2012

Annual Report

St Patrick’s Primary School, Holbrook

CONTACT DETAILS:

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The School
The school is located in a rural area of Southern New South Wales. At present construction of the highway by-pass is well advanced. The local council has indicated that a significant down turn in employment is to be expected in the period after the by-pass opens, with a gradual return to employment numbers pre-bypass expected over the next five years.

The school prides itself on the strong sense of belonging that exists within the parent body. This is known and celebrated within the general community. Our working bees and social functions are well attended.

Catholic Identity
This year has seen a strengthening of the relationship between the Parish and the School Community. We continued the involvement of the Parish in school activities and the school supporting Parish activities.

The school had strong involvement in our Parish based Sacramental Programmes for Confirmation and First Holy Communion and Reconciliation. We also participated in masses to celebrate the special feast days of St Mary MacKillop, St Patrick, St Joseph all of whom have special significance to the school.

The School accepted the responsibility for providing readers, offertory procession and singers, for the parish 3rd Saturday of the Month Mass during the School Terms.

A Message from key School Bodies
Mr Adrian Keogh – Chairman of the School Council supplied this report.

St Patricks Holbrook has had another very successful year. Our staff had a challenging year where they all proved to us how they not only are dedicated educators but also able to do the extra yards when tragedy struck our community.

Our children were able to participate in excursions to Dubbo, Borambola and Wagga and many other sporting events including athletics, swimming, AFL football, netball, cricket and tennis. As well a very successful Diocesan X-country where we hosted the carnival and catered for the children and their families and supporters. All of this involved extra work for staff and couldn’t be run without the help of supportive parents and community.

Importantly our parents also play a key role in school maintenance, garden and grounds, canteen and many other smaller fundraising and social school events that gave parents the opportunity to be involved and offer their skills to help our school community.

Through many fundraising and catering activities we were able to raise funds to enable the purchase of a reading recovery kit and I Pads to enable children to have access to the latest technology in their learning.

Our school has recently been able to secure numerous grants that have enabled us to employ extra staff to help students with extra numeracy and literacy programs, the results will be seen in years to come. Our new staff members have already proved themselves to be a great asset to our school.

St Patricks has secured the services of the Murray Conservatorium where our students can learn the piano, guitar and drums individually, and music programs within the class setting which adds new dynamics to the learning environment.

We look forward to 2013 knowing our school strives for excellence in our teaching and a holistic approach to learning within our community.

Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing
The results for our school in NAPLAN show positive results in the majority of areas that were assessed.

The majority of Year 5 cohort has shown growth and with trends equal to or better than those of their peer group, with significant improvement over previous years.

Year 3 have performed in line with the state averages in most areas and have shown potential to improve on these results in future years.

The results of the testing have identified some areas of learning within the school that need to be addressed and planning and implementation took place in 2012 and into 2013 to work on improving these areas across the school.
Professional Learning
All staff completed training in the First Steps Maths, CPR, Keep them Safe (Child Protection). We also have a staff member working on a Masters in Information Technology and another staff member who has completed training in Reading Recovery. The staff also participated in a Spirituality Day with one of its neighboring schools.

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.

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<th></th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
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Workforce Composition
The staff consisted of one fulltime male, who was the principal and Year 4/5/6 teacher, two female teachers who looked after the 2/3 and K/1 classes. We had two part-time female teachers, one training in Reading Recovery, the other provided Principal and executive release.

Student Non-Attendance
Children are expected to attend school regularly. Should a trend develop of a child not attending, particularly if this occurs on the same day each week, then contact is made with the parents and they are asked for an explanation. Rolls are monitored weekly and need to be signed by the principal fortnightly after reviewing the absences.

Enrolment Policy
- To provide a Catholic Education for all children in our community irrespective of their differing needs, providing that school resources can support them.
- To ensure that no child is denied a Catholic Education because of financial hardship.
- To ensure all parents give a firm undertaking that they accept and support the life, nature and identity of the Catholic School, including participation in all aspects of religious Education.

Characteristics of the Student Body

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Indig’</th>
<th>LOTE*</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>46</td>
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*Language background Other Than English

School Policies
Discipline
The School Discipline Policy at St Patrick’s Primary School aims to provide a safe, caring and supportive learning and teaching environment. The policy helps students to demonstrate responsible behaviour and a sense of self worth, and respect and consideration for the feelings, rights and property of others. It also aims to maximise opportunities for learning and teaching. Procedural fairness is used in dealing with all issues. Students and staff have the right to expect that they will spend the school day free from the fear of bullying, harassment and intimidation. Anti-bullying is a priority. Bullying is not acceptable in any form.

Student Welfare

The St Patrick’s Community believes that Pastoral Care is a life-giving focus that is a response to each person’s needs of self esteem, positive discipline, effective learning,
purpose in life, moral and personal development, experienced within the ethos of a gospel-based community.

Pastoral Care is central to the ethos and identity of a Catholic school. It is essential that pastoral care for students be given a high priority. The role of schools as an educational institution is to encourage excellence, the pursuit of learning and the care of all individual students. The primary purpose of schools is to promote the full physical, social, intellectual emotional and spiritual development of the students.

Complaints and Grievances
The school handles the issues of complaints and grievances according to Diocesan Policy.

Changes to School Policies
The school made no major changes to its policies during the year. Minor changes were made as a result of the curriculum reviews in Creative and Performing Art and Religious Education held during the year.

Major changes were made the school’s scope and sequences in all KLA areas at the end of the 2012 school year. The new style of documentation reflects a more concise approach to curriculum planning.

Improvement Targets
A Curriculum Review of Maths and Human Society in its Environment Education are planned for 2013.

It is anticipated that the National Curriculum documents will be introduced into the school in 2013, commencing with English.

With the Diocesan move to Google Docs, it is anticipated that improved access to the School Web site will result in a friendly interface with our parents and community members.

The school under the umbrella of the State Literacy and Numeracy Plan, National Partnership, will be working to lift the Numeracy and Literacy levels of the students in Kindergarten to Year 2. This is a Federally funded project that is a planned to run for 5 years.

Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility
The school has incorporate aspects of the Making Jesus Real Programme across the whole school. Initiatives such as “Manners - Monday, Thankyou – Thursday” helped to spread the message and were embraced by the whole school community.

The school also presented a dance recital to the residents of two aged care facilities in Holbrook.

During the year the school took an active part in three major events in the Community, the Rotary Art Show, the Holbrook Flower Show and the Holbrook Agricultural Show.

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.

Parents
My child (son or daughter) is usually happy at St Patrick’s Primary Holbrook.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>86%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>%</td>
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Students
I am usually happy at St Patrick’s Primary Holbrook.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
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<tr>
<td>51%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>%</td>
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Staff
I am usually happy at St Patrick’s Primary Holbrook.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
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<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Financial Statement Summary

About This Report
This report was compiled by the School Principal with assistance from the staff and students at the school and with support and information supplied by the School Council and its Chairperson and the Catholic Schools Office Wagga.