2013

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 Church.

Catholic Identity
The School
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Catholic Identity
Religious Education:
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.

In 2013 Religious Education has been life giving to our school and Parish community. The year has provided us with several significant events in, particularly in the area of Catholic Identity.

On Monday 22nd July, we had the privilege to celebrate Father Kevin’s 50th anniversary of Priesthood. Mass was celebrated in our School Hall and we were honoured to have Father Kevin’s two sisters, Kathleen and Dorothy join us, in this celebration. Father Kevin is a true inspiration to us all and we are truly grateful for the love, support, friendship and guidance he offers to our school community.

2013 saw us name our four Sporting Houses. The criteria for selection was: “Houses are to be named after a significant religious person or group who have been instrumental in the development of the school and Catholic Education at St. Anne’s.” Green House was the first House to be unveiled, and fittingly, it was named Flanagan, after our very own Father Kevin. The announcement of this was made on the day of celebrations for his 50 year anniversary.

The next two Houses to be unveiled were Blue House: Mercy and Gold House: McAuley. These were announced on Friday 20th September during our Mercy Day celebrations. Both were chosen to recognise the rich contribution that the Sisters of Mercy have made to our school. On Tuesday 3rd December, Red House received the name of Bongiorno, the name recognising Father Sylvester Bongiorno who was our first Parish Priest and who was responsible for establishing our parish and school.

Sacramental Programs
First Reconciliation with Year 2, was celebrated on Tuesday 18th June and this was closely followed by the Sacrament of First Eucharist, which was celebrated by our Year 3 students, on Sunday 2nd June at Sacred Heart Church. Bishop Hanna celebrated the Mass of Confirmation for our Year 6 students on Saturday August 17th. 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 2013 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 schools life. Some of these included:

- Beginning of School Year Mass. Here we welcomed 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.
Annual Report

- First Reconciliation
- First Holy Eucharist.
- Feast of the Sacred Heart.
- Celebration for Father Kevin - 50 years of Priesthood and the naming of Green House: Flanagan
- Feasts of Saints Anne and Joachim. A Mass in our School Hall, morning tea and an Infant Performance - “Uncle Noah”, to celebrate Grandparents Day.
- Confirmation. Reflection Day, visit by Bishop Hanna and a Mass of celebration.
- Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption.
- Mercy Day Mass and the naming of Mercy and McAuley Houses
- Remembrance Day Liturgy.
- Mass to celebrate Father Bongiorno and the naming of Red House: Bongiorno
- Gift Giving Mass. Food and toy donations collected at this Mass for the work of St Vincent de Paul in our area.

Spirituality Day
Our 2013, Spirituality Day was held on Monday 16th September. The evening was shared with St Patrick’s, Albury and was facilitated by Father John Frauenfelder. The focus was Liturgy, with Father John looking at the parts of the Mass and the challenge of taking liturgy and the Word, from the Church structure, and living it in our daily lives.

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 and the work of St Vincent de Paul. We are very grateful for the generous contributions our families donate.

A Message from key School Bodies
CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013
The first meeting of the year was held on February 20 and it was a pleasure to welcome Jennifer Hodges, Jason Croker and Michelle Milthorpe as new members to the School Council. David Johnston, Ian Aldrich and Nicky Bennett along with Bede Hart, Cassandra Jones, Elecia Turner and Father Kevin Flanagan returned for another year to form the St Anne’s School Council for 2013. 2013 has been an exciting year of growth and development across all areas of our school community. Enrolments are almost at capacity across all stages for 2013, with a total of 331 enrolled students including fifty six kinder children welcomed to our happy family. At this stage we will be welcoming 49 new kinder students to the St Anne’s community for 2014, with waiting lists created for some of the other stages.

Our commitment to commence the move to a double stream of straight classes in 2012 was a smooth transition for Stage 1 students and staff. The remaining two new classrooms have been completed and were handed over on 11 November 2013 in readiness for the commencement of term 1 2014 for the Stage 2 students and staff. The completion of moving to straight classes is due to be completed in 2017 with the transition of the year 5 & 6 classes.

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 Ian Aldrich for his dedication and commitment to the ongoing development of the IT plan. Thanks also go to Karon Grimmer for all her hard work in implementing the IT plan within the school. Each classroom now has the benefit of 5 iPad’s for the use by all students. Steve Mitsch has continued updating the Maintenance Schedule that was compiled in 2012. This maintenance schedule will be used to address our maintenance needs as required and added to when issues arise. Thanks very much Steve for all your time and dedication to this project.

In June we celebrated with Father Kevin Flanagan his 50th Anniversary of joining the Priesthood. It was a wonderful weekend of festivities enjoyed by Father Kevin, his family, the school and parishioners. During this time it was agreed that our sporting houses should be named after a significant religious person or group who have been instrumental in the development of the school and Catholic Education at St Anne’s. Bearing this criteria in mind it was decided that Green House would be named Flanagan House in honour of Father Kevin’s achievement and service to the school. On Mercy Day Blue House was named
Mercy House and Yellow House was named McAuley House. Red House will be named Bongiorno House on Tuesday 3 December. July saw the secondment for a period of 6 months of Bede Hart to the Wagga Wagga Diocese as School Consultant for the Southern Schools within the diocese. Cassandra Jones was appointed as Acting Principal and Elizabeth Johnston appointed as Acting Assistant Principal. Congratulations on a job well done to Cassandra and Elizabeth in what has been a sometimes challenging and demanding environment for both of them.

The mass of Christian Burial for Bishop William Brennen, who died on Saturday 31 August, was held at St Michael’s Cathedral, Wagga Wagga on Friday 6 September 2013. Bishop Brennen was Bishop of the Wagga Wagga diocese for over 20 years before our current Bishop, Bishop Gerard Hanna.

2013 has been a very busy and fulfilling year for all students and staff at St Anne’s. We have celebrated Mercy Day, Grandparents Day, Open Days, Orientation Days and Class assemblies just to name a few. The Staff are to be congratulated for their dedication to continuous Staff Developments, which are conducted both during and outside of school hours. Our students are continually benefiting from these development days and I personally wish to thank the staff for their dedication and commitment to their professional growth and the growth of the school.

Our students have so many advantages to extend their learning and development outside of school hours. We are very fortunate to have the access to Drama classes conducted by Sharryn Hill, Keyboard Lessons conducted by Jacqui Danier and guitar lesson held at lunch time with Judy Foley. The skills that the students are learning carry on throughout their high school years and beyond.

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.

The Gardening Committee, led by Glen and Marg Nagle, 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. This year we say goodbye to the Nagle family who have given so much of their time and expertise to enhance the gardens at St Anne’s. Not only did they dedicate their time to the Gardening Committee they were always the first to jump in and assist when needed when any fundraising event was being held.

Our Pastoral Wellbeing Co-coordinator Janelle Ward 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 Janelle 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. 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.

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.

As David Johnston, Jason Croker and Steve Mitsch step down from their membership to 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 Steve for all his and his family’s years of service and dedication to the St Anne’s community. The loss of the Mitsch
family from St Anne’s will be greatly felt, whatever the event the Mitsch family was always ready to be involved and lend a hand to ensure a successful event.

I am honoured to have been a part of the School Council and especially the role of Chairperson for the last two years. I look back to the last six years that I have been involved with the School Council and feel a sense of pride in all the outcomes that we have achieved together. I have worked with a dedicated and visionary group of professionals united together to enhance and advance the learning environment of such a wonderful school. I thank everyone for their support and especially their friendship.

Nicky Bennett
Chairperson

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

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<tr>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Persuasive Writing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>424</td>
<td>412</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(420-428)</td>
<td>(412-416)</td>
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<td>430-438</td>
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<table>
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<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Grammar and Punctuation</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>404</td>
<td>425</td>
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<td></td>
<td>464 (452)</td>
<td>400 (393)</td>
<td>400</td>
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<th>Year 5</th>
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**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. St Anne’s School has been involved in the Inquiry Learning Project led by Helen Timperley and Linda Bendikson. These ladies are well-known for their work and research into school improvement. They are Professors from the Faculty of Education, The University of Auckland. They are working with the Leadership Team here at St Anne’s who will work with the staff to improve learning outcomes of the students using the Spirals of Inquiry for Equity and Quality (Timperley, Kaser & Halbert, 2012).

Teachers have also been involved in many Professional Development opportunities including such areas as Religious Education, Information Technology, Literacy, Numeracy and Positive Behaviour Management.

Kinder teachers have instigated the Best Start approach as part of transition to school.

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.

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
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Workforce Composition
We have 17 teaching staff. We also have five 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>Kinder</td>
<td>92.10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>91.89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>93.79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>93.31%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>93.57%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>93.03%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>93.65%</td>
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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.

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 than 3.10pm will need to be signed out at the office and a note provided of the time of departure. 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>153</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>327</td>
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*Language background Other Than English

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 behaviour, 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.

- 5 -
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. We, 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 held Professional Development in relation to the National Curriculum. We developed a Scope and Sequence in English to help support the implementation of the new English Syllabus in 2014.

Improve Target
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.

Review of English Scope and Sequence in preparation for the introduction of the National Curriculum in 2014.

Review and further development of the Restorative Practices approach to the wellbeing of children. Also implementing Making Jesus Real across the whole school.
Further work with staff in supporting them in developing their Professional Learning Plans.

Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility
• A strong emphasis on living our Agreed Relationships Statement.
• 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**

![School Income Pie Chart]

- Fees & Private Income: 17%
- State Recurrent Grants: 62%
- Commonwealth Recurrent Grants: 15%
- Government Capital Grants: 9%
- Other Capital Income: 1%

![School Expenses Pie Chart]

- Salaries, Allowances & Related Expenses: 74%
- Non Salary Expenses: 18%
- Other Capital Expenditure: 8%

**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 and the Student Council.