

**St Joseph's Catholic School Payneham**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Tuesday 18 February 2025**



## **PRAYER**

Dear Lord,

As we gather, let us always keep the needs of the children in the centre of our thinking.

Grant us the wisdom to know what to say, compassion to say it honestly and the openness to hear things we don't want to hear.

May our words heal not hurt; may our sharing be done with kindness as we respect those around us.

Grant that within this group there might be the kind of attitude that will allow us to face our challenges as one body caring for one another.

Let our comments be for the common good.

Bless everyone here and we thank you for being with us.

We make this prayer in your name, God of all life and endless possibilities.

Amen

## MINUTES FROM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 21 February 2024, at 6:00pm in the School Staffroom

### MINUTES

1. **WELCOME** – Simon Mechis and Ernie Icolaro
2. **OPENING PRAYER** – Michael Musolino
3. **APOLOGIES** – Patrizia Puglia, Aly Giannitto, Vince Mascolo
4. **PRESENT** – Fr Michael Romeo, Ernie Icolaro, Simon Mechis, Michael Musolino, Iolanda Calabrese, Daniel La Bella, Chris Talbot, Tania Melfi, Kayla Holding, John Athanasiou, Tina Caggiano
5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM** (1 March 2023)  
- Accepted by Michael and Seconded by Tania

### Reports –

All Reports were presented in hard copy to all those present at the AGM

6. **2023 PRESIDENT'S (PARISH PRIEST'S) REPORT** – Fr Michael Romeo
7. **2023 SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT** – Ernie Icolaro
8. **2023 PARENTS AND FRIENDS PRESIDENT'S REPORT** – Kayla Holding
9. **2023 OSHC DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Karina Forte (read by Michael Musolino)
10. **2023 TREASURER'S REPORT** – Iolanda Calabrese
11. **2023 PRINCIPAL'S REPORT** – Simon Mechis
12. **NOMINATIONS FOR 2024 SCHOOL BOARD** – Facilitate by Ernie  
*-Nominees spoke briefly about their background and why they would like to join the School Board.*

### Nominations:

**John Athanasiou** (summary of key points). Would like to give back to the community, provide service and make a difference. Has connection to school values; teacher for 30 years; taught in the classroom and had leadership roles. Has had training in Positive Psychology; completed a leadership development course in Adelaide; director and owner of 2 businesses; keen interest in music; worked in various community roles, and at soccer clubs and university.

**Tina Caggiano** (summary of key points). Has worked 20 years in finance; a director of Business Operations; has worked in health and child protection; has sound experience in communication with various stakeholders. Prefers working in a

community environment, having worked on boards and committees in the government. Wants to help and support her children's school.

#### **Re-nomination**

**Daniel La Bella** (summary of key points). Has been a school community member since 2011, on the School Board for 4 years. Has a family connection with wife previously on the School Board. Great to see the growth of the school over the years and support with various initiatives. Has been Deputy Chairperson and been working in IT for the government sector for over 20 years. Volunteers time at Adelaide University Soccer Club and coached various school sports teams at Joseph's Payneham.

**John, Tina and Daniel admitted to School Board for 2024.**

#### **13. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS – Facilitated by Ernie and Simon**

##### **Two positions vacant**

- **Secretary** (Tina nominated and accepted)
- **Deputy Chairperson** (Daniel nominated and accepted)

#### **14. CONCLUSION OF MEETING**

At 7:05pm, with light refreshments offered afterwards.

**N.B. The next School Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday 20 March at 6:30pm, in the School Staffroom (Tania to lead Prayer).**

## **2024 PRESIDENT'S (PARISH PRIEST'S) REPORT – Fr Michael Romeo**

As Parish Priest and President of the St Joseph's School Board, I am delighted to table this report detailing some of the significant events in the life of the Catholic Parish of Payneham in 2024.

### **Sacramental Life**

During 2024, there were 30 baptisms celebrated in the parish, 54 Confirmations, 1 Marriage and 60 funerals. This information was submitted to the Archdiocese for the Annual Vatican Return. Preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation (First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion) took place in 2024 with 54 parish children participating. We are encouraged by the active participation of families in the broader life of the parish. The annual May Mass Count throughout the Archdiocese indicated that on average 633 people attend Mass at Payneham every week in 2023. This has increased from an average of 550 people in 2023 and an average of 524 people in 2022.

Parishioners who are sick or housebound remain connected to the parish especially through visits by myself, Sr Josie and some dedicated parishioners who bring Holy Communion to those unable to get to Mass. The four aged care facilities (Aldersgate, Joslin Manor, Eldercare, Lutheran Homes) in the parish are visited by me and Sr Josie once a month.

The Feast of St Anthony of Padua in June saw the visit of Fr Bortolino Maistrello OFM Conv who preached the Triduum. We also welcomed the Croatian, Indian and Filipino communities to our festivities at Payneham and we pray that this will grow and develop into the future.

### **Pastoral Council and Finance Council**

The Pastoral Council provides advice to the Parish Priest in the many pastoral issues that face the parish. Simon Ward is the chairperson of the council. The Finance Council meets every 2 months and assists the Parish Priest in the stewardship and administration of the parish's assets and financial resources. Tony Del Duca is the chairperson of the council.

### **Church Renovation**

Repairs to the church roof and external bell were carried out and made possible by some generous benefactors to the parish. The first stage of the renovation of OLQP Church began in June with the installation of new altar furniture created by long standing parishioner Mr Carlo Beltrame.

### **Building, Planning And Infrastructure Update**

Since early 2022, the school, Parish, Catholic Education South Australia (CESA) and the Catholic Church Office (Adelaide Archdiocese), have been in dialogue to plan for the future needs of Our Lady Queen of Peace Payneham Parish and St Joseph's Payneham. These discussions continued in 2024 between the Archdiocese and CESA and hopefully will be finalised in the near future.

## **REVIVE Youth Group**

2024 saw the beginning of REVIVE Youth Group being established in the parish. The group is facilitated by young adults for youth aged 12-16 on a Thursday night every fortnight. I thank SJP for making the school gym available to the young people. The group has an attendance of about 30 each fortnight.

## **School Masses and Liturgies**

It is always a great encouragement for me to see the preparation and enthusiasm that staff and students bring to the celebration of Mass in the church, and I pray that it is a time of meaningful prayer with God. I continue to be impressed by the student's active participation at all our liturgies and their reverent behaviour in the church. Liturgies and Masses have been integrated into the life of the parish schedule to highlight the connection between parish and school. The Friday 9.15am Mass facilitates the participation of the school children and parishioners. Whole School Masses are celebrated for all the major solemnities in the Church's Liturgical Year. Each class participates in a liturgical celebration once a term in the church, a Liturgy of the Word for Reception to Year 3 and a Mass for Years 4 to 6.

## **Pastorelle Sisters**

Sr Josie Labata celebrated 25 years of Religious Profession in May and this was acknowledged with a parish celebration on Sunday, 26 May 2024.

On 29 August 2024, I celebrated 10 years of Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood and I am grateful for the parish celebration on Thursday, 29 August which began with Mass with brother priests, family, friends and parishioners followed by refreshments in the SJP School Gym.

Thank you to Simon Mechis for his discerning leadership of the school community. I am grateful for the good working relationship that I have with Simon which enables us to work for the best interests of all the families of our parish. St Joseph's is part of the wider parish and I look forward to strengthening that connection by the way we can support our families and engage them in the life of our worshipping community at Sunday Mass.

I ask for your continued prayers for me and for the work of our parish. Yours in Christ,

**Rev. Fr Michael S. Romeo**

Parish Priest

## **2024 SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Ernie Icolaro**

Welcome everyone to the 2025 school year and I hope that it will be a happy and healthy one for you all.

2024 saw some excellent events for not just our children, however also for our whole community. Here are some just to name a few. The Mother's Day and Father's Day mornings were enjoyed by all those that attended. As always, our Annual Sport's Day was a day to remember for many. And it was our Christmas Concert and End of Year Mass which concluded our year both excitingly and spiritually respectively.

To this end, I once again gratefully thank Father Romeo, all our teachers and staff, including the leadership and admin staff, our volunteers and all those that sit on our committees and school board for their endless passion and drive which enables our children to learn, play and grow.

If you have any queries regarding the items contained within this report or things in general, please contact me at your convenience.

All the best for 2025 and beyond.

Regards

Ernie Icolaro

## 2024 PARENTS AND FRIENDS PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Kayla Holding

### Parents & Friends Report on the 2024 School Fundraising Year

In 2024, the P&F had another successful and enjoyable year, creating memorable events for the children, families and community at St Joseph's School Payneham. Without the continued support of the school Leadership, Teachers and Staff, our events would not be possible. I speak for all members of the P&F when I say that we love organising events for children to participate in, forming friendships and making lasting memories.

It was decided amongst the P&F group that last year in 2024 we wanted to 'give back' to the Community to thank them for all of their continued support with our fundraising efforts over the past 3 years. We created a new program offering extra-curricular activities for the students at St Joseph's School Payneham. We created yearly content for the program titled "P&F Fun Fest". We offered this program at a heavily subsidised cost for families, running each program for 7 weeks each term at a cost of \$70 for each activity, offering both upper and lower primary sessions each week to include as many students as possible. All classes were fully booked with an extensive waitlist.

In Term 1 we held 'Visual Art' classes with Mrs Emily Parrella, in Term 2 we held 'Dance & Movement' with Miss Laura Parletta, in Term 3 we engaged in an external company called Code Camp to teach students 'Robotics and Coding'. Also in Term 3 we held a Chess Club with Mr Nick Polvere running for 9 weeks for Year 3 - Year 6 students at lunch times where students played against each other, and in Term 4 we held 'Cupcake Decorating' classes with school mum, ToniAnn Santoro.

Feedback from the parents, students and staff was quite positive as it was something that was new and exciting for students and something that we hope to do in future years now that we have the successful foundation of the framework completed. This program cost the P&F \$3,762.20.

In Term 1 for the St Joseph's Day Picnic held at Payneham Oval, the P&F organised Cheeky Grin to sell coffee and ToniAnn sold an assortment of cupcakes. We provided each student with a Zooper Dooper ice block, including the Piccolini & Pre-School students. This was a cost to the P&F of \$189.00.

In week 10, after the Easter break, keeping in line with the resurrection message that is 'new life', we created a fun activity for students to enjoy at recess time, holding an Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt where for 1 week, 15 hollow coloured plastic easter eggs were hidden throughout the school with raffle tickets placed inside. Once the eggs were found, students handed them into Josie at the front office to be in the draw for 1 of 2 prizes, 1 prize for the upper primary students and 1 prize for the lower primary students. This was a cost to the P&F of \$102.44.

In April we held Krispy Kreme day. 48 dozen donuts were ordered and handed out on the last day of Term 1, making a profit of \$399.36. We sold x15 boxes of original glazed doughnuts, x27 boxes of half dozen doughnuts and x6 boxes of assorted doughnuts.



In Term 2 we held our annual Mother's Day stall held under the Carlo Acutis building selling over 650 gifts. The whole school, including the Piccolini and Preschool students had the opportunity to purchase a gift bag, a \$5 or \$10 ticket. As always, it is a delight to see children put so much thought into choosing the perfect gift for the Mother figure in their lives. Also this year, as another give back to the community, we thought it would be a nice gesture to give the students the chance to pick a gift if a ticket had not been purchased. We arranged for a separate gift table of smaller gifts so that all children could feel included and attend the stall with the rest of their class. 245 \$5 gifts were purchased, 395 \$10 gifts were purchased & 255 gift bags were purchased. The Piccolini had their own gift bags for purchase, selling x10 \$6.50 bags. The P&F made a profit of \$2,208.33.

Simon Mechis held the inaugural Mother's Day morning tea this year held in the school gym with guest speaker Jessica Stenson (Trengove), Olympic Athlete. This was a great opportunity for all of the Mother figures to come together and enjoy a cup of tea and share a cupcake. We listened to Jess deliver us a truly inspirational and very humbling speech about her childhood, her upbringing in Naracoorte, and then her life as an Olympic Athlete with her strict training regime and her entry into the Commonwealth Games, while also being a Wife and a Mother. A very memorable morning finished off with a lucky door prize organised by the P&F of a Mecca gift basket. This event was at an overall cost to the P&F of \$287.00.

On Multicultural Day the P&F organised Cheeky Grin to attend the festivities selling coffee to the community, together with selling assorted Cannoli from St Georges Cakes & Gelati, raising \$228.00. Multicultural themed cupcakes and cookies were also sold by Oh So Sugared.

In June, we held another successful disco in our school gym for the whole school to attend with various sessions held throughout the evening (Piccolini - Preschool [play and game focused], Reception - Year 2 and lastly Year 3 – Year 6) to accommodate the different year levels in the school. Tickets were sold for \$10 per student to cover a small portion of the costs associated with running the event, including the giant-coloured balloon arch and disco photo back drop supplied by Hooray Today, lighting hired from JP Light & Sound and glow sticks which were given to students upon entry. Miss Laura Parletta was the D.J. on the night, having a playlist created from song requests from the students prior to the disco. Andrew was the dedicated school photographer on the evening, taking some fantastic photos and short snippets of the students to remember the fun event. Cheeky Grin were organised to sell coffee on the night for parents and Adelaide Premium Foods were on site selling arancini balls, pizza and pasta. They kindly donated \$160 to the P&F for hosting them at our event. A 'Glam Station' was set up this year prior to entry for a gold coin donation for either glitter hair spray, temporary tattoos or face gem decals. Another very successful disco making a profit of \$3,106.86.

In Term 3 in July for the third year running we held another successful movie night held at the Regal Cinema at Burnside showing Despicable Me 4. There were Minion balloons supplied by Hooray Today and our famous snack packs of Jonny's popcorn (kindly donated), a chocolate bar and a juice pop-top available for those who pre-purchased. We drew the raffle on the night and there were wonderful prizes to be won consisting of a 3 class pass for Youth Fitness Co, a x1 meter 'Grab & Go' balloon garland courtesy of Hooray Today, Oh So Sugared donated x24 mini Minion cupcakes, x2 double passes to the Regal Cinema & a \$50 Woolworths gift

voucher to be won, all prizes were kindly donated from local businesses. As always, we had a lucky door prize which was donated by the P&F. We sold 201 movie tickets and 83 snack packs and made an overall profit of \$2,596.02.

In August, the P&F collaborated with Mrs Patrizia Puglia in facilitating a wonderful initiative called 'A Bag of Love' for the Homeless during National Homelessness week, spreading warmth and hope to those in need. This was a whole school community event where families were asked to donate nonperishable items of food, warm clothing consisting of socks, scarves or beanies, toiletries, blankets, water, fruit boxes or sweet treats. The P&F, together with the Eco-Squad held a 'Packing Party' under the Carlo Acutis building and filled the hand decorated bags with love. Over 200 bags were assembled and were donated to those in need through Catherine House, Hutt Street Centre, Vinnines and Catholic Mission. This was a very heartwarming event that we hope will continue for following years.

In September the P&F held the Father's Day stall with tickets for sale on QKR in the room under the Carlo Acutis building for the whole school to attend, including the Piccolini and Preschool students. We had a fantastic arrangement of gifts for both \$5 and \$10 available for purchase. Like Mother's Day, had a separate gift table of smaller gifts for the children who did not have a ticket for them to choose something special so they too could feel included and attend the stall with the rest of their class. A profit of \$2,353.02 was made.

Simon Mechis held the second successful Father's Day morning tea in the school gym with retired Adelaide Crows football player Mark Ricciuto as the guest speaker. The P&F organised The Coffee Van to attend the event, supplying the Father and Father figures of the school community with coffees and cupcakes for morning tea, which were paid for by the P&F for \$182.40. The P&F supplied a lucky door prize of a BBQ gift set for 1 lucky winner on the day.

In September, for the first time the school took part in R U OK? day. The P&F supplied all of the students at the school (including the Piccolini & Preschool students) with a Zooper Dooper ice block at lunch time at a cost of \$196.90 to the P&F.

For the second time, another successful Grandparents Day was held at the school. While this was not a P&F run event, the P&F members were on site to help take the generous food donations from families in the morning, we helped with the set-up of the tables & chairs, plates and napkins and with the clean up after. We served cups of tea and percolated coffee to the wonderful grandparents of our community. This was at a cost to the P&F of \$286.77.

In Term 4 the P&F celebrated World Teachers' Day by gifting personalized individual giant chocolate freckles and Hooray Today supplied the decorations in the staff room for all of the wonderful staff and educators at our school. A small token of our continued appreciation for all the amazing work done for our children. This was at a cost of \$221.00 to the P&F.

The School Sports Day that was held at Payneham Oval, the P&F organised the food and drinks for our wonderful Community. Fresh fruit was kindly donated by Tony & Marks for all the students to have at recess time, Cheeky Grin were on site selling tea and coffee, ToniAnn sold cupcakes in house colours and donated \$80 to the school. Ernie kindly organised the cold drink stand. As done so previously the year before, Fine Foods were organised to sell an

assortment of panini. This was done as a pre-order for students/staff and parents with a small assortment available for purchase on the day, a total of 470 panini were sold and \$202 was donated to the school from Fine Foods.

To wrap up a fantastic year, some of the P&F members were invited to join the Christmas Committee, and we had the continued privilege of assisting the school with the set-up of the end of year school Christmas concert. The stage was decorated with balloons and Christmas themed decorations provided by Hooray Today. The larger stage from previous years was hired through S.A. Staging, and this year red matting was organised for the children to sit on. Various food vendors were invited to attend our event, including Pizze in Giro, The Paella Man, Chipalicious, Boost Juice, Cheeky Grin and Bright Vibes selling Christmas themed cookies and cupcakes. The school canteen was open and sold cold drinks, ice blocks and BBQ sausages. As done so in previous years, the P&F also had x2 face painters available, painting Christmas themed creations on smiling students faces. The raffle was drawn on the night, with prizes consisting of a \$200 Airbnb voucher, a Monarto Zoo Family pass valued at \$125, a double pass to Bounce valued at \$45, a double pass to Tree Climb valued at \$75 and a kids Lego Advent Calendar for \$45.

Pizze in Giro kindly donated \$200 back to the school, together with Boost Juice donating \$250. \$155 was raised on the night from the various stalls, and a total of \$847.11 was made from the raffle.

SJP umbrellas and beanies were also for sale throughout the year and made a profit of \$595.00.

The Second-Hand Uniform Shop made \$307 from sales after paying out consignment items of \$1,070.00.

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The P&F also purchased tea and coffee supplies at a cost of \$38.26 for the families to attend for morning tea after student liturgies and masses.

We are pleased to report that in 2024, the P&F made some wonderful donations to our school community as a result of our amazing fundraising efforts. We were able to purchase much needed items for the school, consisting of the following:

- A new oven for the Canteen, including installation, stand and electrical works - \$4,500
- New portable basketball ring for the school yard
- Funding towards the acquisition of additional iPad devices for the school - \$10,000
- x2 new 3D printers for the STEM department - \$3,000
- Funded the whole school incursion 'Da Vinci's Apprentice' by Musica Viva ensemble - \$3,360
- Assisted the Preschool with the creation of an Indigenous Garden by repurposing the old boat that was currently in the play yard and turning it into a flower patch and produce area. The wall behind the boat has also been turned into a mural and provided a space for the children's artwork to be displayed - \$600

- New student chairs, for Year 3, Year 4 and possibly Year 5 students; approx. cost \$9,000-\$12,000.
- Change table for the Preschool - \$100
- Pillows for the Reception classroom break out spaces - \$200
- Spheros for the STEM department - \$5,000
- Apple TV's for classrooms - \$7,500
- Lastly, \$50,000 has been committed to a new future Preschool play space. The exact timing of its construction is not known, but at this stage, looking at 2026.

Lastly, as done so in the past, the P&F gifted the Year 6 classes of 2024 a \$700 donation to put towards their graduation celebration. It was agreed upon as a group that this is a final thank you to the students leaving the school for all of the fundraising throughout the year.

Kayla Holding 2024 P&F Co-Chair

St Joseph's Catholic School Payneham OSHC service offers quality care for students while parents and caregivers work, study or take respite time. The continued operation of St Joseph's OSHC is testimony to the long-standing contribution it has on the economic and social wellbeing of the families in our community, providing them with an out-of-school hours care option to help manage the competing demands of work, study and family commitments. St Joseph's Catholic School Payneham OSHC is approved to provide care for 100 students in both OSHC and Vacation Care.

The primary aim of our OSHC program is to provide quality care for students from Preschool to Year 6 before school commences (from 7:00am) and after school (3:00pm until 6:00pm); as well as during school holidays and student free days. Students are engaged with weekly activities such as crafts, sports and snack. OSHC promotes a supportive social environment where the children are encouraged to interact with educators and peers of all age groups in a safe and relaxed setting.

In OSHC and Vacation Care, we continue to utilize our licensed areas which are the multipurpose room (OSHC room 1), middle room next to the library (OSHC room 2), library, gym, music room, STEM room, oval, playground, courts and preschool piazza area. With the number of licensed areas, the students can enjoy the various spaces for sports, imaginative play, studies, games, relaxation and crafts. During Term Four, we changed our tables and chairs to improve the set out of the room and created more space for the younger students. With the new set up, we have created 'messy play' – this is a table set up in the OSHC room designed for 'messy' activities such as playdough, kinetic sand, painting and slime making. The OSHC staff provide a safe, enjoyable environment for children whilst catering for their nutritional, physical, social and intellectual needs. OSHC staff continually collaborate with children to provide play and leisure opportunities which reflect children's interests and honors diversity.

The 2024 Vacation Care program was successful with both excursions and incursions such as AFL Max, cinemas, bowling, Marion Aquatic Centre, Wizbang Family Fun Centre, Adelaide Zoo, and incursions such as clay making, self-defence, various sport and dance sessions, craft days, a visit from Nature Play SA, Rev It Up car racing, silent disco and cooking. The families and students provided positive feedback about the Vacation Care program.

At the end of 2024, we welcomed Grace Boffa as a permanent OSHC staff member. Grace is working daily in both Before School Care and After School Care. Grace has built wonderful connections with staff, students and their families and we are very fortunate to have Grace as a permanent staff member of our team.

The OSHC team is looking forward to another great year in 2025 with preparations already beginning for our assessment and rating that will occur this year.

Karina Forte  
OSHC Director

### Financial Performance Summary as at 31 December 2024\*

	Year to Date Actual (\$'000)	Year to Date Budget (\$'000)	Year to Date Variance (\$'000)	Annual Budget (\$'000)
Revenue	9,901	9,582	319	9,582
Expenses	8,616	7,904	-712	7,904
Assets	-1,533	-6,952	5,419	-6,952
Liabilities	-146	3,635	-3,781	3,635
Net Result	-395	-1,639	1,244	-1,639

- *South Australian Catholic Education Schools report their financial performance to Catholic Education South Australia on a cash basis, and take into consideration revenue, expenses, assets and liabilities. Therefore, this report has been prepared on this basis.*

### 2024 Net Result

As at 31 December 2024, St Joseph's Payneham reported a net loss of \$395,514. This is a favourable variance to budget of \$1,243,836.

Revenue totalled \$9,900,562; a favourable variance to budget of \$318,755. This favourable variance is mainly due to the recognition of approximately \$400,000 of Commonwealth and State Government grant funding above what was estimated based on CESA calculations. Also contributing to this favourable revenue position is \$224,269 of trading income above budget. This favourable variance has been partly offset by \$500,000 of budgeted capital grants that will not eventuate in 2024 due to the delays in capital projects.

In addition, P&F generously donated approximately \$28,000 to the school. These funds were mainly used to purchase an oven for the canteen, furniture for classrooms, printers and STEM equipment.

Expenses totalled \$8,616,308; an unfavourable variance to budget of \$711,885. Contributing factors to this unfavourable variance include:

- Over-budget salaries and wages mainly due to additional ESO assistance required (\$446,000).
- Over-budget trading account expenditure of \$176,000.
- Higher than estimated levies expenditure based on CESA calculation, which is reimbursed to the school via a grant (\$80,000).
- Various over-budget administration costs totalling approximately \$130,000.

## Trading Accounts

	<b>Net Result 2024 (\$)</b>	<b>Budget 2024 (\$)</b>	<b>Variance 2024 (\$)</b>
<b>Canteen</b>	4,953	-3,810	8,763
<b>Preschool</b>	-23,331	-83,004	59,673
<b>Playgroup/Piccolini</b>	-11,130	-27,100	15,970
<b>OSHC</b>	85,823	85,913	-90
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,315</b>	<b>-28,001</b>	<b>84,316</b>

The two significant variations to budget for the trading accounts relate to preschool and Piccolini. Preschool has reported a favourable result due to succeeding the revenue budget that was originally set. The main reason for the favourable result for Piccolini is due to the introduction of the additional day session in 2024.

## 2024 Capital Works in Progress Result

	<b>Year to Date Actual (\$'000)</b>	<b>Year to Date Budget (\$'000)</b>	<b>Year to Date Variance (\$'000)</b>	<b>Annual Budget (\$'000)</b>
<b>Capital WIP</b>	1,445	6,952	5,507	6,952
<b>CCES Loan</b>	97	3,619	3,716	3,619

As at 31 December 2024, capital works in progress totalled \$1.445m, a favourable variance to budget of \$5.507m. The capital budget was based on the original capital works plan for 2024, which included the land swap, and the construction of the new courts and carpark. Due to the revised capital plan and delay in the land swap, these costs did not eventuate in 2024.

## 2025 Budget

The approved 2025 budget reports a loss of \$570,000. This is mainly due to projected capital expenditure on the oval and asphalt upgrade. The budget includes a forecasted cost of \$1,100,000 for these capital works, and capital grant funding of \$500,000 to partly fund the capital development. The budget also includes a 3% increase in school fees (as previously approved) and an increase in ESO salaries and wages to reflect the additional costs incurred in 2024 which are expected to continue in 2025.



## 2024 PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Simon Mechis

The start of the school year brings about renewed energy and enthusiasm – and for 2025 we look forward to the year ahead. Our endeavour is for every child to experience high-quality teaching, learning and wellbeing, in a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment.

As we reflect on 2024, there were challenges, but also numerous and achievements.

The St Joseph's Catholic School Payneham Report for 2024 demonstrates our staff having worked industriously and diligently to attain positive outcomes for our students, and opportunities for children to achieve their capacity from a spiritual, academic, social/emotional, cultural, physical and creative domain.

**Religious Education, Faith Formation and Catholic Identity** were integral over the course of the last year. In partnership with our parish, staff, families and students, we sustained connections to our Catholic faith, whilst embracing and welcoming the diversity that exists within our community.

Mrs Patrizia Puglia in the role of Assistant Principal Religious Identity and Mission (APRIM), and in her first year at St Joseph's, worked with staff to promote and support planning, and subsequent teaching and learning in Religious Education, so meaningful and relevant learning would occur in this key area for our students.

There was staff professional learning and formation throughout 2024, with emphasis on *Crossways* (the curriculum for the teaching and learning of Religious Education in South Australian Catholic Schools), as well as Prayer, Liturgy and Mass.

Sacramental preparation, facilitated by Patrizia, Parish Priest Father Michael Romeo, and Sister Josie Labata, as well as input from classroom teachers, occurred throughout the year. The preparation included meetings and workshops for families whose children celebrated their Confirmation, First Holy Communion and Reconciliation.

We continued to support various social justice issues and charities, so that assistance could be provided to those in need. The following organisations and causes were supported during 2024: CARITAS, St Vincent de Paul Society, Catholic Missions and Catholic Charities.

I recognise Fr Michael, for his support and especially the religious focus created for the students and community.

**Quality teaching and learning** is permanently a priority. The key curriculum subjects of Literacy and Numeracy have continued to be at the forefront.

### Literacy

In Literacy, we sustained our commitment towards our Literacy Agreement, with a strong focus on reading, writing, phonics, oral language and spelling across the school. Our Leader of Learning for Literacy, Mrs Sonia Vernillo, worked with teachers, so that further consolidation occurred and ultimately enhanced student learning outcomes in this key area.

*MiniLit* and *MacqLit* Reading intervention, and a new program, *Playberry*, took place. Staff members, Ms Leah Tregenza, Mrs Kirsty Taddeo, Ms Manuela Ciniglia and Mrs Tina Hoffman were largely responsible for the delivery of this intervention. The student results fundamentally continue to demonstrate sound improvement and growth.

### Numeracy

2024 saw an even greater commitment towards Numeracy. Some improved tweaks in our Numeracy Agreement occurred. Our 2024 Leader of Learning for Numeracy, Mrs Rosanna Parrella, provided excellent support to teaching staff in this space.

During 2024, we introduced a 'Maths Australia' initiative for the Year 1s. Due to its success and strong student results, the suite will be part of teaching and learning for Receptions, Year 1 and Year 2s in 2025.

*Multi-Sensory Mathematics (MSM)* continued as an intervention during 2024. MSM supports those students requiring assistance with Mathematics. I thank Educational Support Officers, Ms Rachel Armstrong and Ms Laura Parletta for their work in this area, as they have been significant in facilitating this intervention.

### Gifted Education

Over the last couple of years, we have set out to advance and build upon our school Gifted Education framework. During 2023 we developed an initiative called 'Creative Minds' promoting extension learning and activities for those showing promise in this space. The focus was on STEM, Music, Physical Education and Problem-Solving skills. In 2024, we built on the Gifted Education initiative, with emphasis on Language Literature, Social Sciences, The Arts, and continuing with STEM. Last year also saw us involved in the enterprise, 'Tournament of Minds', 'STEM MAD' and the BEBRAS Computational Thinking Challenge, furthering opportunities for students in the gifted field.

Tournament of Minds involved student teams enhance their creativity, entrepreneurship, time management, and the discipline to work collaboratively within a challenging and competitive environment. Students are required to solve demanding, open-ended challenges from the named disciplines i.e., Language Literature, Social Sciences, The Arts, and STEM.

I thank Gifted Education Coordinator, Mrs Emily Parrella, for her work and commitment to this emerging area in our community.

### Inclusive Education

In addition to the above intervention, we also have allied health professionals who regularly visit our school, providing learning and support for students with needs in speech, psychology, occupational therapy, etc.

There were many review meetings between families, teachers (and external agencies, as required) during 2024 for students with diverse needs. I thank Inclusive Education Coordinator, Miss Nicole Joanni (also new to Payneham in 2024), for her thoroughness and collaboration in working with families and staff in this area.

### Social/Emotional Learning

Implementation of the Berry Street Education Model (BSEM) continued in classrooms. In summary, BSEM seeks to understand the impacts of trauma on child development and ability to learn and to create a supportive and trauma-informed positive education classroom. Moreover, there is a focus on bolstering student-teacher relationships and instil strengths-based practices for the benefit of students.

In 2024, staff had professional learning in Restorative Practices, by Catholic Education SA consultant, Mr Michael Lincoln. The learning in this area further supports our work in BSEM, as well as providing another level of knowledge and strategies to assist children in managing conflict, reflecting on choices and repairing relationships.

### Assessment and Moderation

Staff follow an Assessment Agreement. Professional learning and reflection in this important area is regular. Learning Walks and Talks, as well as Case Management Meetings support the learning and assessment process.

**Community and home/school partnerships** are fundamental in supporting student learning, wellbeing, and development. We communicate and share learning with families.

Parent/caregiver engagement and partnership continued to be a central focus and as such, parent representation on various committees was well-supported, including School Board, Finance, Uniform, Canteen, Marketing and OSHC. I express my gratitude to the members in our school community who formed part of these groups.

A diverse number of school and social events transpired in 2024 including: Mother's Day and Father's Day Stalls; Mother's and Father's Day Mornings (with guest speakers); Family Movie Night; Student Disco; Book Week Parade; Grandparent's Day; Musical Concerts; Sports Day; and a popular and well-attended outdoor End of Year Christmas Concert.

Sincere thanks to the Parents and Friends (P&F) Committee, and especially members, who spent considerable hours organising and working behind the scenes to make special occasions come to life.

### **Resources, Infrastructure and School Structures**

The two-level, eight-classroom junior primary facility with amenities, 'The Carlo Acutis Building', opened at the start of 2024, housing our Reception and Year 1 students. The new structure is functioning well and has drawn many positive comments from students, families and staff.

The property on 84 Portrush Road (corner of Tarcoma Avenue and Portrush Road), which the school purchased in 2021 (so that a car park, for staff, families and visitors, could be operational), also opened early last year. The car park has alleviated some of the on-street parking concerns.

The new nature playground was completed (replacing the former tired looking play space),

and opened at the commencement of the 2024 school year. The play area is being enjoyed by students every day.

Further consultation between parish, school, Catholic Education SA (CESA), and Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide, involving a land swap, between school and parish transpired, with agreement and endorsement from CESA and Catholic Archdiocese hoping to be finalised soon.

The new school uniform came into fruition during 2024. The roll-out has been quite smooth (noting there is a two-year transition period), with all students requiring to be wearing the new uniform by the start of 2026.

The innovative Year 4-6 device initiative was also actioned last year (replacing the former BYOD platform). It has been a successful change, with many families renting the devices from the school. For 2025, it was decided that only laptops (MacBooks) be offered (not iPads); as most families had chosen to rent a laptop.

I also acknowledge the excellent work of Deputy Principal, Mr Michael Musolino, who only began his tenure in this role at the start of 2024.

In closing I pay tribute to:

- The students at St Joseph's Catholic School Payneham. They bring vivacity and vitality every day.
- The families in our community. For the support provided and for placing trust in the school to provide quality education and care for the children.
- The staff of St Joseph's. For the dedication and conscientiousness demonstrated given to the children and families.
- All School Board members. For the encouragement, feedback and judgment to school decisions.

**Simon Mechis**  
**Principal**