Annual Report

St Patrick’s Primary School, Holbrook

CONTACT DETAILS:

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The School
St Patrick’s School Holbrook is located in a rural district in southern New South Wales. The town and school were this year “bypassed” when the Hume Highway was moved from the centre of town.

Established by the Josephite Sisters over 95 years ago, this long association continues today with the involvement of the Parish Pastoral Worker Sr. Marie in the school. The school is co-educational from Kindergarten to Year 6.

The school prides itself on the strong sense of belonging that exists within the Holbrook community and parent body.

Catholic Identity
The school had strong involvement in our Parish based Sacramental Programmes for Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. The opportunity was provided for participation in the special feast days, including St Mary Mackillop, St Patrick, St Joseph and many others including the Assumption.

Our programmes and worship are supported and guided by Father Terence and Sister Marie.

The School participates regularly in Mass and each term holds a family mass on the Saturday night Parish Mass.

The staff regularly participate with the children in prayer. They come together once per week to pray and worship together.

A Message from key School Bodies
As Chairperson on the St Patrick’s School council it gives me great pleasure to report on all the wonderful things that have happened over the last 12 months.

As you all are aware Rob has this year been co-principal with St Patrick’s and All Saints Tumbarumba. Although he has not been face to face teaching, we have gained from his administrative ability to secure new sources of funding which has enabled us to extend and offer more programs to our children that enhances all the children’s learning and the employment of more teachers to assist with the implementation of the new innovative whole school programs. Programs for literacy, spelling, reading recovery and maths and resources which help the children at all levels to develop and learn.

Other community projects such as funding for the community garden has been a great asset to the school and we acknowledge all the hard work the sub-committee and council who have been involved in getting it up and running to be a great success, soon we will be rewarded with fruits from our labour!

Thank you to all the dedicated teaching staff they are extremely committed to all our students and have the ability to extend and nurture students while providing that extra support when needed. This is a key strength to our school community.

As a school St Patrick’s has always encouraged our children to be community minded and there have been several times throughout the year that we have shined; one example is, the official by pass opening & Happening in Holbrook as well as our regular events throughout the year. The children get this from the wonderful parents’ example of always being there to help out, and it is commented in town what a great group and community we are!

Our wonderful fundraising efforts in many ways have contributed the equivalent of $500 dollars per family to the school. This is a great effort and I thank everyone who has been involved in all the events this year.

Finally I had the pleasure this year of spending the weekend in Sydney with the Year 5 and 6 boys at the Catholic schools basketball competition. What a wonderful time we had, the sportsman-ship and behavior of these boys was exceptional, and I know the girls too are on the same level. These children are the best advertising we could ever have, they are a credit to our school and parents and the wider community.

We farewell many parents this year that have been involved in the school for 10 – 15 years as the last of the siblings go through, they have all been highly motivated and actively involved in all areas of the school P&F and maintenance, always there to lend a hand and support the school, they have been great...
role models with friendly advice to the rest of the school community and I know they will be greatly missed!

Adrian Keogh School Board Chairman 2013.

**Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing**

St Patrick's has participated in NAPLAN Literacy & Numeracy since 1998 and NAPLAN Writing since 2001. The school monitors the NAPLAN Trend Data each year and uses this information to inform its learning and teaching practices for the upcoming year. The student outcomes from the NAPLAN Literacy and Numeracy tests are positive and reflect the effective teaching occurring at St Patrick's.

**Professional Learning**

Professional Learning was undertaken by staff in the following areas: Reading Recovery SENA 1 & 2 Live Life Well Programme Curriculum Review Programme Consistent Teacher Judgement in Assessment Best Start Training and Revision Google Docs Training Developing Adult prayer through the Scriptures Improving the teaching of student vocabulary Development of New English Scope and Sequence Unpacking of the new English Syllabus First Aid CPR Child Protection First Steps in Maths Stars and Cars (improved meaning from reading)

**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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Workforce Composition**

The teaching staff consisted of two male and 3 female staff members, fulltime and 1 female staff (part-time). The school also employs one female secretary (part-time) and three female teacher aides (part-time).

**Student Attendance**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Attendance %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>91.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>92.95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>92.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>91.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>92.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>92.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>89.05%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Student Non-Attendance**

There is an expectation that children will attend school daily. When this is not occurring the Diocesan Policy is followed to ensure that children attend school.

**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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Language background Other Than English

Structure of Classes

Kindergarten/ Year 1

Year 2/3

Years4/5/6

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.

Antibullying is a priority. At St Patrick’s 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.

Imagery Targets
The school identified three specific areas that targeted improvement was desired. These can be described as Short Goal – up to 12 months and Long Term 12 months up to 36 months.

The first short term goal was to review the performance of every student in the school in Numeracy, using data obtained from Best Start, SENA 1 & 2 and diagnostic testing from First Steps in Maths. This data was then used to provide targeted supported instruction. This was the major focus for the National Partnership Funding that the school received. The improvements noted from pre and post test data suggest that this has been very successful.

The second short term goal was to improve the students ability to extract meaning from the material they are reading, using a commercially produced programme, Cars and Stars.

The improvements noted from pre and post test data suggest that this has been successful.

The long term goal adopted by the staff is to lift the spelling and vocabulary levels of the children. The staff are using a commercially produced programme "Sound Waves" to supplement the material they are using from First Steps in Writing.

The staff have committed to implement this programme over three years. Initial results after 12 months are encouraging.
Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility

During the year the classes undertook a variety of activities based on Making Jesus Real to promote and improve student interactions and relationships.

The school continued its involvement with the community with many of the students winning prizes at the Holbrook Art Show, Flower Show and Agricultural Show. All students are encouraged to participate.

A performance by the 4/5/6 class at the Flower Show presenting the items that had been performed at the school play was very well received.

The students also presented a dance recital at the Harry Jarvis Wing of the local hospital.

Students undertook a number of fund raising events to raise money for St Vinnies, the Philippines’ Typhoon Appeal, Catholic Missions, Caritas and Jane McGrath Foundation.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80 %</td>
<td>20 %</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
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Students
I am usually happy at St Patrick’s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>75 %</td>
<td>25 %</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
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Staff
I am usually happy at St Patrick’s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 %</td>
<td>80 %</td>
<td>0 %</td>
<td>0 %</td>
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Financial Statement Summary

School Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fees &amp; Private Income</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Recurrent Grants</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commonwealth Recurrent Grants</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Capital Grants</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Capital Income</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries, Allowances &amp; Related Expenses</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non Salary Expenses</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Capital Expenditure</td>
<td>2%</td>
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About This Report
This report was compiled by the School Principal with assistance from the Parish Priest, staff and students at the school, with the support and information supplied by the St Patrick’s School Council and its Chairperson and the Catholic Schools Office Wagga Wagga.