2012

Annual Report

St Anne’s Primary School, North Albury

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The School
Our school motto “To Live in Love and Truth” is a daily reminder of the values we try to exemplify in all we do throughout the school year. Our Vision and Mission Statement also acts as a gauge to challenge us to foster and develop those Gospel values which underpin the mission of our Catholic Culture.

Catholic Identity
Religious Education
In 2012 Religious Education has been life giving to our school and Parish community. We have been led by Fr Kevin as our Parish Priest. Fr Kevin’s gentle and open leadership continues to support and nourish our school community. Community celebrations in the form of Masses, Liturgies, daily prayer in classrooms and social justice action continue to shape the Religious Education life of St Anne’s School.
St Anne’s Primary School aims to develop each student’s understanding of their faith and to support the effort of their parents in continuing this faith journey. We also endeavour to nourish the faith journey of adults within the school community. To achieve this, all members of our school community are invited to actively participate in a range of experiences where they may deepen their own faith. The Religious Education Curriculum that we follow is based on Sharing Our Story – a program from the Diocese of Parramatta that has been endorsed by the Wagga Wagga Diocese.

Sacramental Programs
The sacrament of First Eucharist was celebrated by our Year 3 students on June 17th at Sacred Heart Church. Bishop Hanna celebrated the Mass of Confirmation for our Year 6 students on August 11th. First Reconciliation with Year 2, was celebrated on 28th August. These sacramental programs comprised of the parents, our local parish of Sacred Heart and our school. This sharing of developing the student’s faith is well supported by our parents, teachers and Parish community.

Special Celebrations and Masses
Throughout 2012 our School and Parish community celebrated a number of Masses, Liturgies and events following the calendar of the Liturgical year and in recognition of significant days in the school’s life. Some of these included:
• Beginning of School Year Mass. Here we welcome new members to our school community (parents, students and teachers). We state our Prayer of Commitment and the new school leaders are presented with their badges.
• Ash Wednesday, the events of Holy Week (Passion Play) and Easter.
• ANZAC Day prayer.
• First Holy Eucharist.
• Feast of the Sacred Heart.
• Feasts of Saints Anne and Joachim. A Mass in our School Hall, morning tea and class walk throughs, to celebrate Grandparents Day.
• Confirmation. Reflection Day, visit by Bishop Hanna and a Mass of celebration.
• Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption.
• First Reconciliation.
• Performance by John Burland.
• Mercy Day Mass
• Remembrance Day Liturgy.
• Gift Giving Mass. Food and toy donations collected at this Mass for the work of St Vincent de Paul in our area.
• Year 6 Graduation Mass.

Spirituality Day
Our 2012, Spirituality was held on Thursday 15th November. The evening consisted of 2 parts. The first focused on the Year of Grace which began with a session run by Catholic Life, team member Jane Plum. Jane ran a session which tapped into the mystery and history of our names and the gift of our family heritage, nationality and religious tradition. We then shared a meal together, along with the members of the Sacred Heart Parish Council. After our meal we attended a session run by Monsignor Tony Doherty, which was titled “The Birth of a World Church- the promise of Vatican II”. This session also included members from our Parish and wider community. Monsignor Doherty provided an insightful history of our Church and explored some of the challenges our Church faces in the coming years.

Mission Effort
Outreach through prayer and almsgiving are important parts of St Anne’s community. They are practical demonstrations of our commitment to help others through service.
Our efforts this year have focused on Project Compassion, the work of Catholic Missions, Mercy Palliative Care and the work of St Vincent de Paul.

A Message from key School Bodies

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012

The first meeting of the year was held on February 15 and it was a pleasure to welcome Ian Aldrich and Steve Mitsch as new members to the School Council. David Johnston and Nicky Bennett were re-elected to the council to join Darren Eddy and Pete Summerfield along with Bede Hart, Cassandra Jones, Elecia Turner and Father Kevin Flanagan to form the St Anne’s School Council for 2012.

2012 has been an exciting year of growth and development across all areas of our school community. Enrolments are almost at capacity across all stages in 2013 and we are welcoming fifty six children to our happy family. Our commitment to commence the move to a double stream of straight classes in 2012 was a smooth transition for Stage 1 students. The first of our three new classrooms was completed in readiness for the commencement of term 1 with the remaining two classrooms to be completed ready for use at the beginning of term 1, 2014.

Our School Council has been working towards the implementation of an Information Technology Plan and a Maintenance Schedule for the benefit of the entire school community. Many thanks to our IT subcommittee of Ian Aldrich, Darren Eddy and Elecia Turner for their dedication and commitment to the ongoing development and implementation of this plan. Steve Mitsch has spent many hours compiling a Maintenance Schedule using data collected in a maintenance audit conducted by Ian Bennett, who has been contracted by the Diocese to oversee a diocesan approach to all schools’ maintenance. This maintenance schedule will be used to address our maintenance needs as required and added to when issues arise.

During Term 2 St Anne’s was successful in gaining funding for the National Schools Chaplaincy Program. This program is driven by Julie Cotter our Pastoral Wellbeing Coordinator. The aim of this funding is to provide welfare services in spiritual, personal and emotional development of students.

In Term 3 our Principal, Bede Hart was reviewed by the Diocese for his Employment Contract Renewal. I am very pleased to advise Bede was successful with this review and has been contracted for another term of five years.

Term 4 saw our hugely successful review from the State Board of Studies for our School Registration. This registration happens every five years and gives a six year licence. All staff members are to be congratulated on their professionalism and commitment to the positive outcome of this review.

We are very fortunate to have so many generous parents willing to donate their time and expertise to assist with the growth and development of the resources that support the work of the staff and students of St Anne’s. Assisting in the classroom, helping in the canteen and participating in the Parent Interest Groups are just some of the ways our wonderful families give back to the school.

Our Maintenance Committee is a small but highly dedicated group who under the guidance of Heath Norton, meet as required to tackle any general building or grounds maintenance problems. This year they have achieved their goals by finalising the installation of the sprinkler system on the back oval, installation of the football goal posts and completion of the cricket pitch which is being used in the Cricket Albury Wodonga under 11 competitions.

The Gardening Committee, led by Glen and Marg Angle, are to be applauded for their tireless effort in developing and maintaining our gardens. This is also a small group who achieve tremendous results on a very small budget.

Our Pastoral Wellbeing Co-ordinator Julie Cotter has quietly and efficiently led the Pastoral Care Committee to be there when needed by anyone in our school community. Many families are extremely grateful for the support Julie and the team give when they are called upon.
Congratulations must go to the Fete committee for the fantastic effort they gave to achieve another highly successful and profitable event this year. We are looking forward to a bigger and better event next year.

The Fundraising Committee has had a very busy year raising much needed funds by holding a variety of family events throughout the year. Congratulations to Jane Murtagh and the entire committee for their enthusiasm and dedication.

It was with much sadness in September the Bingo Committee decided to cease the running of our Friday Night Bingo at the Sacred Heart Hall due to decreasing attendance and low returns. It was agreed by the Bingo Committee that the parents on the Bingo roster could be better utilised in other areas of fundraising. Plans are in motion to replace Bingo with other activities that would better utilise our volunteers’ time and efforts.

Jenny Zanardo our Canteen Supervisor, has worked tirelessly throughout the year to adhere to NSW Schools Canteen Guidelines in providing healthy and nutritious food for the children. Her dedication to holding special days to introduce the children to new and exciting foods has been a real winner with the whole school.

Our school would not run so efficiently without the dedication and professionalism of Tina Hobbs, our wonderful school secretary. No problem is too big for Tina to tackle and she does it all with a smile. I thank Tina for all her help and especially her patience that she gives to me very regularly.

2012 has been a year of joy and also great sadness. We have said goodbye to loved ones that have had a great impact on the whole St Anne’s community and we are much richer for having them as a part of our school family.

As Darren Eddy and Pete Summerfield step down from their membership of the school Council I thank them most heartily for all they have given to the Council and wish them all the best and hope to see them just as actively involved with other ventures throughout the school. I especially would like to thank Pete for his unique approach to minute taking at each Council Meeting, it was always an adventure to read the minutes of our Council meetings. I am honoured to have been a part of the School Council and look forward to my final year of the Council with excitement and enthusiasm to be able to work with such a dedicated and visionary group of professionals.

Nicky Bennett
Chairperson

Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing

A brief summary of student outcomes (this section is significantly changed from 2008, due in part to the publication of this data on Myschool)

Professional Learning

The Annual Plan is reviewed and assessed by staff each year. The evaluation takes into account all components of the Annual Plan: Vision and Mission; School Programs and Operations; Policies and Curricula; Leadership Administration and Management; Professional Growth; Resources and Facilities. At the conclusion of this evaluation the Annual Plan is then developed for the coming years. During this year areas were addressed under the Diocesan Focus Areas of Faith, Care, Learning, Service and Stewardship. All teachers were involved in preparing Individual Professional Learning Plans.

Learning – ongoing follow up and discussion on First Steps Writing and First Steps Maths. Teachers took up the opportunity to complete First Steps Reading during after school hours. Modelled teaching and classroom visits became a regular event as a good and successful form of personal growth by teachers. Further work was completed in promoting and establishing our agreed Learning and Teaching Belief Statement. Reading Recovery, Language Classes and support to teachers in meeting the needs of funded students was provided. Ongoing Professional Learning for staff has been an important focus in our planning for the needs of the St Anne’s School community.
Teaching Staff
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>19</td>
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Workforce Composition
We have nineteen teaching staff. We also have four teacher assistants, two clerical staff, one canteen supervisor, one groundsman and one cleaner.

Student Attendance
Student attendance rates for each Year level and the whole school

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Attendance %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>91.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>93.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>94.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>94.16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>92.26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>94.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>92.56%</td>
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Student Non-Attendance
Students are expected to attend school between the hours of 8.55am and 3.10pm. Students who arrive at school after 8.55am are required to attend the office with their guardian to be signed in. This sign in slip is then provided to the classroom teacher who will note the details on the class roll. Students who depart earlier that 3.10pm will need to be signed out at the office and a note provided of the time of departure. Please note that formal supervision of children is only provided 30 minutes before school commences and until the last bus departs.

If any child is absent from school a note is required. If children miss a number of days the Principal will follow up by making contact with the family.

Enrolment Policy
As per CSO guidelines, refer to www.csoww.catholic.edu.au

Characteristics of the Student Body

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Indig*</th>
<th>LOTE*</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>146</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>309</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Language background Other Than English

Structure of Classes
All classes are co-educational. There are two Kindergarten classes, two Year 1 classes and two Year 2 classes. The remainder of our classes are stage based adding variety to our curriculum and creating a sense of responsibility for personal learning.

School Policies

Discipline
Being a Catholic School we seek to educate the whole child. From this and in keeping with good teaching we seek to keep our behaviour management positive. We take as our model Jesus the Teacher, whose teachings and gentleness brought life and growth to people.

Our Behaviour Management Policy clearly defines ‘fair’ norms and consequences for any breach of these rules where students are provided with clear boundaries for their own behaviour.

Student Welfare
In keeping with St Anne’s Vision and Mission statements where we promote the respect and dignity of each person, our Student Welfare Policy empowers the St Anne’s community to achieve its stated aims. Through clearly defined ‘fair’ rules and consequences for breach of these rules, students are provided with clear boundaries for their behavior. Students are encouraged to develop a sense of self-responsibility for their choices and words.

At St Anne’s School, we endeavour to focus on and encourage the positive behavior displayed by all students. Through emphasizing positive behavior, applying consequences for unacceptable behavior, and developing ownership of one’s own actions, we hope to provide students with the skills, moral development and values that will
make them just and compassionate members of our wider community. Corporal punishment is not administered in our school. The St Anne’s Welfare and Social Justice Policy intends to develop a whole school approach to assist the community in the development of a school climate where:

- We all have the right to feel safe all the time
- That every person deserves to be treated with integrity and respect.

Varied methods such as Buddy System, Peer Support, Making Jesus Real and Values Education are positive approaches used in the school to help counteract anti-social behavior. In 2012 all staff were involved in Professional Development and trained in Positive Behaviour Intervention. We also, as a community, continue to develop the skills and beliefs related to Restorative Practices within our students. Teachers providing support when needed.

Complaints and Grievances
St Anne’s is a community based on respect. We see ourselves working closely with parents to achieve the best possible outcome for students. If a parent has any concerns we encourage them to contact their child’s teacher to organize a meeting. The parents may choose to contact the Principal if they feel the matter is of a serious concern. At all times the dignity of the individual is to be respected.

Dealing with complaints and suggestions and by following well developed procedures helps build a safe and supportive environment as it:

- Encourages early intervention in issues before they damage working relationships
- Ensures that behaviours destructive to positive relationships (such as bullying, harassment and discrimination) are identified as being unacceptable and are appropriately managed
- Ensures that complaints are dealt with consistently
- Enables a school community to identify patterns of unacceptable conduct and enables prevention strategies to be developed and implemented
- Encourages individuals, with support, to resolve issues directly without third party intervention, and reduce the likelihood that external agencies will need to be involved.

Changes to School Policies
We continue to review our Mathematics and English areas. We also instigated a policy to introduce Restorative Practices into our School’s approach to conflict. We had a Curriculum Audit in Religious Education and Creative Arts.

Improvement Targets
Technology - The School Council in conjunction with the staff and Principal have developed a school ICT Plan for the next three years. This plan aims at professional growth for teachers. The purchase of laptops for teachers. The purchase and renewal program to provide students with five netbooks and five iPads per classroom. These are used regularly in classroom activities planned by the teachers and inclusive of the Key Learning Areas. Very positive feedback from our teaching staff on their desire to improve the learning for children in the area of mathematics. This is ongoing with regular review. Teachers were involved in reviewing all school policies in preparation for our School Registration. Teachers were involved in further Professional Development in the areas of: Technology, Restorative Practices, and Positive Behaviour Intervention. The resurfacing of our oval has allowed more areas for children to utilise

Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility

- A strong emphasis on living our Agreed Relationships Statement.
- Further work was completed by our stage three teachers on the Making Jesus Real program. This program is to be implemented across the school.
- Our Peer Support Program continued this year.
- The school catered for children suffering from grief or loss through providing the opportunity for students to be involved
with the Seasons for Growth and Jigsaw programs.

- The school was fortunate to receive funding under the Federal Government’s Chaplaincy Program. This was a popular and positive initiative in helping to provide support for the wellbeing of our students and families.

**Community Satisfaction**
Our school consists of an elected School Council of parent representatives, staff representative, Principal and Parish Priest. This School Council meets monthly to discuss relevant school issues. As well we have ‘teams’ of interest groups which are open to all parents. Such teams include maintenance, pastoral, health, gardening, social, fundraising and fete. Members of our School Council regularly keep in contact with these teams to keep updated on requirements or needs. We have received very positive feedback from parents about their satisfaction in regard to the education and facilities of our school. St Anne’s prides itself on being family school and our feedback supports our belief that parents are heavily involved in our school and their child’s progress.

**Financial Statement Summary**

**About This Report**
This report was compiled with input from a number of people. Some of these include Principal, School Council Chairperson, Religious Education Co-ordinator, Sports Co-ordinator and the Student Council.