



15 December 2020

“Be the Hands, Heart and Voice of Jesus”

School Theme 2020

Our Commitment to Child Safety:

“At St Paul the Apostle Catholic Primary School we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our school. Our commitment is drawn from and inherent in the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the gospel.”

WE SAY FAREWELL TO THIS UNPRECEDENTED SCHOOL YEAR A year of building resilience & hope.

Dear Parents and Families,

Please take a well-deserved bow and our thanks for the integral role you played in supporting your children’s learning designed by our teachers and staff and building on our Family - School partnership.

As we conclude our sixth and just as fulfilling year as a contemporary Catholic primary school within our vibrant parish of Christ the Light, I’d like to acknowledge all who have contributed to growing our rich school story throughout 2020.

Continuing on from our previous years, the 2020 school year commenced with much hope and promise only to be interrupted by the global pandemic. Despite COVID and in a true sense of Family - School partnership, we supported our children and joined together to provide our children and community with a number of memorable and innovative learning experiences and countless opportunities to grow and shine during remote learning and onsite learning.

A year of ...

I can re-assure families that your children transitioned smoothly back into on site learning and are a testament to you and to our unique learning culture by demonstrating their resilience and focus throughout this term in particular. Unfortunately parents and families missed out on witnessing their young learners’ remarkable and inspirational journey by being prevented from entering their learning areas throughout 2020 which left parents wondering.

I can only wonder what might have been if we had experienced a COVID free school year.

2020 in particular has also been dominated in the social media by “Trumpism” where if you say something long enough and loud enough and present it as fact, it must be true, despite evidence to the contrary.

This was reflected in a recent report which states that over half of the Australians surveyed are concerned about the impact of “Fake News” and “disinformation”. Unfortunately some at SPA Doreen have been the unlucky recipients of some of this misinformation and have been puzzled by the mixed messages.

Why Some Families Are Leaving

COVID took the world by surprise and challenged our sense of security and even self-worth, forcing people to re-evaluate their lives and SPA Doreen was caught up in the uncertainty like the rest of the world.

1. As parents in our school community may be aware, families have left our SPA community during COVID, especially during lockdown or will commence at other schools in 2021. During that time it's important to note that we have enrolled twenty new students throughout the 2020 school year.
2. However we will commence with our three Prep classes once again in 2021 which reinforces the fact that we are still bottom heavy with the majority of our children learning happily in Years Prep to Four in 2021.
3. On speaking with a number of my colleagues who are principals of Catholic Schools in our North Central and North Eastern Zones, this appears to be a similar pattern in their Catholic schools where they have lost a number of families during COVID only to enroll others throughout the year.
4. At the start of COVID, the way businesses worked were forced to change and a number of parents were forced to work remotely from home for the remainder of the year, removing the convenience of dropping off or picking up their children on their way to and from work. It was inevitable, practical and understandable, that these families would decide to enroll at their local school with a number living in and around our sister school in St Mary's Whittlesea,
5. Five families seized the opportunity to sell their homes with a 28 day settlement period before the lock-down which enabled them to relocate to COVID-free Queensland during second term.
6. Other families sold up or will relocate closer to their families, or for life-style, for health, for upsizing or to take-up new work opportunities, in places such as Kilmore, Whittlesea, Plenty, Bundoora, Greensborough, Mill Park, Epping, Mt Waverly, Lakes Entrance, Finley NSW and a for family trip around Australia. Have you noticed the number of houses on the market in this area?
7. Unfortunately in these uncertain COVID times, some families have also experienced family upheaval and crisis, loss and grief or serious health issues requiring them to move homes and we send our best wishes to them.
8. Like many in our society, others were impacted by financial hardships with the loss of income or security and families have had to make a decision as to whether they could still afford a Catholic education when battling to keep afloat in this crisis within this heavy mortgage belt area.
9. Others, many of whom were foundation families or have their children in the Middle Year Level remain frustrated with the slow rate of progress of the development of our facilities (impacted by COVID) for their children and have decided to move to much larger better resourced schools. Unfortunately Catholic schools are subjected to a different capital funding model and can apply only once each stage has been completed. We cannot compete with new Government State schools who receive a total funding package to complete their new school in their first year.
10. Parents have also needed to make the tough decision based on their child's educational, friendship circle or social needs which I respect.

I remain confident that their children will cope in their initial transition into a different way of teaching and learning in a much larger school setting as they continue their learning journey.

I thank these families for their support throughout the years and wish them every success for their child's educational journey in the years ahead.

Stage Two A Capital Funding Confirmation

Following on from Danielle Green's recent media announcement of our success in securing a Smarty grant I am now permitted to state that we have received correspondence confirming our Victorian Government Capital Funding capital works project to commence in 2021.

This funding will enable us to commence the construction of a multi-purpose STEAM presentation facility, a new Senior Level Learning space incorporating classrooms and extension to our Admin spaces.

"I refer to the letter from the Hon James Merlino, Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, sent via email in October 2020, approving funding assistance to enable your school to undertake the following capital project" **Megan Ioannou Company Secretary Catholic Capital Grants (Vic) LTD.**

To keep within the ambience and flow of our uniquely designed learning spaces, we have once again engaged the services of Owen West principal architect from **Hayball Architects** who have designed our previous two stages.

PLANNED FOR 2021

A number of exciting initiatives have been planned for 2021 (COVID dependent) to support the children to showcase their learning, build up their resilience and be advocates for student voice. These include:

Our **"SPATACULAR" Showcase of Learning** at Lower Plenty August 2021

Our Middle and Senior Level **School Camps at Phillip Island**

Our Junior Level **Camping Day at Amberley** in Lower Plenty

Our School **Swimming Program**

Our **Excursion and Incursion program**

Our **School Choir**

Senior Level's participation in the **National Young Leader's Day**

After a lengthy delay, works have been proceeding over the past three weeks, ensuring that the **Synthetic basketball/netball courts** with a **dual running track** will be ready for our children to use on day one of Term One 2021

Marymede Doreen Campus Update

Preliminary works should commence for the **Marymede Doreen campus**, which is still planned to open in 2024 (once formal agreement and funding have been acquired) as well as planning for the **Marymede Pre-school campus**. Throughout 2020 I have been working closely with Michael Kenny (Principal) and his team from Marymede College, CEM, the Archdiocese of Melbourne and Y2 Architecture on many occasions as they continue to develop their Masterplan and incorporated aspects of our Masterplan for the provision of shared sports and recreation facilities.

Semester Two Reports

The content of our December Report is based on the observations, records and assessment data collated by our teachers throughout the semester. However, throughout this second semester, remote learning impacted on the lives of our young learners and their families. While a number of children showed great resilience and engagement, others found it difficult to engage in the learning on a regular basis or to submit their learning tasks.

Three months on, these learning samples were used alongside other data gathered by the teachers to assist teachers in their judgement when reporting a child's progress and growth throughout Terms Three and Four. Some areas were not reported on and other children were noted as "Building" as there was not enough evidence available at the time to support their growth. Therefore, this does not necessarily mean that the child may have slipped in a particular key learning area this Semester however next year's teacher will carefully monitor each child closely as they transition into their new classes.

We thank the teachers for their diligence and commitment to knowing and developing each individual child in their care.

Class Lists & Orientation Session

A great deal of time, consideration and collaboration is given to the creation of a new class list, which is carefully balanced and fine-tuned to ensure that the children (with their own input) are matched not only with a friend or a learning buddy but also with a particular teacher/LSO as required.

Yesterday's 2021 Orientation Session enabled the children (including a number of new children to our school) to spend time getting to know their new classmates, teachers and Year Level to alleviate any unnecessary anxiety over the school holidays. Once again I commend the teachers and leaders on their astute professional judgement in grouping the children.

Four 2021 Prep Orientation Sessions – So Rewarding

Earlier this term and coinciding with the easing of COVID Restrictions allowing up to 10 people to enter our school site, we arranged three Orientation Sessions in groups of up to five pre-schoolers while their parents learnt more about school life in a separate room. The children relished the opportunity to visit their school.

As COVID restrictions eased further, we allowed up to ten pre-schooler per session and then introduced a fourth Prep Orientation Session allowing the children and their teachers to gather in their 2021 Prep classes. We look forward to welcoming these enthusiastic children and their families (including a number of current SPA families) into our school community.

Farewell to our Year Six Graduates



After living through a COVID interrupted school year and five months of remote schooling, our Year Six children relished the opportunity to celebrate their time at SPA Doreen last Thursday night, supported by their families, staff, Fr Martin and Fr Shymon and some of their Year Five classmates.

Our impressive young graduates reflected on their rich educational journey here at SPA providing us with their insights gained, their thoughts about leadership and also shared their recollections and hopes and dreams with those lucky enough to be present during a special prayer liturgy.

I congratulate our aspiring young leaders, thank them for helping to enrich our learning culture and wish them much success and fulfilment in the years ahead.

Well done to our Inaugural School Captains

Building on the outstanding leaders and role models throughout the previous five years, we decided to formalise the student leadership structures this year with the election of four school captains from Year Six as voted by their Year Five and Six peers with input from the staff.

Despite the limitations of lockdown, these school captains **Zara Capp, Isabelle Becker, Jacob Funston and Billy James** (who relocated to Queensland during COVID) were outstanding and articulate role models and remained very visible throughout the year. I congratulate and thank them for their passion and inclusivity and acknowledge the enormous efforts of our other school leaders and their teams throughout 2020.



Congrats to Billy James on his Academic Excellence Award



As mentioned, Billy James who was enrolled as a Year One child when our doors opened in February 2015, left us five and a half years later as an inspirational young leader and deep thinker.

Therefore we were delighted when Bernadette James, Billy's mum and former dynamic member of our staff informed us that after only two terms at the college, **Billy received the Academic Excellence Award at his Graduation ceremony from 150 graduates** which is quite an achievement. Billy was also accepted into the 2021 Academic Excellence Class for Year Seven. Well done Billy.

Feedback from Secondary Colleges & CEM

While we take great pride in Billy's achievement, it's equally pleasing that the feedback we continue to receive from the secondary colleges is that children enrolled from SPA Doreen stand out as confident engaged learners. Our children are recognised for their lateral thinking, high level communication and social skills, their ability to problem solve and to think outside the square and their willingness to collaborate with their peers and staff. This future proofs them as they live in this ever changing world.

Our children and staff continue to be highly regarded by key leaders within the CEM, which was highlighted when we were selected to broadcast on Live FM hosted by Ralph Barber to celebrate Catholic Education. Our children also featured in the CEM STEM MAD (Making A Difference) Showcase.

As life-long learners, our staff continued to be invited into a variety of committees or Research projects including our continuing membership in LEAC (Languages Education Action Committee) and a personal invitation to participate in Harvard Graduate School of Education Project Zero Summer School and the Learner Agency PL modules and also accepted into Mathematics in the Future PL modules facilitated through the Ed Partnerships Team.

Our Children Raised \$2173.60 Social Outreach Project

After living through a COVID interrupted school year families displayed their generosity of spirit and sense of social outreach when they raised \$2173.60 this year.

I acknowledge our School Captains, our Year Six School Leaders and in particular Gabby Mardisich and Melanie Portelli (our Social Outreach/Liturgy Leaders) and Isabelle Becker who led this initiative supported by the Senior Year Level.

The Zooper Dooper sales raised a "cool mouth-watering" **\$1656.90** which will support the Cookhouses 'n Tanks a Lot project in The PNG and our local St Vinnie's branch during this Christmas Season. Well done everyone on supporting others in need.



Farewell to Two of our Wonderful SPA Staff

As with any place of employment, we recognize staff who are leaving us at the end of each school year. With a **current staff of 45 dynamic educators**, we sincerely thank two members of our staff who will be leaving us this year and acknowledge their valuable contributions to our school community.

We farewell **Tanya Beaumont**, one of our talented teachers in the Middle Level Team who has accepted a teaching position on the staff of St Peter's Primary School Epping for 2021. During her time with us, Tanya has shared her passion for teaching as a Science specialist teacher and teaching our children in our Junior, Senior and Middle Year levels in 2017 - 2020. I sincerely thank Tanya for her tireless efforts and energy in nurturing our school culture and helping our young learners to dig deeper in their thinking. We wish Tanya every success in her future teaching vocation.

We also farewell **Kara Germano**, another one of our talented teachers from the Middle Level Team who has accepted a teaching position on the staff of St Francis Xavier Primary School Montmorency for 2021. I thank Kara for her passion and energy in inspiring our young learners to embrace the unlimited possibilities placed before them as a classroom teacher over the past in 2019 and 2020. We wish Kara every success in her future teaching vocation.

Welcome Amy and Paola & Welcome back Laura Watts

We are delighted to welcome **Amy Williams** a new member of our teaching staff and **Paola Bortone** as a Learning Support Officer. We are also delighted to welcome back **Laura Watts** who will return from Family Leave as a classroom teacher in the Middle Year Level, teaming up with **Adam Valeri**, our PE teacher. Each of these educators bring their own unique talents and a shared vision for student wellbeing and improving student learning outcomes.

Amy Williams is an experienced teacher from St Anthony's Primary School in Alphington and will join our staff as a classroom teacher in the Senior Year Level, teaming up with **Louise Sims** who returned from Family Leave this term. Amy also has much expertise and passion in Digital Technologies and Maths and has held a variety of leadership positions to reflect the esteem in which she is held.

We welcome **Paola Bortone** a Learning Support Officer from St Peter's Primary School Epping with a background in IT who brings a wealth of experience in supporting the children's learning and working collaboratively with the classroom teachers. Paola will also support the staff and children as an Italian Language Assistant in 2021.

We wish our new staff members and our returning staff every success and fulfilment as they embark on the next stage of their educational journey.

New Governance Structure for Catholic Schools - MACS

As a result of intensive consultation with Parish priests and principals, a new Governing body MACS has been created to govern Catholic schools across Melbourne. MACS, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools will officially commence on 1 January 2021 and for families it will be business as usual. A significant change is that Parish Priests will no longer be the employers of staff in our Catholic schools and MACS, under the delegated authority of Archbishop Peter Comensoli will become the new employer.

Schools will still enjoy the collaboration, advice, leadership and support from our parish priests, so vital as we promote and enact the teachings and life of Jesus through our sacramental journey.

Thank you to our SPARKLE Parents Team

I would certainly like to acknowledge the tireless efforts of all SPA parents and in particular the members of our **SPARKLE Parents Team** who shared their dreams and energies during a COVID interrupted 2020 school year. They have continued to be a dedicated group of parents and I thank them for their efforts.

Of course it goes without saying that each year we would normally acknowledge the support of our families who are usually very visible in their support of a number of school initiatives such as: our school and parish masses, sacramental programs, excursions, special events, the Book Fair, Fathers' and Mothers' Day, Twilight Sports, our Swimming Program, Working Bees, maintenance, landscaping, fundraising efforts, our Feast Day, Fun Fields, School Disco, school uniform shop and school banking to name just a few.

Unfortunately COVID prevented parents and families from being fully involved throughout 2020. We look forward to resuming our Family School partnership in 2021.

We were indeed fortunate that we were able to celebrate our **inaugural COLOUR FUN RUN** earlier in the year before COVID shut us down which turned out to be an outstanding success, thanks to the combined efforts of our SPARKLE Parents Team members with **Kate Solyom and Cindy Mash** who enthusiastically drove this well supported event with a group of volunteer parents on the day. A date has already been booked for 2021 so please stay tuned for the date.

Thankyou one and all and in particular I wish to acknowledge the tireless leadership of **Belinda Galloway** as Chairperson in 2019 and 2020 who helped the SPARKLE Parents Team to foster our school community as well as fundraise to help facilitate improvements across the school, **Taigen Hornsby** our Vice Chairperson, **Carly Ross** our Secretary, **Bec Porteous** our Treasurer, **Kate Solyom, Cindy Mash & Karina Beattie** – Fundraising, **Emma Wills & Donna Gratton** – Uniform Shop Coordinators and **Jeremy Oakey** as our Maintenance Coordinator.

New SPA School Advisory Council and a SPA Events Team for 2021

Under the new MACS, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Constitution, and aligning with the “**Working Together in Mission**” charter, family schools partnerships remain pivotal and therefore we will need to establish a **SPA School Advisory Council** in 2021.

We would also like to introduce a **SPA Events team** to coordinate the special school events and social, fundraising, community building and maintenance throughout each school year. Families will have the opportunity to join these teams once the guidelines from MACS have been emailed in the new year.

Thank you to our Administration Team

My special gratitude is extended to our SPA Administration Team – the friendly faces in the office: **Kerrie Densley** in her key role as our secretary/bursar and office manager who we welcomed back this term after her major surgery in May of this year; **Jacqui Picone** our school’s admin officer and **Maree Power** who works very closely with Kerrie and Jacqui as a secretary/bursar. I sincerely thank them for their generosity of welcome and generosity of spirit each and every day. They have ensured the smooth operations of the school and have certainly helped to attract new enrolments as they have contributed to nurturing our very welcoming and inclusive culture.

Thank you to our Inspirational Teachers

“Children Grow into the Intellectual life of those around them. Vygotsky 1978”

As with any school, the children need the love, care, dedication and support of their teachers and staff. I would like to publicly recognise the professionalism of such a fine group of staff members who continued to support families in helping to inspire their children as young learners.

As passionate educators, modelling life-long learners, our staff have been uncompromising in their determination to embed a culture of thinking here at SPA by working collaboratively and passionately within a multi-age setting.

I’d like to acknowledge the contributions of our teachers, our Learning Support Officers and our specialist teachers, **Elly Pagonis** – Performing Arts/Choir, **Laura Vissaritis** – Science and **Anna O’Grady** and **Adam Valeri** – Phys Ed and thank them and our Year Level Team Leaders, **Ivana DeSilva** (Senior Level), **Adriana Bownds** (Middle Level), **Nadia Montemurro** (Junior Level), and **Geraldine Crowe and Danielle Di Stefano** (Prep Level), for their outstanding contributions and leadership throughout this tumultuous COVID impacted school year.

While managing their own health and wellbeing, our staff demonstrated their own resilience (when most of Victoria remained in lockdown) by reinventing themselves and fast tracking their own learning and skills enabling them to and provide our children and families with a sense of hope and new way of teaching and learning allowing for student engagement during **Remote Schooling 1 & 2**.

The staff, children our school community and I were well supported by the wisdom and reassurance provided by our **COVID Leadership Think-Tank Team** which included **Frank Fabri** (Deputy Principal/Digital Technologies Leader), **Helen Timmons** (Learning and Teaching Leader and Literacy Leader), **Jenny McCormack** (School Counsellor) and **Geraldine Crowe** (Student Wellbeing Leader and Learning Diversity Leader).

The Leadership Think-Tank Team was capably supported by our School Leadership Team including **Adriana Bownds** (Religious Education Leader) **Ivana DeSilva** (Maths Leader), **Nadia Montemurro** (Language Leader), **Maree McMahon** (LSO Leader) and **Kerrie Densley** (Office Manager)

It goes without saying that our staff have worked tirelessly and passionately to provide our children with a comprehensive and challenging contemporary learning curriculum throughout another school year. Our staff continue to be visible role models for our beautiful children and I thank them for their inspiration and drive. I wish them a restful and peaceful Christmas season and a well-deserved holiday break.

A Special Thank you

I'd personally also like to acknowledge and thank **Frank Fabri, Helen Timmons, Jenny McCormack, Geraldine Crowe and Adriana Bownds** for their wisdom, advice and expertise in helping to lead our contemporary learning community during these unprecedented times.

As well as his role as Deputy Principal, Frank was instrumental in leading our digital technologies, communications and IT infrastructure, so important as we continually revamped our provision of remote learning which also saw the introduction of communication tools such as **SeeSaw** and the **Flexi-schools app** as well as trouble shooting and supporting **Helen Timmons** in leading professional learning for our staff. **Jenny, Geraldine and Adriana** ensured that we catered for the wellbeing of our staff, children and families through those difficult times confronting us.

Their tireless efforts, support and wise counsel throughout this very challenging and different school year has been invaluable and very much appreciated by me personally.

New "School Stream" Communication App for 2021

In preparation for 2021, we would like to introduce a new school app for our ongoing communications. The App is called **School Stream** and you would have received an invitational email to download the app.

For those who didn't receive an Invitational Email from School Stream please follow the link below
[School Stream - our new School Communications App](https://www.schoolstream.com.au/download/?profile=St+Paul+the+Apostle+Doreen&profile-url=https%3A%2F%2Fstpaultheapostledoreen.myschoolstream.net)
<https://www.schoolstream.com.au/download/?profile=St+Paul+the+Apostle+Doreen&profile-url=https%3A%2F%2Fstpaultheapostledoreen.myschoolstream.net>

Please note that we will continue to use Flexi Schools and our School Website in the short term to duplicate our messages. Warm regards, Frank Fabri

Term One 2021 Starting Times

Wed 27 Jan	Staff Resume – Professional Learning Day – No School
Thurs 28 Jan	Staff Professional Learning Day - No School
Fri 29 Jan	Students (Years One-Six) Commence: 8.55am – 3.25pm
Mon 1 Feb	All Preps Commence 8.55am – 1.30pm
Tues 2 Feb	Preps Fulltime 8.55am – 3.25pm
Thurs 1 April	Term One Concludes at 1.30pm

School Fees

Thank you to the many families who, despite the financial strain of family resources have finalised the payment of their School Fees and Levies, as a requirement of your child's enrolment or have approached the school to seek alternative arrangements given the circumstances of 2020. If your account has at yet to be finalised, please contact Kerrie Densley to make arrangements for 2020 and beyond.

Thank you and Merry Christmas

Our thanks are extended to **Fr Martin Ashe** our Parish Priest who has continued to be a wonderful support for our school and Christ the Light parish community throughout 2020. Fr Martin's invitational and inclusive leadership and his very visible presence in nurturing our parish community has enabled our parish to grow together, living out the gospel messages.

I extend my gratitude to **Rev Shymon Thekkekalathungal** who will be **leaving us** after three valuable years as our Assistant Priest to become the new Parish Administrator of Westernport Catholic Parish which extends from Somerville in its northern end to Hastings and Shoreham in the South incorporating several Catholic primary and secondary schools. We wish Fr Shymon much fulfilment in his priestly vocation for the years ahead.

I'd also like to thank **Sandy Starbuck** our Parish Pastoral Associate and I express my thanks to the dedicated parish admin team, **Monique Heckmann** and our very own SPA mum **Margaret Stafford** for their efforts on our behalf.

I would like to acknowledge my fellow principals of our two sister schools, **Marita Richardson** (St Joseph's Mernda) and **Philip Smith** (St Mary's Whittlesea) who have worked in close partnership via our Leadership Team meetings and the parish sacramental programs to strengthen our parish links and our emerging culture.

May the spirit of Christmas as witnessed through the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ, continue to influence our lives...allowing us to take a few moments to stop, listen and to feel secure in the knowledge that we are loved by God. During this special season of Advent, we are also called to be that visible sign of God's love to others.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you next year as we celebrate another exciting school year full of much hope and inspired learning.

Merry Christmas



Phil Doherty (Principal)



Reflections by our School Captains for Graduation Night 2020.

Isabel:

My reflection starts at some of the many positive rewards you get when being School Captain. One of the positive rewards of being a student leader is the ability to help and guide others through tough times, which will help them to achieve a strong growth mindset.

One of the other rewards are the opportunities to have initiative within leadership teams and with all of the students. Next leads me to the qualities of a good leader that many of us have! I believe the qualities of a good student leader is to show passion towards what you're doing and always having a goal to work for.

If you don't have a goal in life, you won't achieve as much as you would like to. If you want to be a good leader then you need to put in 100% all the time with determination and effort.

I think anyone can be a good leader, if they put their mind to it. One of the things that we achieved as a team was getting the opportunities to create an educational program that encourages students to show Empathy, Resilience, Problem Solving and more!

I have changed as a person and as a learner here! I will be sure to carry my knowledge through high school and my life! These are my highlights of being a School Captain! Thank you!!!

Jacob:

My reflection is mostly about courage, persistence and effort. Those 3 traits that I have learned here at SPA have changed how I learn.

As a student leader my job is to be a role model that everyone can look up to and to help everyone be the best version of themselves. The things you gain from being a student leader are not related to status rather the experiences you get to have helping the people around you.

The reason I said this was about COURAGE, PERSISTENCE and EFFORT is that those are some of the most important qualities of a leader.

If you lacked courage you would never be able to go out there and become a great role model since you would never be able to head on up as a leader, for MANY reasons. Without persistence at the first sign of trouble you would collapse and there is a lot of persistence with being a student leader.

And lastly, by far the most important one, Effort. You need effort to be the best leader you can be. Effort is what makes an idea turn into reality. Effort is what changes the world. Without it nothing would be as good as it could be. As a learner these skills are important but even during everyday life these skills are vital.

When I first came here I was shy, and scared of everyone. But now, speaking here at Graduation, I am a confident and brave person ready to take on the world. I think that the skills I am going to take away from SPA are simple. Don't let anything seem too hard, if you put in enough effort and perseverance and courage, you can do anything! Thank you!!!

Zara:

As I have progressed as a learner, student and friend here at SPA, I have tried to continue working to the best of my ability for the benefit of myself and others.

One of many highlights I have experienced over the years at SPA would be the opportunity to become what I am today. A school leader. It has been an absolute privilege to lead my fellow peers in a positive way.

Some Insights I have gained as a learner are being able to guide myself independently through COVID, as well as work collaboratively, support my classmates and be open minded towards new experiences. This has helped me to realise that even when things get tough, a positive mindset will get the job done and accomplishments will be made along the way!

There are 2 important attributes that I will take away with me tonight. Resilience and problem solving. These will make me a better person by creating confidence within myself for the future.

As I stand here on this very special occasion, I would like to thank all of the teachers for providing me with knowledge that will help me throughout my life journey. I thank my Principals, friends, family and fellow Year Sixes for some of the best times, with the best memories that we have had together. Thank you!!!

Christmas Blessings
Wishing you
the Gladness of Christmas,
which is Hope,
the Spirit of Christmas,
which is Peace,
the Essence of Christmas,
which is Love.....

