



2012

Annual Report

St. Patrick's Parish School, Albury

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The School

St Patrick's Parish School is located in Central Albury. We currently have an enrolment of 526 students.

We have a very active School Council which assists in overseeing what goes on in our community. Our parents are always welcome to attend any school functions and to help out in classes when necessary.

At the beginning of 2012, we were devastated with the flooding of our new hall. This caused damage to the floor and therefore made the hall unavailable for sporting activities. Luckily, the Insurance Company has organised for the initial repairs to occur in order to prevent any further flooding. The floor will be fully replaced and will hopefully be back in action again for full use by 10th April 2013.

Catholic Identity

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"My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be sure that we are children of the truth. (1 John 3: 18-19).

The vision of St Patrick's School is to be a community which bears witness to Gospel values and celebrates our Faith traditions. It will be committed to the development of the whole child – a child who is principled. Each year the staff revisits the school's Vision and Mission statement to ensure that it is alive and active in the school.

Our Religious Education Program is taken from the Diocesan Syllabus "Sharing Our Story". Religious Education occurs on a daily basis at St Patrick's and Gospel values underpin all that happens within the school community. Each year the students in Year 2 are prepared to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, The Year 3 students are prepared to receive the Eucharist for the first time and the Year 6 students receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Each year Bishop Hanna visits classes during Parish visits. For a couple of years our Year 6 classes have been taking part in the Making Jesus Real "Way of Life" Program. This program is about seeing Jesus in your life and the life of others each day. This was such a great concept to us that we decided to put it throughout the school. With much help from Renai Delamontex from St Monica's in Wodonga, we were able to achieve this through our Let's Get Together groups. These groups

were formed with students from each year level making up the group members, with 2 Year 6 students leading the group. The groups met every 2 weeks for Terms 2 and 3. Jane Fawcett and Bronwyn Craig were the driving force at school level. I thank them for their drive and passion for this great program.

This year we welcome Father Joel and Father Henry to our school community. Father Joel has spent a lot of time building Parish and school connections. Many families have been involved in the Parish meals with Father Joel. Both Father Joel and Father Henry are involved in Sacramental preparation. Prayer occurs regularly throughout the day and students attend and participate in regular school Masses and Reconciliation. Parents, family members and parishioners are always welcome at school liturgies.

As part of our commitment to raising funds for the missions, the school community led by the Student Council and Mrs Fawcett, conducted a number of activities throughout the year. These included dress up days, money lines, fun activities days etc. The total raised was distributed between Caritas, Catholic Missions, and the Children first foundation. The total raised was \$7285.

2012 was the first year that we have had a St Patrick's chapter of Minnie Vinnies. This group of Year 6 students met regularly to work on a project for each term. This not only involved raising money (\$573.00), but also the collection of clothes and goods for the Winter Appeal conducted by the St Vincent de Paul Society. A big thank you to Roy Thompson and Anne Maree Rixon for convening this.

Once again our school provided support to the Children First Foundation, by assisting Moira Kelly with her work at the Kilmore house. This again involved attending working bees as well as financial support. There are several staff members and their families who regularly travel to Kilmore to help out. Rhonda McCormack attended the Paralympic Games in London to assist with Moira's children. Phil Shanahan, Tony Hill and Mercedes Goss travelled to Thailand to visit the Aids orphanages and provide support and labour to improve the living conditions for the children there. This was a great effort.

A Message from key School Bodies

Chairperson's Report

Congratulations to the committee of 2012. Considering most of us were new to it, we did a great job of working with Marie, Margie and the staff to support them and make things happen for the school. Each of us came to the table with our ideas, which stimulated a lot of discussions, yet at the root of them all was our desire to do what was best for the students, the staff and the school.

2012 saw quite a bit happening in and around the school. We had a couple of fundraising events - the Golf Day and the fete our major sources. These events happen because of the support and organisation of many people in our school community - from Tony Brooks and Cameron Walker who drive our major events, to the parents who run the stalls on the day, to the golf players and non-players alike, the sponsors and to the families who turn up to these events and do their bit with their wallets.

We have seen improvements around the school - roof repairs, solar panels thanks to Tony Brooks and his efforts, the resurfacing of the driveway and carpark, and the purchasing of new computers. Our working bees, organised by Steve Dahl and Antoinette Roberts, were much appreciated and thanks goes to all who were able to help. Thanks to the wet weather we had more than a few issues with the new hall, which, after a considerable time, have been repaired.

The school has switched the delivery of the weekly newsletters from paper to email, as well as the development of the school app and promotion of the school's website as sources of information about what is happening in the school and community.

We had a lot of discussions about the pick up/drop off area as there were quite a few concerns voiced about it. Possible solutions were pursued but in the end, these were going to cost the school. Instead, we focussed on heavily promoting safety around the roads and parking in a bid to lessen some of the issues. This seems to have had an effect and we will be continuing to promote it this year.

Together with the staff, we developed a wish list for the school to help us focus our spending and give us an idea of what we needed to be doing. Also, we organised the 2013 calendar at the end of last year to include more fundraising events as well as social events and working bees. This we did with the view that we could then have an overview of the year and be better organised and more effective with our efforts.

I would like to again thank everyone on the committee for their support and efforts in 2012. I would like to thank Marie, Margie and all the staff for their support and input. I am really looking forward to 2013 with a renewed sense of enthusiasm and welcome those people who have nominated. It will be great to have you on board with your ideas, experiences and support.

Rachael Gaukroger

Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing

Students in Year 3 and 5 participated in NAPLAN (National Assessment Plan for Literacy and Numeracy). These are external tests. Our results were pleasing and will be used to inform future learning and teaching as well as our planning for future educational practice. Analysis of the results also helps to guide requirements around professional learning for staff. Parents may refer to the "My School" website for further details.

Professional Learning

The staff at St Patrick's is constantly undertaking Professional Learning. We have weekly meetings during which planning and professional dialogue occurs. More formalised professional learning also occurs throughout the year.

In 2012 we underwent a whole school Registration process, as well as 2 Curriculum Audits in the areas of Religious Education and Creative Arts. This involved many hours of sorting, reading and re-writing policy documents. All staff were involved in these processes and took away a lot of great professional learning. As well as this, the staff continued to work on the First Steps in Maths Program that was started in 2011, undertake compliance training in CPR, WHS and Child Protection. There were also a couple of staff members who completed their Diploma in Theology, to complete their accreditation to teach in a Catholic School.

Teaching Staff

At St. Patrick's we have a highly qualified and experienced staff, who are constantly challenging themselves to develop in all areas of their profession. The table below indicates the number of staff members who fit into the following categories. All members of staff have been included. This includes teaching staff, teacher assistants, clerical staff etc. The NSW government requires that this report detail the number of teachers in each of the following categories:

A) have teaching qualifications from a recognised higher education institution within Australia

B) have qualifications from a recognised higher education institution within Australia but no formal teacher education qualifications

C) have relevant successful teaching experience and appropriate knowledge but no formal teacher qualifications.

A	B	C	TOTAL
34	6	0	40

Workforce Composition

The staff at St. Patrick's is made up of 34 females and 6 males. This includes teaching, support and ground staff.

Student Attendance

Student attendance rates for each Year level and the whole school

Year	Attendance %
Year 6	94.77%
Year 5	93.29%
Year 4	94.25%
Year 3	95.32%
Year 2	94.60%
Year 1	94.22%
Kinder	94.06%

Student Non-Attendance

Class rolls are marked daily using the exception method. On any occasion when students are not attending, parents or caregivers are asked to inform the school of the reason for non attendance. If this does not occur, then staff send home a letter requesting the information. If there is no response to this, then a follow up phone call is made.

Enrolment Policy

St. Patrick's follows the Diocesan Policy in relation to enrolment. This can be accessed from our website as well as the CSO website. http://web.csoww.catholic.edu.au/Schools/Enrolyo_urchild/tabid/138/Default.aspx

Characteristics of the Student Body

Boys	Girls	Indig'	LOTE*	TOTAL
280	225	4	13	505

**Language Background Other Than English*

Structure of Classes

There are three classes in each year level and all classes are of mixed ability.

School Policies

Discipline

All school discipline policies are based upon Diocesan Policies and the full script can be viewed on the CSO website. We have a discipline policy which states that Corporal Punishment is not to be used as a form of discipline. Parents are involved in the process of discipline, along with students.

Student Welfare

Student welfare is of prime importance at St. Patrick's. We value the dignity of each individual within the school community. We are committed to providing effective learning and teaching within a secure well-managed environment in partnership with parents, caregivers and the wider school community. Student welfare is a vital component of our Making Jesus Real work. A School Counsellor is also accessible during school time for 1 day each week. Seasons for Growth which is a grief and loss program ran 2 groups during 2012. These were very successful.

Complaints and Grievances

At St. Patrick's we follow the CSO Complaints and Grievances policy and procedures. Any complaints or grievances are directed to the Principal for discussion and follow up

Changes to School Policies

All changes made to policies allowed them to directly align with Diocesan policies. School policies can be viewed via our website <http://web.spaww.catholic.edu.au/Learning/KLAs/tabid/448/Default.aspx>

Improvement Targets

During 2012 our main priorities included the preparation for our Registration and Accreditation visit, as well as preparation for our 2 Curriculum audits in the areas of Religious Education and Creative Arts. As always, we monitored all other syllabus documents to ensure that we were providing the best possible education for the students in our care. We have continued to work on implementing the Learning Framework in the Diocese.

The results from our NAPLAN analysis have helped to set priorities for learning for the future.

Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility

It is a priority that all interactions between all community members are respectful. We expect that all community members show respect for each other. Both within the class and in the playground, students are expected to act in a responsible manner and show pride in themselves and in their school. Our senior classes continued their involvement in Mini Vinnies, Lets Get Together, Making Jesus Real, which examines the manner in which they interact with each other.

Each year we take part in National Clean Up Australia Day, ANZAC and Remembrance Day ceremonies as well as the St. Vincent De Paul appeals. Our Student Council is very active in organising fundraising activities for the school to support those who are less fortunate.

Community Satisfaction

The following information has been provided to the school. It has been a valuable gauge for determining the level of satisfaction the community has with our school. Community members are able to voice their levels of satisfaction through contact with the School Council Parent body, as well as the Student Council student body. Parents are invited via the school newsletter to submit agenda items or contact council members directly to act on their behalf. Staff members are able to air their concerns or satisfaction levels at staff meetings. Agenda items are called for prior to meetings. We have open communication at St. Patrick's and parents are encouraged to share their levels of satisfaction.

Parents

My child (son or daughter) is usually happy at {school name here}

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
75%	20%	5%	0%

Students

I am usually happy at {school name here}.

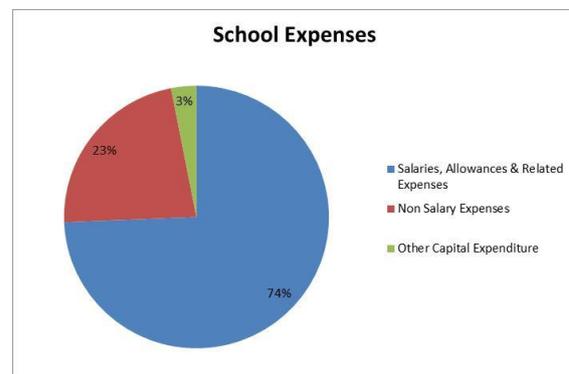
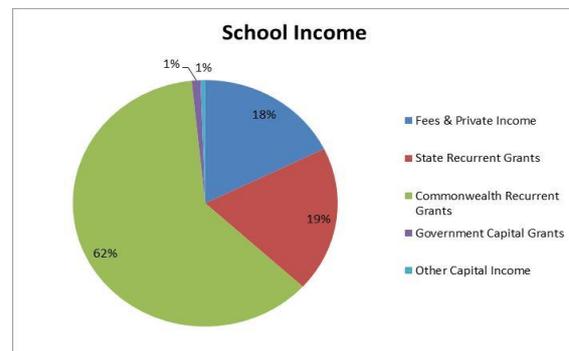
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
80%	15%	5%	0%

Staff

I am usually happy at {school name here}

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
90%	10%	0%	0%

Financial Statement Summary



About This Report

This report was compiled in conjunction with the School Executive, School Council, Secretaries and CSO Personnel.