Principal's Message

I believe that St Brendan’s Primary School provides an environment where the Catholic Faith, begun and nurtured in the home and parish, continues to grow and deepen.

Our parents and teachers work together to provide the highest quality education for the children in our school. The children at St Brendan’s are encouraged to develop to their full potential in all areas of the curriculum in partnership with parents and the wider community.

On behalf of the staff of St Brendan’s School I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work and commitment to making the year a successful one.

In this document we celebrate our achievements and recognise the challenges which lie ahead for our school community.

Kathy Gaskin
PRINCIPAL

Section 1 - The School

Our school motto “To launch out into the deep” provides a foundation and challenge for us to promote the evangelising mission of the Church, through catechesis of the faith and providing opportunities for children to experience the Good News of our faith.

St Brendan’s school will always remain faithful to the fullest expression of the Catholic Faith in religious education, academic work, sport, culture and in our relationships with each other. As a Catholic School our first objective is to be a witness to Christ and His Church.

Religious Education

We take pride in the school’s religious education programme, sacramental preparation and prayer life and programs which foster positive, caring relationships. Children attend Mass regularly and are provided with opportunities for other sacraments.

Children respond generously to mission days and fundraising opportunities. Children are encouraged to live the gospel values in their daily lives.

The Arts

Throughout the year the children have enjoyed the music program. It has provided opportunities for listening, performing, responding and creating music through singing, playing and movement. The production “Surprising King Cole” was the culmination of all aspects of the arts over the preceding term in music, art, drama and dance. This whole school performance was a tribute to the hard work and skills and talent of the teachers and the students in the school. The children, families and the whole community thoroughly enjoyed the one night performance.

Academic - Basic Skills Testing

Our Students in Years 3 & 5 again completed the Basic Skills Tests in Literacy and Numeracy as set by the NSW Department of Education and Training. The results for our school were exceptional, with a majority of students scoring in the highest achievement levels. These results are a credit to the children and to their parents and teachers.

Sport

Students attended several sporting events this year. They have achieved some excellent results.

- **Swimming Lessons**: The whole school was involved in a swimming program over two weeks at the beginning of 2005. Mrs Willis conducted the lessons and her expertise in teaching and encouraging the children in developing skills and confidence in the water was very worthwhile.

- **Swimming Carnival**: The School carnival was held in early February. The whole school participated in this Carnival. A large number of children were then selected to represent the school at the Wagga Country Deanery Carnival, which was held in Wagga. Bridget Evans was named Senior girl champion and Caleb Noble was names Junior boy champion and twelve children were selected to represent the Deanery at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival held at Leeton. Rebecca Evans and the PP5 relay were selected to represent the Diocese at the McKillop swimming trials in Sydney. These results were very good for such a small school.
• **Athletics Carnivals:** The school held their annual athletics carnival in May. The children then participated in the Deanery Athletics and seven children were then selected to represent the Deanery at the Diocesan Athletics Carnival in Albury. Clare Lawton and the PP5 relay were selected to participate in the McKillop trials.

• **Cross Country:** St Brendan’s won the trophy for Division 6 at the Diocesan Cross Country. Well done to all the children involved.

• **Gala Day:** Girls in Years 5 & 6 were involved in a Netball Gala Day in Wagga during Term 3.

• **Netball Clinic:** Karyn Boundy from the NSW Netball held a clinic for the whole school. The children had an enjoyable day.

• **Gymnastic Program:** The children in 3, 4, 5 & 6 were involved in a five-week gymnastic program during Term 3. The children enjoyed these sessions and benefited greatly from the experience.

• **National Junior Games:** As a lead up to the Commonwealth Games in 2006 St Brendan’s students were invited to participate in the National Junior Games held in Wagga in September.

---

**Section 2: School Programs/KLA**

**School Renewal of Registration**

In the next twelve months we will be focusing on the new Mathematics and Creative Arts policies in line with our Vision & Mission Statement. These will come under curriculum review in 2006.

**School Policies**

The following policies are available at the school office:

- Pastoral Care
- Enrolment
- Discipline

Over the year the teachers have had professional development in Mathematics and Creative Arts. Policies for both of these Key Learning Areas have been updated and will be reviewed in the near future.

The Enrolment Policy, Pastoral Care, Discipline and Complaints and Grievances Resolution school policies are in line with CSO policies which can be found at: [http://www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au/policies.htm](http://www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au/policies.htm)

**Computers**

The school computer system is now complete with high-tech file servers and permanent connection to CASTNET via the Internet. This allows sharing of school computers of the Diocese in real-time to provide significant computing power and cost saving to the diocese. It also supplies a safe, virus free environment for children’s Internet use. Computers are being constantly upgraded, through Diocesan programmes and the students have unprecedented access to computers in the classroom.

Computer learning is increasing and the children amaze us with their skills in this area. Teachers have embraced computer use in the classroom for teaching and planning and are constantly upgrading their skills.

**Support for learning**

Our children with special needs are each on their own specialised learning programmes. These are supported in the classroom by school staff. All special programmes are reviewed regularly and are well supported by CSO personnel.

Reading Recovery was offered to those students who were seen to need help in their literacy skills.

**Excursions**

The children in Years 4/5 & 6 travelled to Ballarat and Melbourne in November. The children studied a unit on Gold and the visit to Sovereign Hill was a highlight.

Children in Year K to 2 visited the Straw mud Huts in Ganmain as part of the HSIE curriculum.

---

**Section 3: - School Community**

All teaching staff have qualifications suitable for their teaching role at St Brendan’s School.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Full Time</th>
<th>Part Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Recovery</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher assistant</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative staff</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleaner</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**School Enrolment and Attendance Profile**

Students

St Brendan’s School enrolment for 2005 was 37 children.

- Kindergarten: - 3
- Year 1 - 4
- Year 2 - 6
- Year 3 - 3
- Year 4 - 7
- Year 5 - 6
- Year 6 - 8

Three class groups were used in 2005. The classes were Kindergarten & Year 1 & 2. Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 until 1.00pm. After this the Year 3/4 class split and combined with the upper and lower classes.
School Council
The School Board meets monthly on the third Tuesday of each month. Representatives from the Parish, Parent Body and Staff make up the Board.

During the year the Board has been working towards developing a 5 year strategic plan for the School and establishing priorities for 2005.

Addressing the structural damage in the senior classroom, playground shade and upgrading computers have become the priorities.

Parent involvement in school
In 2005 we were once again very encouraged by the tremendous support of parents and their involvement in the life of the school. This was evident in their presence at reading groups, assemblies, school masses, fun days, school carnivals and other school functions.

The P & F is responsible for the upkeep of the school grounds and gardens. They have regular working bees to ensure this happens.

P & F fundraising
St Brendan’s have an extremely hard working P & F. The school relies very heavily on the financial support of the P & F. We have 20 families in the school.

- The P & F regularly hold Street Stalls and a cake stall at the Hall Markets during the year.
- The P & F also organize the St Brendan’s Debutant Ball each year. Five debs were presented to Bishop Hanna. Children from the school were also involved as flower girls or pageboys.
- Perhaps the highlight of the social calendar was the fundraising dinner with the guest speaker, Pat Farmer, which was held in July. After speaking to the children during the day, Pat spoke with great inspiration on the theme of ‘For God and Country’. He spoke about his life and career and gave insight into what motivates him to achieve such great achievement. He generously donated his time and items. He has made a lasting impression on the children.
- The main source of income for the P & F is catering for functions. During 2005 they catered for many functions ranging from Birthdays to Farewell and Presentation nights.

Community Involvement
The school building and grounds are used by the Parish for meetings and other activities. Items such as the photocopier, urn, overhead projector are used by the wider community.

St Brendan’s is very much committed to the Ganmain and district community. This was evident this year with our involvement in the following activities:

- **CWA International Day**: Each year the CWA select a country to study. This year it was Vietnam. Children in years 3, 4 & 5 presented a project and the Ganmain Public School made a visit to our school where they listened to Mr Tom Entwhistle talk about Vietnam.
- **Senior Citizens** week was held in March. St Brendan’s School children welcomed the Ganmain Public School for part of the day to present items and enjoy morning tea with the children from the Public School and the Senior Citizens of Ganmain.
- **Anzac Day**: The children are involved in the Anzac March each year and school captains lay a wreath at the Cenotaph on the day.
- **Ganmain Public School**: St Brendan’s and the Ganmain Public School enjoy a number of shared educational activities such as the Life Education Van and Plays.
- **Ganmain Craft Cottage**: The craft cottage holds weekend and holiday activities for the children such as knitting, ceramics. The children are encouraged to attend the activities. This year the school was involved in an Easter Hat Parade. Children presented some creative designs and the Craft Cottage donated the prizes.
- **Ganmain Show**: The school displayed art and craftwork and many children entered other work in the appropriate categories.
- **Sporting Activities**: Many children in the school are involved in weekend sporting activities of several kinds. The boys played AFL with the local GGGM Lions. The girls were involved in Physical Culture and Netta.
- **Cancer Council**: The school hosted a morning tea to support the Cancer Council’s Biggest Morning Tea.
- **Christmas carols in the Park**: The school supports the annual Christmas Carols in the Park each year.

Section 4: - School Facilities & Upgrade

During the year the Board has been working towards developing a 5 year strategic plan for the School and establishing priorities for 2005.

As part of the 5 year Strategic Plan, the priorities for 2005-2006 are:

- purchase more readers,
- finish adventure playground & shade shelter,
- monitor computer capabilities,
- purchase more computers,
• replace guttering,
• upgrade heating,
• replace sliding door between K/1 room & library,
• structural repairs in senior classroom, and
• update the phone system for office/classroom

St Brendan’s has been successful in obtaining two large grants during 2005. The community water grant of $29,995.00, and also the Investing in School program we were allocated $55000.00 to be used for upgrading facilities in the school.

We are very appreciative of the Investing in Our Schools and Community Water Grant money due in 2006.

Section 5: Financial Report

Fees and Private Income, 15.1%
State Recurrent Grants, 21.6%
Commonwealth Recurrent Grants, 61.6%
Government Capital Grants, 1.0%
Other Capital Income, 1.2%
Salaries, allowances and related expenses, 86.7%
Non-salary Expenses, 13.3%

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

Section 6: Focusing Forward

As part of the 5 year Strategic Plan, the priorities for 2005-2006 are:

• establish a green area around eastern and southern ends of the school
• purchase more readers,
• finish adventure playground & shade shelter,
• monitor computer capabilities and networking,
• purchase more computers,
• replace guttering,
• upgrade heating,
• replace sliding door between K/1 room & library,
• structural repairs in senior classroom, and
• update the phone system for office/classroom
• seek possible grant money in order to help finance upgrade

Section 7:

This report was written and prepared by the Principal, Mrs Kathy Gaskin in consultation with staff members of St Brendan’s School.