



# PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

## Annual Awards Evening 2017

# **2017 Awards Night Principal's Report**

James Nash has as its core purpose to “Inspire Learning” and we have set ourselves the goal to be a hub of educational excellence for all learners. I have chosen to present this written report as part of tonight's presentation because I am so very proud of our efforts this year and any speech would not do justice to the many highlights from 2017. Though I have checked through all the newsletters and searched other reports, I hope you understand that this report is still only a snapshot of the achievements of our students and our school throughout the year. By reading this report you should get a sense of the wonderful array of opportunities that modern schooling affords our students and also understand why I am so proud to be the Acting Principal of James Nash State High School.

Before sharing with you the wonderful year we have experienced in 2017, I would like to firstly acknowledge our former Principal, Mr Darrin Edwards. Mr Edwards has recently been appointed as Executive Principal to Mountain Creek SHS. Mr Edwards has been our Principal for the last 12 years and during this time he has worked extremely diligently with students, teachers and the wider community to bring James Nash SHS to be one of the most respected secondary schools in the state. In 2005, the school had a population of just over 900 students and through his leadership, the school has expanded to over 1270 students in 2017. It has been his unrelenting pursuit of excellence that has built a positive culture at our school. It was his work in establishing links with University of the Sunshine Coast that has given our students such wonderful opportunities to work and experience the possibilities of higher education. He was also a driving force in the establishment of the Gympie Trade Training Centre. During his leadership the school has been rewarded with prestigious State Awards for Excellence in Junior Secondary Education, Leadership and most recently, the Peter Doherty Award for STEM education. Mr Edwards has been an inspiration to students, teachers and has been recognised for his role in education in Queensland, with his Australia Day award. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with Mr Edwards and I know he will be sorely missed by the James Nash community.

This year has been another great year with James Nash continuing to be seen as a lead school within our community and across Queensland. The school continues to be the largest school in the wider Gympie area with our enrolments now capped at 1270 students. Unfortunately there is a waiting list of prospective families wishing to enrol in the school. This year James Nash continued to be recognised as a leader in providing educational excellence with the school winning the Gympie Chamber of Commerce ‘Educator of the Year’ Award for 2017. These acknowledgements, along with our status as an Independent Public School and our International School Accreditation, certainly recognise that we are moving well towards our goal of being a hub of educational excellence for all learners.

In this report I will reflect firstly on the Academic, Cultural, Citizenship and Sporting Highlights of our students. I will also provide you with a summary of the achievements/activities of the school in the areas of Leadership, Effective Teaching and Learning, Curriculum, Workforce, Student Services, Information and Communication Technologies and Facilities all of which combine to deliver a standard of educational excellence that provides opportunities for all learners.

## **Academic Highlights**

The first priority for me in my leadership role is to continually explore strategies to improve the performance of students with their studies. So I will start this report by sharing a snapshot of the Academic Highlights of the school over the past year.

- Chamber of Commerce Award Winner – 2017 ‘Educator of the Year’
- One of the highest performing secondary schools in the Region with Year 12 Student Outcomes
- 100% of all graduating Seniors awarded QCE/OP or VET qualification

- 99% of Year 12s awarded a QCE or QCIA (Outstanding!!!!)
- 93.4% of QTAC applicants received a University Offer
- 16 Year 12 students awarded Guaranteed Early Entry to University
- 13 OP eligible students received an OP between 1 and 5
- 206 Cert I, Cert II and Cert III or above Vocational Qualifications awarded
- Very positive Parental Opinion about James Nash SHS on Parent Opinion Survey
- Very positive Staff Opinion about James Nash SHS on Staff Opinion Survey
- Hosted Middle School and Senior School USC Creative Writing Course
- Quinn Edwards awarded Lions Youth of the Year
- Years 7, 8 & 9 teams participate in Readers Cup Competitions
- Hosted Middle School STEAM Excellence Program in conjunction with the University of the Sunshine Coast
- Hosted Senior School STEAM Excellence Program in conjunction with the University of the Sunshine Coast
- Entered 3 teams in the Maryborough Technology Challenge
- The tenth anniversary of the Middle School STEAM Excellence Program (in conjunction with USC) – All 56 places were taken for six-week program; the program goes from strength to strength.
- Year 9 and 10 Science and Engineering Team won the Sunshine Coast regional event at USC with a record score. They progressed to the State Finals in Toowoomba against seven other schools from across Queensland - a sensational achievement.
- 56 Students from Years 7 – 9 competed in the international Science ICAS competition. 8 were awarded Distinctions (top 10% of Australia). Alexander Stahl (Year 7) awarded 'Principal's Award' as was in top 2% of Australian students.
- Jared Spence and Jackson Barton selected for the prestigious QUT Vice-Chancellor's STEM camp held at QUT for a week during the September holidays.
- Krystal Jones and George Pink won prizes for their experimental work at the Science Research Awards held at USC during National Science Week.
- Year 7 and 8 Robotics Challenges at USC
- Jean Pink's STEM excursion and incursions.
- 18 students participated in the Creative Writing Middle School Program - from years 6-9
- 29 year 11 students participated in the Core Skills preparation Creative Writing program
- 100% of Year 7 students at or above National Minimum Standards in NAPLAN Numeracy
- 99.5% of Year 9 students at or above National Minimum Standards in NAPLAN Numeracy
- Every Geography student from 7-12 engaged in legitimate, real world field work.
- Year 11 and 12 students engaged in Higher Order Thinking, Philosophy and Complex Reasoning courses.
- 1<sup>st</sup> year of Junior School CASE (Cognitive Acceleration in Science Education) and Philosophy for high performing students implemented.
- Economics students participated in the UNSW Business School: Australian Economics Competition
- Virtual Reality used to enhance learning in Certificate III in Tourism
- STEM class introduced in Year 7
- Year 7 students participated in QUT robotics sustainable solutions prototypes session
- Grace Dixon and Mackenzie Knickel had their robot selected to be displayed at Robotronica at QUT.
- Renae Cotter, Nathan Dixon and Bonnie Cairncross 4th in Sunshine Coast Robocup tournament
- Bonnie Cairncross, Renae Cotter, Savannah Jones and Shaylin Campbell attended inaugural USC "Serious Games Workshop" for girls
- Senior students attended the USC Innovation Centre's BigDayIN
- ICAS Mathematics Competition, 62 participants from Year 7, 8 & 9, awarded 9 Distinctions, 17 Credits & 10 Merits
- Australian Math Competition, 9 participants from Year 10, 11 & 12, awarded 2 Distinctions, 3 Credits & 3 Proficiency

- Math Team Challenge – 1<sup>st</sup> place in Senior and Intermediate Division, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Junior Division, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in Senior Division.
- Ten students participated in the USC Mathematical Modelling Challenge
- Awarded the Chamber of Commerce Award of 'Educator of the Year' for 2017

As you can observe, across the whole range of subject areas, James Nash students are achieving at the highest levels and certainly model one of our core values of pursuing excellence in all that we do.

### **Cultural Highlights**

James Nash prides itself on the Cultural and Artistic Excellence opportunities we provide to students. 2017 saw the continual growth of our Academy of Creative Arts under the leadership of Ms Sharon Hogan and Ms Lauren Pritchard and their tireless team of producers, directors, writers, choreographers, musicians and creators. I would like to share with you a glimpse into the range of activities our students have had exposure to through our Academy of Creative Arts and Student Services Groups. The following list celebrates the achievements of our students in cultural pursuits.

#### **SEMESTER 1**

- 74 students successful applicants of our Program of Excellence: Academy of Creative Arts
- New Junior Choir created
- New Junior Acting & Movement ACA groups established
- 130 students participate in Instrumental Music culminating in 5 Ensembles
- 45 Students from years 8-12 begin rehearsals of Paradoxical written by Quinn Edwards and directed by Maths teacher Tom Colley
- James Nash Day
- Launch of Artist in resident Project with Gympie regional Council Ambassador and textile/fashion artist Cindy Vogel
- The Gympie Regional Gallery invited the very talented Grace Rackeman in year 12 to play at one of their openings
- Visual Arts students take out 1,2 and 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the Heritage Art Awards - Sophie Roff, Teal Burraston and Sarah Lynch
- ACA Senior Vocal Group win gold at regional choral competition
- The string ensemble, Lark and the concert band featured at the Gympie Show. ACA Vocal Group sing the National Anthem, ARTS Displays
- New ACA Excel Senior Theatre Company Established
- Paradoxical the Musical
- ACA Band excel in the school musical
- 2 Day Intensive at Civic Centre for ACA including professional workshops
- ANZAC Day ceremonies and performances by Concert Bands and ACA vocals
- Visual Arts students competed in Rush Art Competition

#### **SEMESTER 2**

- Winter on Mary – JNSHS Bands and Vocal Groups were the invited guests and opening entertainment
- Students participated in Creative Generations Mass Choir event
- Year 8 & 9 students attend "Voices on the Coast"
- ACA Dance group perform at the Gympie Eisteddfod
- ACA Visual Arts show case work at the Gympie Regional Gallery
- Strong results for James Nash at the Sunshine Coast Junior Eisteddfod and ensembles excel at Gympie Eisteddfod
- Keiara Armstrong received overall most promising woodwind/brass instrumentalist at the Gympie Eisteddfod
- Platinum and Gold standard awarded to ACA students at the Sunshine Coast School's Drama Festival

- Concert band continues to support community events
- Visual Arts student enter the Mary Valley Arts Festival Youth Art Awards – a number of winners from James Nash
- JNSHS vocalists and musicians participated in Creative Generations
- Perseverance Street production, celebrating G150
- Muscle Muster Production Crew Support
- Instrumental Music workshops at Gympie South State School
- ACA Vocal Group and Junior Choir invited to perform in the Mayoress Concert in conjunction with Sara Storer
- Talent Quest
- Students participate in the Gympie Gold Rush Festival
- HiArtworks Exhibition
- National German Film Competition “Goethe Institute” – Shortlisted student film

### **Citizenship Highlights**

Being a positive, active citizen is integral in a well-rounded education. James Nash aims to provide a full range of opportunities for our students and staff to be involved with the Gympie community. I would like to acknowledge all the key staff and student leaders who work tirelessly to raise funds and to support so many of these wonderful charities/causes. I would specifically like to acknowledge our Student Representative Council for their leadership in this area. Our students and staff have been involved in a great range of citizenship activities across the year including:-

- Relay for Life – 8 teams raised over \$8,000
- National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence
- Reconciliation Week activities including the opening of The Yarning Circle
- NAIDOC Week and activities run by senior indigenous students
- ANZAC Day Services – Record numbers of students march with the school at the Dawn, Normanby and Town March. Also at the Mary Valley, Woolooga and Rainbow Beach Marches.
- Remembrance Day Services
- Gympie Gold Rush Festival
- Valentine’s Day
- Pick Sock Day Fundraiser for McGrath Foundation
- Clean Up Australia Day
- Blue Day for Autism and 40 Hour Famine – Charity Fundraiser
- Saving Lives Program, participants from Year 9 to 12 with all participants gaining a CPR and First Aid qualification, most students gaining a Surf Rescue Certificate and achieving a Bronze Medallion
- ‘Brainstorm Productions’ – Anti Bullying performance for all Year 7 to 10
- Senior James Nash students volunteered their time to help run the Science and Engineering Discovery Day for primary school students around the Region
- 4 Year 12 Legal Studies students were selected to be part of the Youth Parliament in QLD’s Old Parliament House
- White Ribbon Day against Domestic Violence
- 2017 JNSHS Talent Quest Press Club will again publish a professional JNSHS Yearbook.

### **Sporting Highlights**

James Nash has a long standing reputation for sporting excellence and 2017 has seen an amazing number of our students reaching Wide Bay, Queensland and National Representation. The sporting stocks of the school continue to grow and this year we again have continued to see many students succeed at representative levels including state and national success. As you can witness by the outcomes below, 2017 has truly been a great sporting year. Success at National Swimming and Athletics Championships provide exceptional leadership to their peers when it comes to examples for the rest of the school on outstanding sporting skill. This year has also seen

a record number of students being awarded Sporting Distinction Awards but it has been the sportsmanship and participation that has been the stand-out for me. I consistently received reports not only of our successes but also the positive manner in which James Nash students have conducted themselves.

We would like to acknowledge the staff who have willingly given their time during lunch hours, after school and during weekends to coach and manage an enormous number of sporting teams and shared their expertise and passion for sport with students. The following list will demonstrate the extensive opportunities that students have accessed during the year and will showcase some of the achievements of our students including National recognition and performance.

#### State & National Representation

- Troy Carlson won Gold medals at Australian School Swimming Championships in 200m Butterfly, Medley Relay, Freestyle Relay, and All Age Relay
- Cameron Hanson won Bronze medal at National Athletics in Triple Jump
- Cameron Hanson won Gold medal at State Athletics in Triple Jump and Bronze medal in Long Jump
- Chantelle Chippindall won Silver medal at State Athletics in Javelin
- Jessica Stuart won Bronze medal at State Athletics in Triple Jump

#### Summer Trials

- 98 students representing James Nash at Gympie District Trials
- 27 James Nash students selected in Gympie District Teams
- 13 James Nash students selected in Wide Bay Teams (Cricket, Squash, Softball, Golf, Surfing, Touch Football)

#### Swimming

- GLANMIRE House Champion
- 4 new school Swimming Records by Troy Carlson
- James Nash won Gympie District Swimming Championship for 2017
- 51 students represent James Nash at Gympie District Carnival
- 4 Gympie District Swimming Age Champions
- 5 new Gympie District Swimming Records including 4 by Troy Carlson and 1 by Abby Schooth
- 6 Wide Bay Swimming Representatives
- Troy Carlson representing Qld at National Swimming Championships
- Troy Carlson National Swimming Champion

#### Cross Country

- GLANMIRE House Champion
- 36 students representing James Nash at Gympie District Trials
- 12 top 3 finishes at Gympie District Trials
- 7 Age Champions at Gympie District Trials
- 21 James Nash students selected in Gympie District Team
- 6 students selected in Wide Bay Cross Country Team

#### Winter Trials

- Tino Faasuamaleaui selected to Represent Qld Schoolboys in Rugby League
- 134 students representing James Nash at Gympie District Trials
- 81 James Nash students selected in Gympie District Teams
- 30 James Nash students selected in Wide Bay Teams (Rugby League, Rugby Union, AFL, Hockey, Golf)

#### Athletics

- PHOENIX House Champion
- Over 100 students represent James Nash at Gympie District Athletics Carnival
- James Nash won the Gympie District Athletics Championships for the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year
- James Nash was the Champion School at Wide Bay Regional Athletics Championships for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year

- 9 new records by James Nash students at Gympie District Athletics
- 46 students selected in Gympie District Team to contest Wide Bay Athletics Carnival
- 5 students receive Age Champion Awards at Gympie District Athletics Carnival
- 2 new records by James Nash students at Wide Bay Athletics
- 4 students receive Age Champion Awards at Wide Bay Athletics Carnival
- 16 students selected in Wide Bay Athletics Team

### Team Sports

- Open Boys Rugby Union Runners-up Sunshine Coast 2<sup>nd</sup> Division
- Junior Netball team won the Wide Bay South Vicki Wilson Netball Shield Competition
- Open Girls Hockey Runner-Up Wide Bay All Schools Hockey Championship
- Open Girls Hockey defeated Portsmouth Grammar UK touring team
- Under 13 Boys Rugby Union Runners-Up of Sunshine Coast 2<sup>nd</sup> Division
- Under 14 Girls Rugby Union Runners-up in Sunshine Coast
- Under 15 Rugby League finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Sunshine Coast Rugby League 9's Competition
- Eight students (Two teams of four) participated in the Wide Bay Region Chess Championships
- James Nash took out 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> individual placings at Wide Bay Region Chess Championship
- James Nash Knights won the Wide Bay Region Chess Championship to qualify for state finals.

Events calendar created to assist with organisation in support of students, parents and staff which includes the following unbelievable range of opportunities for students:-

- |                             |                  |                    |
|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| ➤ Swimming                  | ➤ Touch Football | ➤ Equestrian       |
| ➤ Athletics                 | ➤ Volleyball     | ➤ Triathlon        |
| ➤ Cross Country             | ➤ Netball        | ➤ Golf             |
| ➤ Rugby Union               | ➤ Basketball     | ➤ Ten Pin Bowling  |
| ➤ Futsal                    | ➤ Tennis         | ➤ Fitness Training |
| ➤ Rugby League              | ➤ Squash         |                    |
| ➤ Australian Rules Football | ➤ Hockey         |                    |
|                             | ➤ Cricket        |                    |

## School Annual Review

I will present a review of the outcomes and future directions for the school in the Key Planning Areas of Leadership, Curriculum, Effective Teaching and Learning, Information and Communication Technologies, Facilities and Student Services. It is through a clearly articulated strategic planning framework that we co-ordinate the raft of developments and projects that allows James Nash State High School to not only operate at the highest level but also to set directions for the future.

### Leadership Planning

The leadership of James Nash is a collaboration between administration, staff, students and parents. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Deputy Principals, Mr Mark Swan, Ms Bessie Nilon, Ms Shelley Gauld, Mr Josh Cleary, and our Business Services Manager, Mrs Debra Paige for their continued support and inspired leadership across the school. Amongst our very talented staff we have leaders in all aspects of schooling but it is in the classroom where the real business of learning occurs. I would like to publicly acknowledge their fantastic work in leading the core business of our school and that is to inspire learning.

I would also like to acknowledge the leadership of our School Captains, Keely Powell, Isabella Menzies, Declan Nicol and Quinn Edwards and our Student Council Presidents, Georgia Groves and Angel Weber. These fantastic young men and women have taken their role in supporting the

leadership of James Nash very seriously and should be congratulated on their achievements and representation of the school. We have met weekly throughout the year to ensure that the student voice could be heard and also to allow me to utilise their thinking as a sounding board for our future planning.

I see my role as leading a school that assists parents with the education of their own children. As such, I value very highly the work of our key parent groups across James Nash and the support and direction they give to me as Principal. I would like to particularly recognise our 2017 School Council including; Chairman-Mr Rod Jenkins and fellow School Council members Jonathan Cross, Nicole Turner, Eric Sprott, Professor Greg Hill and Amelia Parker; our Parents and Citizens Association including; President-Mr Jonathan Cross and his Executive team along with the Ladies Auxiliary including; President-Ms Melinda Yarrow and her Executive team for their leadership and support. These tireless supporters carry the burden of parental representation at an enormous number of occasions and meetings where we seek parental input and guidance. In 2017 these groups have undertaken to lead some significant change in the school. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the critical support offered in assisting with the strategic direction setting for the school. It is important to also recognise the incredible funds (\$40 000) raised through the operation of our Tuckshop and Uniform Shop and then donated to the school to support innovative programs directly affecting student learning.

The leadership of a school is a collaborative exercise and I wish to acknowledge the support I have received from staff, students, parents and our broader community, throughout 2017, to help us achieve some of the fantastic results we celebrate at this year's Awards Night.

### **Effective Teaching and Learning Plan**

In 2017, the major teaching and learning initiative involved a continuation of processes to adopt Explicit Direct Instruction as our signature teaching technique in the Junior School. Explicit Direct Instruction is a particular framework for highly effective teacher-directed learning processes, eminently suited to knowledge acquisition in the Junior School. Our School-Wide Pedagogical Framework has been enhanced to include the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills which underpin the New Queensland Certificate of Education. The acquisition of high level digital pedagogy skills for our staff has been a continued focus for 2017 with awarding of many more Digital Pedagogical Licences to our teachers. A Digital Pedagogical Licence is a well-respected state certification of skills in manipulating digital media and systems toward creation of effective 'anytime, anywhere' learning environments. Licence holders now cover all faculties across the school.

Another key priority in 2017 was the continued development of Professional Learning Teams. All staff have participated in Professional Learning Teams which meet on alternative fortnights to the Reference groups to explore these dimensions of professional knowledge. Fundamentally, this program is designed to give opportunity for professional teachers to engage in meaningful investigation and professional discourse regarding pedagogical issues. This will give shape and purpose to our school's consideration of key pedagogical issues and challenges underpinning our future work across a broad range of areas.

We also saw further development of our supervisor coaching and feedback to teaching staff under the Education Department's Developing Performance Framework. In this regard, all teaching staff at the school completed a comprehensive program of teaching performance development, which has strongly embedded feedback systems, involving both peers and supervisors. I commend the staff for their commitment to this practice and acknowledge the excellent teaching actions that I observed in my engagement with the process. James Nash High remains at the forefront of professional action in regard to teacher development and aligned action towards our goal of being a hub of educational excellence for all learners.

### **Student Services Plan**

James Nash was the winner of the 2017 Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year award. This year's focus has been on 'developing respectful relationships'.

We pride ourselves on having a Safe, Calm and Disciplined learning environment for all students. This year has once again seen a continuation of a very positive cultural change across the school that was evident in the outstanding Parental School Opinion Survey data. The concept of a shared responsibility for James Nash being a Safe, Calm and Disciplined school is evident whenever you walk around the school.

Junior Secondary has become an integral part of our 'Hub of Educational Excellence for all Learners'. The school has taken enormous pride in being a part of the many community events that make up the fabric of our town. Events ranging from the Gold Rush Parade, Gympie Show, Eisteddfods, Technology Challenges, Anzac Day Ceremonies, Arts and Cultural Exhibitions, to list just a few, have had a common theme for our school and that is to ensure that the Gympie Community knows that the youth of our school are active and vibrant citizens willing to give back to their community.

## **Curriculum Plan**

With 2017 being the third cohort of Year 7s into secondary school, the curriculum planning continues to focus on ensuring a seamless curriculum exists from Year 7 through to Year 12 at James Nash. We have ensured that all planning is aligned with the National Curriculum. Along with the National Curriculum, our Year 7 and Year 9 students again sat the National Assessment Program in Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). I could not have been more happy with the performance. Our students in both Year 7 & 9 are achieving above the national average for meeting National Minimum Standard in Numeracy with 99.5% of students in both cohorts reaching and exceeding the national minimum standard for numeracy. Other highlights in year 7 were with our Reading data, where 29% of our Year 7s are in the Upper 2 Bands. Similarly, 35% of our Year 7s are in the Upper 2 Bands for Spelling and 28% for Numeracy. Meanwhile our year 22% of our year 9 cohort scored in the Upper 2 Bands for Spelling and 20% for Numeracy. It is clear that the hard work from our Success Team and our teachers is paying off and our students are reaping the rewards of having dedicated Literacy and Numeracy lessons.

With the new Senior Assessment and Tertiary Entrance (SATE) process being rolled out in 2019, teachers have been involved in the consultation process with the design of the new syllabuses, trials for external assessment and professional development around the pedagogy, delivery and assessment for the new syllabuses. Our current Year 9 students will be the first group through under the new system. To help prepare our students and staff for SATE, this semester we have commenced trialling blind exams, where the exam is set by a teacher not currently teaching the Year 9 classes and students sit these exams under senior examination conditions. Students currently in Years 10 to 12 continue under the present system with OP and current senior syllabuses.

Parents across the school can expect to receive three Report Cards each year communicating your child's progress in their studies, and our Year 7 and Year 9 parents should have received NAPLAN reporting information.

Our curriculum has continued to be extended for our high performing students through our differentiated curriculum and our partnerships with the University of the Sunshine Coast and East Coast TAFE.

With our Excellence Programs in Creative Writing, Mathematics/Science, Engineering and English Extension (Literature) continuing to gain students' university recognition, add to this the success of

our Vocational students at School and in Industry, I am confident that our goal of being a hub of educational excellence for all learners is being achieved.

## **Facilities Plan**

James Nash now has some of the most modern and sophisticated teaching spaces available in secondary schools. In 2017, through our leadership of the wider educational community, there has been a monumental increase in secondary and tertiary schooling options available in Gympie. Our Gympie Trade Training Centre continues to support and train student cohorts providing pathways to trade areas that are experiencing skill shortages across Australia. Our continued liaison with the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) Campus in Gympie will ensure many more young people are able to stay and live in our community whilst they pursue further education.

We enjoy continued success by collaborating closely with students, parents and primary schools to ensure an exciting transition for Primary School students into High School and supported with high quality standards of teaching and learning.

2017 has seen another massive investment in the maintenance of the school with the removal of paved areas replaced by concrete and new garden retaining walls as well as buildings repainted internally and flooring replaced. This year has seen our fire hydrants upgraded to ensure that our school is a safe environment for our students and most recently a new sign has been established out the front of the school that will give important messages to our school community. Also, our front foyer has been upgraded, with further plans underway to improve access to our Administration Office for all visitors. These projects are important for the long term condition of our facilities and gives the school a refreshed and welcoming character.

The hard work put in by our grounds staff, to improve the appearance of our gardens and surroundings, ensures we are providing an environment that inspires learning and allows modern, technologically rich teaching and learning to be occurring. I would like to acknowledge my Facilities Officers, Cleaning Staff and volunteer workers for their efforts to make James Nash a clean, vibrant place to learn.

## **Information and Communication Technology Plan**

Traditional learning opportunities continue to be enhanced at James Nash through access to digital content and activities. The wide-spread access to laptop resources for senior students has seen learning in 2017 extend beyond the classroom both in terms of physical location and time parameters. The partnering of mobile devices, EQ funded 3G connectivity and the creation of online classroom environments by most faculties, has enabled our school to capitalise on global information and resources to transform the learning of our students.

In 2017 James Nash's "Bring your Own" device model in the senior school was consolidated with 425 students taking up the opportunity to BYOd. Our ICT Team have utilised the success of the last three and a half years of planning and implementation of BYOd in the senior school to begin the process of implementing BYOd in the junior school from the start of 2019.

At this point in time, over 1000 computers are managed on a daily basis at James Nash with additional BYOd devices as mentioned above. The capacity of our staff, both technical and teaching, to fully maintain and utilise these resources continues to increase due to professional development undertaken at school. 2017 has seen all faculties actively engaged in professional learning around digital pedagogies to developing staff capability to deliver quality teaching and learning in a contemporary learning environment.

## **Workforce Plan**

Working with school faculties, the Workforce Plan committee has supported creative progress within the curriculum, through cutting edge professional development opportunities and the provision of digital tools for students and teachers. This has seen the inclusion of Green Screen Technology for BDT Departments, a professional level recording system for the Music department, Technical Professional Cooking for Home Economics Teachers and a Resident Artist for Arts Department teachers.

Another focus this year has been Staff Welfare, the committee has continued to provide regular functions for staff in a relaxed environment which aims to build strength, resilience and develop a positive staff culture. This year the committee has also reviewed the staffrooms in all buildings and developed a list of what all staffrooms need to support the growing teaching staff.

The committee has reviewed some areas of focus and decided that in 2017 the committee will continue to support innovative pedagogical practices and work towards developing staff welfare and culture more effectively. A yearly plan for staff activities will be developed in term 4 2017 with dates for the entire year of 2018.

## **Conclusion**

I have, through this report, only provided a snapshot of the activities of our school and I hope you now understand why I do take such pride in leading our school. I have more detailed reviews of all areas of operation of the school available for your perusal if you want to learn more about what makes James Nash State High School a GREAT SCHOOL.

For those of you who have read through my report, would you please email me on [the.principal@jamesnashshs.eq.edu.au](mailto:the.principal@jamesnashshs.eq.edu.au) to provide me with any feedback on this Principal's Report.

Cheryl Greinke



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