet the needs of students. Appointments were made from personnel living both locally and from various regions across South Australia and interstate.

The College staffing profile now consists of leadership educators, teachers, curriculum support staff, student councillor, human resources, administrations, work health and safety, and finance.

Our staff come with a diverse range of experience and expertise.

Percentage of Staff with tertiary qualifications:

| Year | Certificate | Diploma | Bachelors | Masters and Post Graduate |
|------|-------------|---------|-----------|---------------------------|
| 2023 | 26%         | 21%     | 56%       | 12%                       |

| 2023                       | WOMEN     |           |          | MEN       |           |          | Total     |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
|                            | Full time | Part time | Casual   | Full time | Part time | Casual   |           |
| Principal                  | -         | -         | -        | 1         | -         | -        | 1         |
| Position of Responsibility | 1         | 1         | -        | 1         | -         | -        | 3         |
| Teachers                   | 4         | 3         | 4        | 2         | -         | 1        | 14        |
| Education Support Officers | -         | 7         | -        | -         | 2         | 1        | 10        |
| Administration / Other     | 1         | 3         | 1        | 1         | -         | -        | 6         |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>6</b>  | <b>14</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>5</b>  | <b>2</b>  | <b>2</b> | <b>34</b> |

## Staff Training Records

Teachers and curriculum support staff undertake internal weekly professional development sessions as well as external training.

Some of the major external training provided included:

- Life Buoyancy Institute
- Staff Retreat with Jacqui Redmond
- Micro-credentialling
- High Impact Teaching Strategies through Peer Observations
- Supporting neurodiverse students: Erica Handley

- Whole School Literacy Focus: CESA System Coach - Learning, Assessment and Curriculum
- CESA System Coach - Learning, Assessment and Curriculum

# Workplace Health and Safety

St Francis of Assisi College follow the policy and procedure guidelines outlined in the Catholic Church Safety Manual which is in line with the WHS Act. The College is committed to meeting the standards required and to meet these objectives the active co-operation of all persons involved are required by the school in establishing and maintaining the highest possible safety standards. The aim is to ensure that workers, volunteers, visitors and other persons working/visiting the site are safe from injury and risks to their health while involved in school activities.

All staff are given opportunities to have an input into WHS. These include, WHS on staff meeting agenda's, emails, Safety Bulletins, Workplace Inspections, and feedback on Emergency Drills.

Catholic Safety Health & Welfare consultant Lucas Parfitt made two visits to the College and conducted officers training for leadership staff.

This is how we achieved safety standards in 2023:

- Workplace Inspections
- Emergency drills tested
- Staff training
- Risk assessment procedures for excursions and classroom activities
- COVID management
- Identification and rectification of construction issues
- All emergency exit lights tested
- Security software upgraded
- All firefighting equipment tested and stamped as compliant

Reportable Incidents: 0 reports were entered into the WHS website detailing injuries, causes and recommended actions. No incidents were required to be reported to Safe Work SA. There were 0 work cover claims.

Hazard Reports: 12 were logged for the year, all were resolved no further investigation required.

Thank you to all for their ongoing support of WHS and keeping St Francis of Assisi College a safe and happy place.

**Anthony Pickering**  
**Finance Manager**

# College Highlights

## Term 1

- SFoAC Athletics Carnival
- Adelaide Swimming Championship
- Family Social Evening
- College Athletics Carnival
- Catholic Athletics Carnival, Bridgestone Athletics Centre Salisbury
- SA Schools Athletics Carnival, Mile End
- Rowing SA Masters and Grade Regatta – West Lakes
- SFoAC Mountain Bike Challenge

## Term 2

- SA School Mountain Bike Championship, Adelaide Hills
- Pastoral Care Coaching Clinics (Football, Soccer, Netball, Hockey)
- State Mountain Bike Challenge Championship
- Riverland Catholic Schools Catholic Education Week Celebration
- College Cross Country Carnival
- Riverland Interschool Cross Country
- Statewide Schools Year 7/8 Basketball
- Cross Country Championship, Oakbank
- College Walkathon: St Vincent de Paul Fundraiser
- Riverland Interschool 9-a-side football

## Term 3

- Statewide Schools Year 7/8 Netball
- Wakakirri Dance Performance
- Statewide Schools Year 7/8 Soccer
- Riverland Interschool 5-a-side soccer
- Rowing SA Grade Regatta – West Lakes

- College hosted sports days for St Joseph's Renmark and Barmera, and Our Lady of the River

#### **Term 4**

- Pastoral Care Coaching Clinics (Cricket, Basketball, Tennis, Baseball)
- Relay for Life
- Riverland Schools Cricket Cup
- Rowing SA – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade and Novice State Championships – West Lakes
- Rowing SA Riverland Rowing Regatta, Berri – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade State Championships

The commitment of the College community to leading and living healthy lifestyles through sporting and recreational endeavours is wonderful to see. Our College was successful in running some major whole school events including our Athletics and Cross Country Carnivals, as well as hosting sports days for St Joseph's Renmark and Barmera, and Our Lady of the River Catholic Primary Schools.

These events provided students the opportunity to earn points and show team spirit for their respective houses. Additionally, selected students were provided the opportunity to compete in the SA School Swimming Championships, Riverland Cross Country, Oakbank Cross Country, SA Schools Athletics Carnival and Catholic Athletics Carnival, testing themselves at the next level.

A big focus of our School Sport program has been on providing as many opportunities as possible for students to experience different sports, with the intention of finding a summer and winter sport for each student. This was promoted through Pastoral Care sessions throughout Term 2 and 4, where students participated in coaching clinics run by staff and community volunteers with coaching expertise in netball, football, soccer, hockey, cricket, basketball, tennis and baseball. To further promote student participation in community sport, our College entered teams in the Statewide Schools Competition for year 7/8 girls netball, year 7/8 boys football, year 7/8 boys and girls basketball and year 7/8 boys and girls soccer, along with teams in the Riverland 5-a-side soccer, 9-a-side football and Cricket Cup competitions against other High Schools in the region.

We also continued to build our College Rowing Program, headed by our specialist Rowing Coach Stephanie Turnbull. Students were provided the opportunity to try rowing as part of their HPE lessons early in the year, having the opportunity to try the program, before making a formal commitment in Term 4. Students have really enjoyed the challenge of learning a new sport and developing the technical, tactical and organisational skills required.

Our second year was filled with many great school sport opportunities that we look to build on and expand in 2024 and beyond!



# 2023 ROWING SQUAD



**COACH**  
Stephanie Turnbull

**TRAINER**  
Molly Gibbons

**TEACHER**  
Mae Camporeale

**COXSWAIN**  
Max, Riley, Jenson



**YEAR 8 GIRLS SQUAD**  
Denver, Blossom, Chelsea, Sophie



**YEAR 8/9 BOYS SQUAD**  
Noah (absent), Brodie, Ryan, Harry



**YEAR 9 GIRLS SQUAD**  
Jaclyn, Riley, Imogen, Billie

## College Rowing Program

Students returned to on-water training in Week 3 following the flood that had halted rowing from the previous November. I was incredibly impressed with our rowers on-water technique after 14 weeks off the water. Students had put a lot of effort into ergo sessions during the break and this certainly paid off.

In February students volunteered at the Rowing SA State Championships held at West Lakes. This event showcased top athletes across the state, from U17's to Open age. We were lucky to watch all boat classes in action; singles, doubles, quads, pairs, fours and eights. Even seeing past Olympians and Australian representatives in action!

Students were based at the 2000m start line positioned on pontoons to hold boats steady in their lanes, at the beginning of races. They could see firsthand what is involved in racing, including: time management to get to the start line in time (we witnessed one crew arriving late hence missing their race); working as a crew to manoeuvre into the correct lane; the importance of the coxswain, and the process in which a race is called to start. They also witnessed the challenges of cross winds at the start line, steering a straight course buoyed lanes, something we do not experience on the Murray, but essential when competing. Overall, it was a fantastic day which provided students with invaluable exposure to a regatta.



In April our Rowing students travelled to West Lakes to participate in their very first regatta; competing in Masters and Grade Regatta races in quads, doubles and single scull events. We were fortunate as Rowing SA organised equipment for us to use on the day. This played a large role in supporting our program, reducing workload required to transport our own boats and equipment.



Students each participated in two races, with all learning and improving from their first to their second. This was a worthwhile experience and a great way to end what was a challenging start to our Rowing Program, with students unfortunately spending a large chunk of the season off the water due to the floods.

The 2023/24 Rowing Season commenced at the start of Term 3. This season rowers trained four times a week, as we looked to provide more competitive opportunities during Terms 3 and 4. Training sessions included two on-water sessions, morning and lunchtime ergo sessions and strength session. The following students were accepted into this year's program; *Billie Augey, Riley Broad, Noah Burgess, Chelsea Docking, Brodie Hunt, Blossom Kimberley, Denver Kimberley, Imogen Lyons, Harry Pfeiffer, Ryan Prokopec, Sophie Robertson, Jady Searle.* Coxswains - *Max Hunt, Riley Hunt, Jenson Sheene.*

Our first Day Camp was held in August. A full day of learning as students were stepped through some of the more technical aspects of rowing. We spent time working through key drills and introducing the universal language used in rowing. It highlighted the need to be mentally switched on to get the most out of the sessions, working as a crew, reacting to changing drills and how to respond to coach feedback.



September saw our students compete in their first Regatta for the 2023/24 Rowing Season at West Lakes. We entered nine crews in seven events, singles, doubles and coxed quads, in both Novice and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Divisions. While the regatta had fewer entries our rowers were able to test their improved fitness and skills in each event. There were some exciting pushes to the finish line amongst our Year 8 and 9 girls 4x+ (Coxed Quads), with each securing a win over the other in their two races. In most races our crews finish ahead of at least one other crew from an Adelaide Club. The day ended with a very exciting race, Brodie and Harry fighting it out against Port Adelaide in the Novice Mens 2x – if it wasn't for a seat breakage in the last 100m our boys would have won! This event displayed an exceptional start to our competitive season and highlighted the positive impact the increased training has made to performances.

A second Day Camp was held in November. The camp focused on developing race plans and strategies in preparation for upcoming regattas. Students participated in three on-water sessions, building on technical improvements through each one. Crews practised race starts and working through different components of their race plans. It was a great day of growth, perseverance, and skill development!

We again travelled to West Lakes in November to compete in Rowing SA 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade & Novice State Championships. At this regatta we not only transported our own equipment but it was also our first where we competed against other schools.

There were six events across the day; 3M1x, 3M2x, 3W4x+, NM1x, NM2x, NW4x+. Each rower had the opportunity to compete in 2 races, with our Yr8 W4x+ making the 3W4x+ final and thus getting an extra race. We narrowly missed the finals in the NM2x and NW4x+, with both crews missing progression placings by 0.47s! Very close racing amongst some very well-established school crews with a long history of rowing. Our rowers competed exceptionally well and proved that their training is making a difference, with all crews showing huge improvements since our last regatta in September; reducing race times, improving crew technique and how they conduct themselves as a team. Well done!!

In December our young rowers took part in their very first Riverland Regatta, one of the largest regattas on Rowing SA's event calendar. The event was hosted by Berri Rowing Club. There were 192 races (82 events), which ran across the 2 days, with 766 athletes entered. It exposed our young team to a large community, including school, club and master's athletes. Students managed their time well to contend with some chaotic moments launching and retrieving boats, as well as handling some testing on-water conditions due to wind.



Our boy's squad of Harry, Ryan and Brodie were the first to race in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Men's Double Sculls. Due to our smaller squad, Adrian Hunt volunteered to jump in a boat to ensure our rowers had more opportunities. Harry and Ryan teamed up, while Brodie and Adrian made it a father/son duo. Both crews competed well coming in 3<sup>rd</sup> in their respective races. Later-on Saturday, Harry, Ryan, Brodie, and Adrian teamed up to compete in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Men's Quad Scull (3M4x+). It proved to be a thrilling race, with the crew, coxed by Riley Hunt, coming in second place in their race, finishing 5<sup>th</sup> overall in a field of 18. On Sunday, Brodie, and Ryan both competed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Men's Single Scull (3M1x). Conditions were challenging for the smaller boats, but both boys overcame steering and boat issues to finish strong. Harry, Ryan, Brodie, and Riley were then joined by Renmark Rowing Club Member, Tom Sullivan, for another 3M4x+ race. Concluding our regatta with a win!

Our Year 8 girls' squad of Sophie, Chelsea, Blossom, and Denver, along with coxswain Jenson, competed in the Schoolgirl Yr8 Coxed Quad Scull (SGYr8 4x+) and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Women's Coxed Quad Scull (3W4x+) events over the weekend. They had five races over the two days. This crew consistently improved in each race, recording a massive 38sec improvement from the first race to the last. A great learning experience for all, especially managing a steering breakage before their last race. The crew displayed great perseverance to overcome and row their best time to complete their regatta in the 3W4x+, coming in 3<sup>rd</sup> in their race, but finishing up an impressive 10<sup>th</sup> overall in a field of 27 boats!

Year 9 girls' squad of Billie, Imogen, Riley, and Jady, along with coxswain Max, competed in the Schoolgirl Yr9 Coxed Quad Scull (SGYr9 4x+) and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Women's Coxed Quad Scull (3W4x+) events. They also had five races during the two-day event, four of races were 1500m; the first time they have raced over this distance. This crew also showed strong technical improvements in each race and dealt with some disappointing finishes which enabled them to learn how to improve their racing strategies. This worked to their favour as they too showed great improvement in their last race, also the 3W4x+, finishing second by only two seconds to Pembroke's top crew! They finished up 7<sup>th</sup> overall in the field of 27, noting that the top 7 crews were separated by only four seconds. Such an amazing achievement.

**Stephanie Turnbull**

**Rowing Program Coordinator, Rowing Coach & Learning Support**