

John Calvin School

Annual School Report



2023

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1. Introduction

This is the annual public report for John Calvin School Albany (JCSA). It summarises some of the key details of the school for the 2023 Academic year. The information is given as per requirements of the Australian Education Regulations 2013 Subdivision H Section 60. Further, it represents a measure of accountability in receipt of Commonwealth and State funding for children who require a sound education.

It is a privilege and pleasure to present this Annual School Report. This report serves to celebrate the joys of Reformed education. It also provides a record of the significant school events and developments of the school's operations in 2023.

When we consider the John Calvin School, our school, we can only marvel in thankfulness at how the Lord has richly blessed the school: a full complement of teachers and education assistants, students, a supportive community and all of the resources needed to operate the school.

JCSA is a K-10 school. We are registered to provide the curriculum as prescribed by the government, but thankfully we can do so from a Christian worldview. With that in mind, it is an inherent requirement that all staff share and practice the faith of the school community. In addition to the eight learning areas listed in the Australian Curriculum, the school has an additional Religious Studies learning area.

The school's 203 students enjoyed a safe and pleasant learning environment. God's providential care was evident in many ways, and clearly visible through the commitment of both staff and students.

At our annual closing assembly in December 2023, the school said good-bye to another group of graduates. During the graduation ceremony, words of thanks and appreciation were expressed. May the Lord continue to guide the learning pathways of each of these graduates.

This report tells the story of how the staff of the John Calvin School, together with the parents of the students, have worked together to optimally equip our covenant children for service to God and their neighbor.

I humbly submit this report to the School Committee and parents of the John Calvin School.

Mr. Andrew van der Heide
April 18 2024

2. School Context

Description:	A school of the Albany Free Reformed Church Education Association Incorporated. Established in 1962.
Gender Composition:	COED
Enrolment Group:	Primary School K-6 Secondary School Years 7-10
Affiliation:	Free Reformed Churches of Australia
Boarders:	No
Overseas students:	No
Address:	9 Beaufort Road Albany WA 6330 Australia
Phone:	08 98 41 3840
Principal:	Mr. Andrew van der Heide

The Bible

Our Reformed school is built on the foundation of the Bible, the Word of God, which is authoritative in all areas of life.

Vision Statement

The John Calvin School is a godly institution of learning for covenant children, to be educated for a life of love and service to God and their neighbour.

Explanation of Vision Statement

The mandate for the education provided at the John Calvin School is derived from the divine mandate given to parents to raise their children in the fear of the Lord.

Mission Statement

Our school extends high nurture to the children of the covenant: as God nurtures in the covenant, so the school is an institution where high nurture is first and foremost a platform from which to launch its teaching.

Our school provides expert teaching to children of the covenant: God extends teaching to His people, and He calls parents of His covenant children to teach them in the best manner possible.

Our school calls for a faithful response from children of the covenant: the covenant is about promise and obligation. Promises are fulfilled in nurture, teaching and discipline. Obligation embodies a call to love and to serve God and the neighbour.

Explanation of Mission Statement

The education at the John Calvin School must, as an integral part of the instruction of the covenant children and in subjection to the Word of God, help to optimally equip children for their service to God and to their neighbor.

John Calvin

The heritage of our school can be traced to the time of the Reformation, and it owes its name and emblem to a man used by God to lead the people back to Biblical truth, John Calvin (1509-1564), a man who sought to highlight the preeminence of God in all of life.

Curriculum Statement

The John Calvin School adheres to learning programs prescribed and outlined within the Australian Curriculum and defined by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority of Western Australia. It has as its primary cross curriculum priority the Word of God. The entire curriculum of the school is taught in obedience to the Holy Scriptures.

Curriculum development achieved through the Office of Reformed Education, as evidenced in Christian Values, Learning Area Outcomes and Overarching Learning Outcomes, serve to guide curriculum planning and discussions.

3. Staff

In 2023, the school enjoyed the teaching services of 23 registered and qualified teachers. These teachers were supported by the principal, deputy principal, education assistants, IT staff, receptionists, librarian, administrator, bursar and school cleaner. The FTE breakdown of school staff is as follows:

Area	Number	Total FTE
Teaching Staff	23	15.8
Education Assistants	12	7.8
Management	2	2.0
Reception/ICT/Library	5	2.2
Bursar/Administrator	2	1.3
Cleaner	1	(Contractor)
Male	13	10.7
Female	32	18.4
Aboriginal/Torres Straight Islander	0	0

Notes:

All teaching staff are registered with the Teachers Registration Board of Western Australia. All staff have a current Working with Children Check (WA).

4. Staff Goal

Our Reformed school is a godly place for our covenant children, which aims to educate them for a life of love and service to God and their neighbour. At our Reformed school we seek to extend high levels of nurture to the student body and provide expert teaching. With that in mind we do aim for excellence, and this is also our focus goal: Striving for Excellence. To that end, many of our professional learning activities are dedicated to helping achieve this goal.

In 2022 attention was on the AITSL Standards. In 2023 the focus shifted to further developing the teacher appraisal process. It is the plan that in 2024 attention will move to the third component of the focus goal - programing (specifically using the Transformation by Design model) - ensuring all lessons are taught from the perspective of a Christian Worldview.

5. Staff Qualifications

Qualification	Number of Teachers	%
Masters	2	9%
Bachelor	17	74%
Diploma	4	17%
Total number of teachers	23	100%

6. Staff Professional Learning

As part of their official teacher registration status (TRBWA), each year the staff at school engage in professional development. This professional development is frequently organised through the work of the Association of Independent School in Western Australia (AISWA) and Christian School Australia (CSA). Professional learning is linked to the AITSL standards (Australian Institute for Teachers and School Leaders). In 2023 a total of \$26,460 was spent on various professional learning programs.

As part of the professional learning program in 2023, all staff were required to complete a Certificate in Reformed Education. This was undertaken bearing in mind that it is an inherent requirement that all staff employed at the John Calvin School share and practice the faith of the wider school community. God willing, in 2024 the teaching staff will complete a Diploma of Reformed Education.

7. Staff Review

As part of the “Striving for Excellence” goal, in 2023 the appraisal process the teaching staff went through was very thorough. Initially, the teachers completed a self-appraisal. Following that there were various rounds of peer appraisals. To complete the process, teachers were also appraised by management.

In addition, classroom visits by parents and School Committee members served to ensure a good professional growth atmosphere at school.

Teachers and education assistants were encouraged to develop their strengths and address any perceived weaknesses. A positive attitude exists towards school improvement.

8. Student Attendance

The school enjoyed a very good student attendance rate, at 93.11%.

Attendance 2023



Non-attendance management:

The only acceptable reasons for absence are temporary physical or mental incapacity or any other reasonable cause such as religious or cultural practices. All other absences are recorded as non-approved absences.

Parents are requested to notify the school each day of a student’s absence via email or by calling the school. If no notification is received regarding an absence by 9:00am each day, administration is notified and then a phone call is made to the parent or carers to ascertain the location of the student.

9. Student Numbers

Student enrolment for 2023 stood at 203 students, 89 boys and 114 girls.

The year group divisions are as follows:

Class Summary 2023			
Class	Boys	Girls	Total
Kindergarten	6	6	12
Pre Primary	9	8	17
Year 1	9	9	18
Year 2	10	15	25
Year 3	3	2	5
Year 4	2	9	11
Year 5	8	5	13
Year 6	13	8	21
Year 7	10	12	22
Year 8	6	12	18
Year 9	7	14	21
Year 10	6	14	20
School Total			
	89	114	203

10. Student Learning Outcomes

In 2022 a new position was created at the school, namely the Learning Support Coordinator (LSC). This position was further developed in 2023. The LSC is responsible for overseeing programs that provide educational assistance to students with mental, psychological, learning and/or behavioral disabilities.

The LSC coordinates the Learning Assistance Teaching (LAT) as well as students requiring Documented Plans. The LSC is instrumental in driving the school forward to ensure inclusivity remains at the forefront of what happens at the John Calvin School.

The LAT program incorporates a number of additional assessment procedures, such as INCAs and Torch Test of Perception Skills.

Excellent results were again achieved in the regular testing program.

11. NAPLAN

The confidence in student learning outcomes at school is strong, with no students falling below the NAPLAN’s lower benchmark level. What follows are the year 3,5,7 and 9 2023 NAPLAN results.

Please note in 2023 NAPLAN testing moved from May to March and the NAPLAN scale was reset. This means you can't compare NAPLAN achievement prior to 2023 to that from 2023 onwards. You can access the 2014-2022 NAPLAN results by clicking the button under the 'Interpreting the table' legend.



NAPLAN results can be viewed online via www.myschool.edu.au . The school community was again invited to review the school’s NAPLAN results as posted via the www.myschool.edu.au website. Making effective use of NAPLAN results has created new learning opportunities for students needing extra support. In addition, attention is also directed to those students considered to be gifted or talented.

12. Student Reports

Student Reports were issued during the months of April, July and December. Parents were given the opportunity to meet with staff at arranged parent-teacher interviews, but in addition, whenever the need arose. The school remains very thankful for excellent parental support.

13. Curriculum Officer

Ensuring all Learning Areas are taught from a Christian worldview, in addition to all staff sharing and practicing the faith of the school’s church community, the school also employs a Curriculum Officer. The Curriculum Officer seeks to support the staff in implementing the State and Federal government’s curriculum, but from a Christian worldview.

14. National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Services

In 2023 the school's Student Support Services continued to operate through the work of the Student Support Officer.

15. Wellbeing Project

The school is part of a "Wellbeing and Mental Health in Schools" pilot project (2022-2024). The project is funded through the Australian Government Choice and Affordability Fund (CAF) to address the priority of student wellbeing and support. The coordinator of the project is the school's Student Support Officer.

The expected outcomes of the project are:

- Increased awareness in schools of evidenced-based best practice approaches and interventions to support student wellbeing and mental health, including the development of a whole-school Wellbeing Plan.
- Evidence-based wellbeing strategies to address student wellbeing and mental health.
- Increased capacity of school staff in implementing the explicit teaching of social and emotional skills utilising appropriate curricula.

16. Student Tracking – Graduates 2023



2023 Student Tracking – 19 Students Graduated Year 10 at JCSA

- 8 Students went to NASHS.
- 1 Student went to Denmark Agricultural College.
- 2 Students took on Apprenticeships.
- 5 Students to fulltime TAFE.
- 1 Student to repeat Year 10.
- 1 Student to full time work.
- 1 Student to a combination of work and online study.

17. Parent, Student and Staff Satisfaction

In 2023 a formal Parent Survey was conducted, in part, to gauge satisfaction levels.

The close relationship that exists between the school and the church community is something that we are very thankful for. Staff, parents and students are all encouraged to maintain high levels of communication with the school.

Through emails and newsletters, the staff, parents and students are frequently reminded of the various ways in which comments, suggestions or complaints can be shared.

18. School Governance

The school's governing body, the School Committee, held twelve meetings during the 2023 calendar year.

The composition of the School Committee in 2023 was as follows:

Chairman: Mr. Russell 't Hart
Vice-Chairman/Secretary: Mr. Andrew Van Burgel
Treasurer: Mr. John Witten
Property Manager: Mr. Jack de Vos
Future Needs: Mr. Drew Ryder
Building & Grounds Committee: Mr. Burke Roth
Safety Committee: Mr. Ryan 't Hart

19. School Finances

In 2023, the management of school finances continued to be the cooperative work of Mr. Charlie Brearley (Administrator), Mr. John Witten (School Committee Treasurer), Mrs. Gloria Terpstra (School Bursar) and School Staff (Principal & Deputy Principal).

Once again, the school was well resourced and enjoyed a generous revenue position.

The school's Income and Expense are highlighted as follows:

My School Finance Report

Full-Time equivalent enrolments relating to recurrent income and capital expenditure: 191.

Net Recurrent income 2023	Total	Per student
Australian Government recurrent funding	\$3,101,892	\$16,240
State / territory government recurring funding	\$515,806	\$2,701
Fees, charges, and parent contributions	\$519,788	\$2,721
Other private sources	\$215,930	\$1,131
Total gross income	\$4,353,417	\$22,793
Less deductions	\$46,034	\$241
Total net recurrent income	\$4,307,384	\$22,552
Capital expenditure		
Income allocated to current capital projects	\$46,034	\$241
Other	\$84,936	\$445
Total capital expenditure	\$130,969	\$686

20. Conclusion

I'd like to acknowledge the commitment of all those who contributed to making John Calvin School Albany a godly place for our covenant children in 2023. What a joy it was to work together at educating our students for a life of love and service to God and their neighbour.

The Board was diligent, the parental support was exemplary, and the staff showed consistent dedication. But above all, I'd like to thank God for the rich blessing and protection He provided.

We are also thankful to our government for its financial and educational support, at both state and federal levels.

It is my prayer that the Lord will continue to bless us all.

Mr. Andrew van der Heide (Principal)