



Beechboro Christian School



2017 Annual Report



2017, a Principal's Perspective

"We don't inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children" David Brower

A quote about the environment but worthy of broader consideration. With the appointment of the new Head of Primary, Mr Michael Bolan, it was important to reflect on the significant contributions of past leaders but very important to look at what insights and directions lay ahead. It is a timely reminder to us all that all we do in schools is an investment in the future of the children in our care and also an investment in those that who pass through our schools in future.

Leadership is concerned with the building on strengths already present, introducing new strong initiatives and laying the foundations for future growth. Under the leadership of Mr Bolan and the newly appointed Curriculum Coordinator, Ms Liana Luyt 2017 we saw a raft of operational, curriculum and pastoral care changes and revisions.

In a school of consistently strong scores as evidenced by the standardised testing of NAPLAN, an area of identified progress was spelling. Whilst results were strong when compared with national and state averages; they showed the least growth. A collaborative and detailed process of assessing common practices, resources and programs was undertaken in conjunction with looking at current trends and research. A consistent, sequential implementation of synthetic phonics supported by a consistent program was implemented. Pre and post-implementation data was gathered and over the period of 9 months growth was demonstrated in all year groups.

The focus on STEM subjects also came into sharp focus over this period. The introduction of the STEM club, supported by resources donated by the Beechboro Parent Committee has seen the growth in

engagement in this key area. Significant grants have been accessed for the upcoming year including a pilot program in the Early Years which will include significant training and investment in STEM.

The strength of the community continues to be a defining feature of our school. The parent surveys conducted at the end of 2017 show high levels of engagement and satisfaction with the school. The students made the most of the wonderful community-built Nature Playground funded by the School Committee as phase 1 was completed. We saw strong participation levels in all our key community events like the Bennet Springs Fair, Harmony Day and Compassion Day.

2017 saw the strengthening of ties with Ellenbrook Christian College through more joint excursions, Camps and the first inter-house swimming carnival for Beechboro Christian School which was run in conjunction with Ellenbrook Christian College. The secondary school students from Ellenbrook Christian College were responsible for an interactive, outrageously fun and educational Science Fair, an event that we would look to make a regular installation.

New facilities to be celebrated were the new Nature Playground in the Early Learning area and the redevelopment of their water play area.

2017 has been a year of growth, planning and direction setting. The groundwork has been laid for the Spirit of Excellence, the articulation of the strategic direction of the school and we look forward to the next phase of this process.

Justin Krause
Principal



Beechboro
Christian School

Beechboro Highlights

In 2017, Beechboro Christian School, underwent a change to the leadership with the introduction of Mr Michael Bolan, as Head of Primary and Mrs Liana Luyt, as Curriculum Coordinator.

A number of new staff joined our community in 2017, to replace staff who were on Maternity Leave or had accepted positions at other schools at the conclusion of 2016 and throughout the year.

Under the new leadership, a focus was placed on the teaching and learning programs offered at Beechboro Christian School. A synthetic phonics approach was introduced from Kindergarten to Year 6, alongside the Sounds Right Program to support students involved in our Learning Support Program.

Pastoral Care continued to remain strong throughout the year, supporting students by providing them with practical strategies and skills to face challenges with confidence and resilience.

A number of community events, clubs and activities were included in the school calendar, including:

- Harmony Day
- NAIDOC Celebrations
- Bennett Springs Fair for the 5th consecutive year
- ANZAC Day Assembly
- Sustainability Day
- Father's Day Breakfast
- Compassion Day
- Family Fun Night
- After School Sports
- Coding Club



- River Rangers
- Science Week
- Book Week
- Year 5 Camp
- Year 6 SCTrip
- Cyber Safety Information

Michael Bolan
Head of Primary



Vision

Our vision is to inspire in every student the desire to learn, to relate positively with each other; and to develop their unique gifts and strengths to benefit and serve others.

Our role is to equip students with the skills to make a difference in their world. Fundamental to this are the values and principles that the Bible offers in relation to service and the value of others and our relationship to them; in short, to love your neighbour as yourself and treat them accordingly.

Academically, we aim to ensure that all students reach their full potential through a well-balanced programme involving both extension and re-mediation.

Policies

Updates of processes and internal policies are under continual review at Beechboro Christian School to keep in line with government changes and legal requirements.

During Term 3 and 4, Swan Christian Education Association, our governing body, made the decision to purchase the CompliSpace Education Governance package to streamline our policies and procedures as well as assist the school with maintaining its policies and keeping them up to date.

BCS Staffing

Staff	Admin Staff	Teaching Staff	EA	Executive	Total
Male	-	-	-	3	3
Female	4	21	12	-	37
Indigenous	-	-	-	-	-
	4	21	12	3	40

Executive

The 2017 Executive Team consisted of the following staff:

- Mr Justin Krause, Principal, Beechboro Christian School and Ellenbrook Christian College
- Mr Michael Bolan, Head of Campus, Beechboro Christian School
- Mr David White, Business Manager, Beechboro Christian School and Ellenbrook Christian College

Staff Attendance

In 2017 the average daily staff attendance in Primary School was 90.3%

Staff Retention

The proportion of Primary School teaching retain from 2016 to 2017 was 83%

Teacher Qualification

Highest Qualification	Number of Teachers
Masters Degree	4
Bachelor Degree	23
Diploma	19
Total number of Teachers	25

All teaching staff have current registration with the Teachers' Registration Board of Western Australia (TRBWA).

Professional Learning

Primary School

All Primary School teaching and non-teaching staff participated in a diverse number of professional learning sessions during 2017, including:

CompliSpace has been updated and rolled out to staff. Staff then had to complete a series of training Modules in CompliSpace, including: Code of Conduct, Child Protection Overview, Meaning of Child Abuse and Key Risk Indicators, Legal and Regulatory Child Protection Framework, Statement of Commitment of Child Safety and Child Safety Code of Conduct, Responding to a Child Protection Incident Internally, Child Protection Reporting to External Agencies, Working with Children Checks and Staff and Student Professional boundaries, Mandatory Reporting, and First Aid, Modules

Student Characteristics and Attendance

The average student attendance in 2017 was 93.08%

Enrolment by year group	Total in year group	Average class size	Average student attendance %
Kindergarten	54	18	92.7%
Pre-Primary	46	23	85.8%
Year 1	43	21	91.9%
Year 2	31	16	92.51%
Year 3	24	21	92.59%
Year 4	34	17	95.67%
Year 5	20	20	91.23%
Year 6	15	15	95.34%
Total	267		

Eight students out of twenty-five in Year 3 came from households with language backgrounds other than English. (LBOTE)

Ten students out of twenty-two in Year 5 came from households with language backgrounds other than English. (LBOTE)



Absentee Management

Student attendance is recorded twice daily and recorded on the software program, TASS. Parents are required to contact the school if their child is absent. Unexplained absences are followed up with a phone call.

Primary Characteristics

At the close of 2017, Beechboro Christian school offered co-educational Christian education for 267 students from various nationalities as well as 3 indigenous students. A breakdown of male and female students as well as year groups students were in during 2017 is listed below.

Indigenous students	Females	Males	Indigenous status
Kindergarten	-	2	Aboriginal
Year 5	1	-	Aboriginal
Total	1	2	

School Income by Funding Source

Source	Total	Per Student
Australian government recurrent funding	\$1,741,168	\$6,521
State/Territory government recurrent funding	\$776,727	\$2,909
Fees, charges and parent contributions	\$1,020,084	\$3,821
Other private sources	\$104,730	\$392

For additional financial information please visit the My School website (www.myschool.edu.au).

NAPLAN

Comparisons of Beechboro Christian School to West Australian and National Averages

At Beechboro Christian School, all students in Year 3 and 5 sit the NAPLAN tests in Term 2, unless parents officially request to withdraw their child from the testing. In 2017, one student was withdrawn or exempted from the tests.

Teachers spend some time preparing the students for the tests as they are very different to the regular classroom style of assessing in the Primary. However, teachers are encouraged not to 'teach to the test', or to make this a big focus, but rather to continue to deliver a comprehensive and varied curriculum. In 2017 Beechboro Christian School achieved good results overall in the Year 3 and Year 5 cohorts. Scores were above the national average in all areas.



Results for Beechboro Christian School are as follows:

Year 3

	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
BCS Mean Scores	472	424	428	460	430
All WA Schools Mean Scores	420	410	409	429	402
All Australian Schools Mean Scores	431	414	416	439	409
% students above National minimum standard (BCS)	92%	100%	96%	96%	96%

Year 5

	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
BCS Mean Scores	530	499	521	536	519
All WA Schools Mean Scores	499	469	498	492	489
All Australian Schools Mean Scores	506	473	501	499	494
% students above National minimum standard (BCS)	100%	100%	95%	95%	95%

Apparent Retention Rate

Calendar Year	Academic Year	2017 August Census	Retention Rate %
2015	Year 4	20	-
2017	Year 6	15	75%

Based on 20 Year 4 students reported on our August 2015 Census, 15 students continued through to Year 6 in 2017.



Satisfaction

Staff, Parent and Student Response in completing the survey.

	Number completed Survey
Admin Staff	15
Teaching Staff	22
Parents	109
Students	74

Over the years we have placed a very strong emphasis on providing parents with avenues for feedback. Schools seek feedback formally through open parent meetings, surveys and Liaison Parents. We are very grateful for the positive response to the surveys conducted at the end of 2017. Your feedback provides great insight into your view of what we are doing well and how we might better serve the needs of our community.

We had a very positive completion rate for the survey, giving a substantial body of data to work with. To honour the feedback and for the benefit of the broader community, I will summarise some key themes from the survey.

The survey highlighted many positive aspects from which the school can take great confidence. Parents showed a great appreciation and gratitude toward the loving and caring nature of our school as well as the excellent communication between the school and parents. It was clear from the feedback that parents feel that their children are very safe at school.

In the key areas of parent satisfaction, Pastoral Care, Academics, Extra- Curricular, Sense of Community and Christian Education, Beechboro Christian School ranked high. In the area of Student Focus, the feedback once again was very positive, with one trend emerging, a desire for more feedback on student progress.

Across 2017, we placed strong emphasis on creating feedback opportunities. This included our initial teacher meetings, Parent Teacher interviews in Terms 1 and 3 as well as the formal reporting in Terms 2 and 4. The school will be looking at what possibilities exist for more regular informal opportunities to view childrens progress. This may include greater use of applications such as SeeSaw, which has been well received by many parents.

Staff and School Life received very humbling and positive feedback, which I'll share openly with the Teachers and Operational staff. The unique nature of our beautiful school, characterised by compassion, care and individual attention we value is something that is clearly valued by our parent body.

We are grateful for the corporate parent support and as well as individual parent responses. We are determined to continue to work closely with our community as we strive to always provide the best possible outcome for every student and family.

As is common in any survey with free-form comments, individual issues can come through that do not fit a theme but are representative of an individual's experience or perception. If parents ever have concerns, broader questions and feedback to give, the school would value conversations with families. Do not hesitate to raise questions with the appropriate person in the school. Accurate information is a valuable resource and our goal always to plan in the best interests of our students.

Student Survey

Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
I am interested in what I learn at school	4.04	-	-	-
I like to talk to other people (like my family) about what I am learning at school	4.12	-	-	-
I like being at school	4.10	-	-	-
I receive useful feedback about my progress at school	-	3.97	-	-
My teachers support my learning in a way that works for me	4.21	-	-	-
My teachers demonstrate a Christian perspective	4.72	-	-	-

Each of the scores mentioned above was given out of 5.

