Annual Report

St Patrick’s Parish School, ALBURY

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The School
St Patrick’s Parish School is located in central Albury. At the last census we had an enrolment of 527 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.
Each class has a class parent whose role it is to liaise between school and home, organize social gatherings, assist with the fete each year and to welcome new families to our community.
We also have a very active Student Council. This is elected by the students. Each year the Year 5 students participate in a 2 day Leadership Program to help them identify the qualities required for effective leadership.

Catholic Identity
“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 receive Eucharist for the first time and the Year 6 students receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Bishop Hanna visits classes during Parish visits.
We continued our Making Jesus real groups through Let’s Get Together during 2013. It is great to hear a common theme and MJR language throughout the school. Thanks to Jane, Renai and Bronwyn for driving this very valuable program.
We continued to build the School and Parish link with the help of Father Joel and Father Henry. Prior to each of the Sacramental services, Father Joel conducted information evenings for parents and students in the Church. This was done to strengthen the links and significance of the Sacraments the students were receiving. All sessions were very well attended and very worthwhile. Father Joel also shared a meal with the families of those receiving the Sacraments. The Parish meals with parents also continued during the year. We farewell Father Henry and wish him all the best in his new role.
Once again, we were heavily involved in fundraising activities for those less fortunate than ourselves. The Student Council, led by Mrs Fawcett conducted a number of activities throughout the year. These included coloured clothes days, coin lines and fun activities. The total raised was distributed between Caritas. Catholic Missions, Chick’s Walk for a Cause and the Vin Son Orphanage in Vietnam. The total raised was $6110. Our Minnie Vinnies group was also very active this year. They made contributions to the Carevan, as well as the Winter and Christmas Appeals for St Vincent de Paul. Thanks to Kimberly Schilg and Bianca Hogan for convening this group.
The Children First Foundation continued to be a focus for the year. Some staff spent time assisting at the Kilmore House both prior to and during Open weekends.

A Message from key School Bodies
During 2013 the School Council was very proactive and had significant involvement in several activities. These included:
- 2 x working bees (Spring & Autumn) to freshen up grounds
- Lapathon conducted at Alousius Park
- Bunnings BBQ at Bunnings Albury
- Annual School Fete
- Investigation & approval of the new sport track suit.
The Council also approved the purchase of new lap tops to support the Interactive Whiteboards in classrooms, as well as the
purchase of I pads for use in each class. The Council has an ongoing commitment to supporting IT across the school.

**Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing**
Students in Years 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 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 occurs throughout the year.

In 2013 we underwent Curriculum Audits for Maths and HSIE. This involved the staff in many hours of sorting, reading and re-writing policy documents and Scope and Sequences. All staff were involved in this process. Staff were also part of Professional Learning around Positive Behaviours for Learning as well as Non Violent Crisis Intervention. Both of these were very worthwhile. As well as this some staff underwent training in Best start testing and analysis, Administration and analysis of Sena testing in Years 1 and 3 as well as Observation Survey testing and administration. All staff continued the implementation of the First Steps course that we have undertaken. Staff also had to undertake compliance training in CPR, WHS and Child Protection. There were also some staff who started and or completed their diploma in Theology, to satisfy requirements 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Workforce Composition**
The staff at St Patrick’s is made up of 33 females and 6 males. This includes teaching, support and ground staff.

**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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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>91.41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>92.88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>93.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>92.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>93.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>93.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>89.99%</td>
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**Student Non-Attendance**
Class rolls are marked daily and electronically 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 upon request as well as the CSO website.
Characteristics of the Student Body

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Indig*</th>
<th>LOTE*</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>527</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Language background Other Than English

Structure of Classes
There are 3 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 via 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 the student.

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 per week. Seasons for Growth which is a grief and loss program ran 2 groups during 2013. 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 are available upon request.

Improvement Targets
During 2013 our main priorities included preparation for our 2 Curriculum audits in Maths and HSIE, as well as preparing for the implementation of the new English syllabus. All other syllabus documents were monitored 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 with Minnie Vinnies, Let’s Get Together, Making Jesus Real, These programs examine the manner in which we interact with each other and are expected to become a way of life. Each year we take part in ANZAC and Remembrance Day ceremonies as well as the St Vincent de Paul appeals. Our Student Council is very active in organizing 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 Parent body, as well as the School 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. 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 St. Patrick’s Albury
**Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree**
--- | --- | --- | ---
75% | 20% | 5% | 0%

**Students**
I am usually happy at St. Patrick’s Albury

**Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree**
--- | --- | --- | ---
80% | 15% | 5% | 0%

**Staff**
I am usually happy at St. Patrick’s Albury

**Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree**
--- | --- | --- | ---
90% | 10% | 0% | 0%

**Financial Statement Summary**

![School Income Pie Chart]

- Fees & Private Income: 18%
- State Recurrent Grants: 20%
- Commonwealth Recurrent Grants: 20%
- Government Capital Grants: 5%
- Other Capital Income: 62%

![School Expenses Pie Chart]

- Salaries, Allowances & Related Expenses: 74%
- Non Salary Expenses: 25%
- Other Capital Expenditure: 1%

**About This Report**
This report was compiled in conjunction with the School Leadership Team, School Council, Secretaries and CSO Personnel.