THE SCHOOL

School Vision Statement
Mater Dei Catholic Primary School is a Christian environment where the relationships between staff, children, parents, clergy and the community are underpinned by Gospel values.
Mater Dei Catholic Primary School is a faith community that is committed to the development of the whole person.
Mater Dei Catholic Primary School is committed to developing life long learners who will become contributing members of society.

Patron and Logo
Our school name “Mater Dei” is Latin for “Mother of God”. This means we have a special devotion to Mary, Mother of God, who is our school patron. Our school motto, “One is Spirit” is something we try to instil within the school community.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
The school has worked closely with Father Plunkett and the Sacred Heart Parish in providing opportunities for the students to continue their faith development. Sacramental programs were the main focus for our Year 2 class (Reconciliation), Year 3 (First Holy Communion) and Year 6 (Confirmation). The children and teachers put a lot of time and effort into their preparation and were joined by family and friends to celebrate these special occasions.

Class and whole school masses are held regularly in our school and the infants paraliturgies are always a favourite with parents and grandparents.
Fr Ledinich has begun fortnightly visits to classrooms to work with teachers in Religious Education.

The pastoral component of our faith saw children raise money for the missions, project compassion and other charitable organisations throughout the year.

SCHOOL POLICIES
Our School has developed policies on each of the curriculum areas as well as policies on enrolment, programming, assessment, homework, technology, student welfare, discipline, complaints and grievances resolution and many other areas. Copies of all of these policies are kept in the School Office and parents are welcome to view them.

INFORMATION ON KEY SCHOOL PROGRAMS
In 2004, the school underwent a review from the Catholic Schools Office and the Board of Studies as part of a School Registration process that is formalised every five years.

In preparation for this review, we were asked to review all school policies and procedures to ensure they meet Board of Studies requirements. Continual review will be undertaken on these policies into 2005 and beyond to ensure their suitability.
THE ARTS

The children have been exposed to a variety of musical activities through specialist teacher Marg Harris. Across the grades children explore, create and perform different styles of music.

A number of children in the primary grades took advantage of the opportunity of musical instrument tuition through Mater Dei Catholic College for the first time. With this same tuition comes the chance to be part of the Junior Band, which this year gave several recitals. Other children learn the keyboard here at school under the instruction of Mr Chapman.

Children in all grades saw stage productions during the year. The Kinder to Year 4 saw the production “Peter and the Wolf, while Years 5 and 6 saw the Arabian Knights Show at the Civic Theatre.

Approximately 80 students in our school took advantage of speech and drama tuition through Angie Crosthwaite. Children were given the opportunity to complete eisteddfods, Restaurant Theatre, Karaoke evenings, Speech Decathlon and ASCA exams.

Angie’s expertise was also utilised in working with classroom teachers to prepare classes for eisteddfod items where we achieved outstanding success.

All Stage 2 & 3 children also were provided with Dance tuition through Mina Saville.

Years 3 & 4 focused on Hip Hop and Funk and Years 5 & 6 on classical and jazz.

SPORT

Children in our school were involved in a variety of sports during the year. Carnivals for swimming, athletics and cross country were held in Term One. The children participated with great enthusiasm and spirit with Bowyer house being the dominant house this year.

Many children attended Diocesan trials in Australian football, netball, rugby league, hockey, soccer, cricket and touch football, with three children, Bridget Webster (cricket), Kade Rowbotham (Australian Football) and Dougal Howard (athletics) achieving MacKillop selection.

All classes participated in Gymnastics for one term, as well as skill clinics in soccer, netball, rugby league and Australian football.

The boys in Years 5 & 6 enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the Mortimer Shield, Paul Kelly Cup and a Rugby Union gala day. Our annual netball trip to Sydney saw our year 4 and year 6 teams compete against other Catholic Schools from across the state. Our entire year 5 class undertook water safety classes conducted at the Oasis Aquatic Centre.
GENERAL AND SPECIFIED SCHOOL INITIATIVES.

Being the first year of a double kindergarten intake, a School Open Day was added to the Information evening and orientation day as part of the Kindergarten Orientation process. This opportunity was taken advantage of by many prospective families who found it most beneficial.

The formation of a Student Representative Council for the first time has given the children of our school a voice on school matters.

The Peer Support program was run in the school for the second year with the focus this year being strategies to combat bullying.

Mater Dei took part in a weekly chess competition against other Wagga schools for the first time in 2004. Our teams involved certainly enjoyed the challenge.

Our Year 2 class are continuing to work with Wagga Wagga Council and Riding for the Disabled in creating a wetlands area adjacent to our school.

PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT LEARNING

The school continues to focus on early intervention and has an emphasis on extra support in the early years. Kate Le Brocque is utilised as a Resource Teacher in the Infants grades working with classroom teachers in meeting the needs of children. Reading Recovery is another program aimed to support children in Year One experiencing difficulties in the literacy area. Five children undertook this program this year.

2004 saw a huge focus in the purchases of various technology to assist learning in the classroom. Purchases included 18 computers and 3 laser printers in classroom blocks for localised printing.

Links with Mater Dei Catholic College this year have allowed our Stage 3 children access to computer laboratories where classes are able to work. We access these computers on Friday afternoons to work on specific projects or tasks while the College students are at sport.

Staff involvement in SNAP & ELLA marking, which is the Year 7 equivalent of basic skills testing, has given our Stage 3 teachers (Year 5 & 6) an insight into the skills children entering high school will require.

EQUITY PROGRAMS

As part of our HSIE studies, each class selects an Asian country to study. This enables children to gain a greater understanding of other cultures from countries within our region.

A visiting indigenous troupe was also able to give our children an insight into Aboriginal music, dance and artefacts.

PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT STUDENTS

Peer Support was provided for the 2nd year in 2004 with the focus for the unit being bullying. This program which brings together students from K-6 in small groups and is led by Year 6 students aims at providing strategies for children who may experience bullying. Besides building these skills, the structure of the groups allows students to build up a network of support across the grades.

Our buddy system continues to be a successful way to orient new Kinder children into our school. We have extended the buddy system to Year 5 children as well because of the large Kinder intake. The older children certainly relish this opportunity.
The Life Education Van visited our school again in 2004 and it provided an opportunity for children to look at appropriate health and lifestyle choices that will affect their long term well-being.

Students with disabilities again received funding from the Catholic Schools Office to allow teacher assistants to work with them in classrooms to enhance learning.

Children who enjoy the challenge of higher order thinking skills were given this opportunity through the Tournament of Minds competition. The competition involves children working together to solve problems in a collaborative manner with team-mates and present their solutions in a ‘creative manner’.

Although an extra curricular activity in our school, many of our children achieved outstanding results in the Australian Speech and Communication Association exams which are held in conjunction with the tuition that Angie Crosthwaite does in our school.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The state wide Basic Skills Testing program gives our school an indication of student performance in literacy and numeracy. Whilst these tests are given in Year 3 and Year 5 only, they certainly encompass skills taught beyond these grades. The testing provides feedback of each child’s results in Reading, Language, Writing, Number, Measurement and Space. It was most pleasing to note that Year 3 and Year 5 classes as a whole, performed extremely well in every one of these components. Whilst this is most encouraging, we as a school will look at the feedback to our school to guide teaching.

Many children from Year 3 to Year 6 also took the opportunity to challenge themselves by competing in the University of NSW competition in English, Maths, Science, Computing and Writing. Our participation in this competition saw our school achieve one high distinction, twenty three distinctions and forty credits, a very pleasing result given the size of our school.

STAFF ACHIEVEMENT

Another 3 teachers graduated the Literacy Learning and Teaching in the Classroom program, an intensive professional development course offered by the Diocese. The course takes an in depth look into best practice in the teaching of Literacy in our classrooms. This brings to five the number of staff members who have undertaken the course.

Staff were recognised in the School Registration Process for the standard of their class programs which reflect learning and teaching in the classroom. Staff were also inserviced in CPR, Chemical Safety, Child Protection and Copyright obligations.

SCHOOL RENEWAL

Every year the school, through consultation, must determine priorities for development each year in categories including Policy, Administration, Professional Development and School Facilities. Priorities for our school included the revisit and publication of our School Vision and Mission, policy development for registration purposes, reviewing all job descriptions in the School, resourcing the extra classrooms built to cater for double Kinder intake, and continuing the priority on computer purchases in the school.
4. SCHOOL OVERVIEW

4.1 School Enrolment and Attendance Profile
The first double intake of Kindergarten students in 2004 saw our enrolments grow from approximately 195 in 2003 to approximately 220 this year. It is anticipated that the school will continue to grow until it becomes double–stream from K-6.

4.2 Structure of Classes
Classes are divided into the seven different grades with all classes except Kindergarten being single-stream with a maximum class size of 30. Few spaces at all are available in any of the classes from Year 1 to Year 6. Our 2 kindergarten classes comprise approximately 50 students in total.

4.3 Staffing
Our school staff consists of nine permanent full-time teachers, three part-time teachers, two teachers’ assistants and four support staff. All of these personnel have the appropriate qualifications and clearance screening required to fulfil their duties in our school.

4.4 Parent Involvement and Participation
An outstanding characteristic of our school is the significant parental involvement within our school community. This was evidenced in the magnificent response to our fete which received fantastic support and involvement from so many parents in our school and raised $20 000 for our school. Other involvement included, classroom assistance, canteen, sports carnival assistance, excursions, other fundraising events, School Council, P&F, Canteen committee, school banking, uniform shop, book club, office volunteers, book covering sessions and working bees.

4.5 Community Use of School Facilities
A variety of community groups took advantage of our school facilities throughout the year including Lakeside Revellers cricket teams, primary school aged netball teams and Mater Dei Catholic College for sport and training purposes. St Vincent de Paul utilised our spare classroom to store and sort their yearly Christmas Appeal.
4.6 Financial Statement Summary
This data shown below is a summary of Diocese of Wagga School System income and expense and includes income and expense of all system schools.

The total income and expense of this school, that is included in the above, is shown below.

4.7 About the Report
The above report has been made a compulsory requirement of all government and non-government schools, as of 2004. Copies of this report are to be forwarded to all school parents, the Catholic Schools Office in Wagga and appropriate government bodies.

Regards,

[Signature]
Principal.
Mater Dei Primary School is a Christian environment where the relationships between staff, children, parents, clergy and the community are underpinned by Gospel values.

Therefore we will...

- Foster an atmosphere of prayer and reverence through Masses, daily prayer and liturgies.
- Welcome our Parish Priest, parents and visitors into our school.
- Respect the worth and dignity of all who learn and teach in our school.
- Develop interpersonal skills through exposure to school-based programs.
- Model and encourage positive behaviour.
- Provide opportunities for parents and community to become involved in school activities.
- Affirm the efforts of all who contribute to our school community.

Mater Dei is committed to developing life-long learners who will become contributing members of society.

Therefore we will...

- Provide quality learning and teaching programs that are diverse and cater for individual learning styles.
- Provide an environment that reflects, meets and challenges the needs and abilities of individual children.
- Provide opportunities to promote the guiding principles of 'Today's Children, Tomorrow's Adults'. (TCTA)

Mater Dei is a faith community that is committed to the development of the whole person.

Therefore we will...

- Provide appropriate spiritual programmes through religious education, Catholic teachings and sacramental celebrations.
- Cater for the academic, social, emotional, aesthetic, physical and spiritual needs of those in our school.
- Create and foster an environment where Christ-like values are reflected throughout the school community.
- Embrace a policy of inclusiveness for all.
- Support the role of parents as prime educators of the faith.
- Recognise the role of the Catholic school in evangelisation.

'Christ is the foundation of the whole Educational enterprise in a Catholic school'