2005 Annual Report

ST FRANCIS XAVIER’S SCHOOL URANA

CONTACT DETAILS:

PRINCIPAL:  MRS THERESA
              McFARLANE
ADDRESS:   END STREET
           URANA NSW 2645
PHONE:   (02)6920 8051
FAX:   (02)6920 8395
EMAIL:  INFO@SFXU.WAGGA.CATHOLIC.EDU.AU
1. School Profile

1.1 Introduction
In order to maintain the profile of the school’s Vision and Mission, an excerpt is included in the school’s weekly newsletter.

MISSION STATEMENT

At St Francis Xavier Primary School, Urana we believe that “Christ is the foundation of the whole educational enterprise in a Catholic school” (par 34, The Catholic School) Therefore, we believe our Mission is to:

Be a Community of Faith
- Centred on Christ and sacramental life of the Church
- Learning about and living our Catholic faith whilst respecting other faith traditions
- Building kingdom of God one earth
- Demonstrate relevance of faith to life (in contemporary culture)

Be a Community of Learning
- Helping students to find and nurture their gifts
- Provide a quality comprehensive curriculum that promotes life long learning
- Value effort and achievement and excellence
- Respect contributions of members of the school community
- Modelling integration of faith and learning
- Use ICT to enhance learning and teaching

Be a Community of Care
- Welcoming students and families
- Promote self esteem, respect dignity and uniqueness of each other
- Provide safe secure and stimulating learning environment
- Use discipline measures that are just and fair
- Promote critical thinking

Be a Community of Service
- Working in partnership with priest, parish and community
- Promote outreach to poor and disadvantaged
- Encourage attitude of stewardship to the land
- Working in partnership with parents
- Promote use of gifts to benefit society

1.2 Student Profile
The following information describes the student profile for 2005:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>LBOTE*</th>
<th>Indigenous</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LBOTE*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>33</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Language background other than English

1.3 Enrolment Policy
The Diocese of Wagga Wagga has established an Enrolments Policy which is implemented by all schools in the Diocese. The full text of this policy can be found at

http://cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au/policies.htm

The implementation of this policy is monitored by the Catholic Schools Office.
1.4 Staff Profile

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

b) have qualifications from a recognised higher education institution 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>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Catholic Life and Mission

2.1 Catholic Heritage

St Francis Xavier’s School was established by the Presentation Sisters in 1941. The sisters taught at the school, in some capacity, until the mid eighties. The first lay principal was appointed in 1979. Since the late eighties the school has been staffed by lay persons. As a parish school there has always been the involvement of the parish priest, staff and community in maintaining the Catholic heritage of the school.

2.2 Liturgical Life

The school prays together daily; having the Church in the school grounds also provides an additional opportunity for personal prayer.

Each week Mass for the school community is celebrated. We also celebrate Benediction regularly, and children are given the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Penance periodically.

2.3 The School in the Life of the Parish and Diocese

Our school assists parents in the preparation of their children for the reception of the Sacraments.

This year six children received the Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist, while seven senior children were among the group of eleven young parishioners to be conferred Confirmation by Bishop Hanna.

Every child receives a copy of each issue of ‘Together’, our diocesan newspaper, which reports on diocesan and wider Church events.

2.4 Religious Education Curriculum

Over the past two years “Sharing Our Story” has become the core document for the Religious Education Curriculum. Throughout the years teachers have utilized the units available, on a cyclic calendar, due to multistage composite classes.

The implementation and necessary modification will continue.

2.5 Catholic Worldview

To promote a wider view of the Church, the school community is involved in raising funds for Church organisations such as Catholic Missions and the various Caritas appeals.

These organisations provide resources to promote their missionary works, and these are used in learning and teaching programs.

2.6 Parent Participation

Parents assist children in their efforts for Catholic Missions and Caritas.

They attend meetings with regard to the reception of Sacraments, and assist their children in the instruction and activities sent home in preparation for the Sacraments.

2.7 Professional Learning in Catholic Life and Mission

Staff have attended the required inservice sessions regarding the implementation of ‘Sharing Our Story’ and continue to modify the syllabus to suit the need of each of the multistage classes.
The Diocesan Policy on Professional Requirements for the Accreditation of Teachers of Religious Education can be found at:

http://cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au/policies.htm
3. **Pastoral Care**

3.1 **Diocesan Policies**

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga has established Pastoral Care and Discipline Policies which are implemented by all schools in the Diocese. The full text of these policies can be found at:

http://cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au/policies.htm

The implementation of these policies is monitored by the Catholic Schools Office.

3.2 **School Implementation of Diocesan Policy**

Diocesan policies regarding Pastoral Care matters are adhered to by our school.

Policies regarding –

- Enrolment
- Student Management/Pastoral Care
- Complaints and Grievance Resolution

are based upon diocesan policy and available from the school.

3.3 **Pastoral Care of Families**

The above policies have been compiled in consultation with the school community.

3.4 **2005 Initiatives**

In an effort to promote life skills to effectively cope with difficult and/or anxiety provoking situations, the FRIENDS program has been integrated within the school program.

A staff member attended further training in the use of this program.

3.5 **Resolving Issues**

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga has established a Complaints Handling Policy which is implemented by all schools in the Diocese. The full text of this policy can be found at

http://cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au/policies.htm

The implementation of this policy is monitored by the Catholic Schools Office.
4. Excellence in Teaching and Learning

4.1 Curriculum Overview
To develop understanding of the core learning and teaching principles outlined in our diocesan document, ‘Today’s Children, Tomorrow’s Adults’, the guiding principle of ‘communication’ was chosen to underpin the year’s work.

4.2 Approach to Teaching and Learning
At this school we believe students learn best in a supportive, challenging and motivating environment.

Students develop as effective communicators through experiencing –

- A range of opportunities to reflect upon and articulate their achievements and needs.
- Authentic and ranging learning strategies that develop multimedia, written and oral communication.
- Develop questioning, talking and listening.
- Teamwork and meaningful dialogue embedded within a range of community, school and classroom activities.

4.3 Significant Initiatives
In order to provide learners with strategies to become effective communicators, staff and students used Super3 Scaffold which allows learners to organise their learning tasks around 3 major components – Plan, Do and Review.

Mathematics and Creative Arts were designated for curriculum review in 2005.

Further work on the use in ICT within integrated programming was a major focus under one of our CAP (Country Areas Program) projects.

Staff attended workshops in the use of Brain Gym within classes as a means to develop children’s skills in concentration, following instructions, listening and organisation, and to allow for the different learning styles of students.

4.4 Student Achievement

Literacy
Eight children in Year Three and six in Year Five participated in the NSW Primary Writing Assessment and Basic Skills Test in literacy.

All children achieved results above the national benchmark.

Primary children participated in the writing competition ‘Special Forever’ conducted by PETA throughout schools of the Murray-Darling Basin. Two children were successful in having their work published in the 2005 anthology- Living Landscapes.

Children also participated in ‘Reading Rocks’ a competition organised by the visiting Upper Murray Regional Library.

One of the students won the senior section of the competition, while the school received an overall prize for participation.

Numeracy
Eight children in Year Three and six Year Five participated in the NSW Primary Basic Skills Test for numeracy. All children attained results above the national benchmark.
Year One and Year Three also participated in the diocesan initiative – SENA 1 and 2- Schedule for Early Number Assessment.

The initial assessment conducted at the beginning of the school year highlighted aspects on which to develop throughout the year. The followup assessment in Term Four showed progress made towards those skills.

**Targets for 2006**

Similar participation is expected in 2006. Those areas of need determined from the above assessments, along with classroom assessments, provide ongoing targets for student learning.

**4.5 Information, Communication and Learning Technologies**

2005 was devoted to incorporating ICT learning resources within an integrated approach to programming.

Facilities such as Kidpix, Kidspiration, Powerpoint, Photoshop, as well as generic publishing tools, were the focus for Information and Communication Learning and Teaching.

Under our CAP (Country Area Program) ICT project funds were made available to establish a website for the school. Further training for staff and students is anticipated, to allow the uploading of information to our site.

**4.6 Professional Learning**

Technology training was a major part of professional learning. Staff were involved in the use of myinternet and some of the numerous facilities available. SAS 2000 training was made available to school secretaries throughout the diocese. Skilling in the use of Kidpix, Kidspiration and Powerpoint were also focuses in technology.

Staff attended workshops in the delivery of SENA 1 and 2, and the associated maths activities to promote numeracy skills.

A staff member attended an inservice day on the implementation of the FRIENDS program for 7-12 year olds. (see 3.4)

Modules of training in determining ‘gifted and talented’ students, and in designing appropriate learning resources and activities were

The principal, staff and community were involved in the Principal Renewal Process which occurred throughout the year.

**4.7 Optional**

Our school was fortunate to receive a grant of $1500 to be used to conduct a ‘Healthy Eating Program’ for the school community. This is planned for early 2006.
5. **Extra Curricula Program**

The school is a regular participant in a number of wider community activities and events.

Students and staff take part in weekly Meals on Wheels, and also represent the school at Anzac Day and Remembrance Day Services.

Tree planting day usually involves students, staff and parents.

Primary children are given the opportunity to learn through their visit to Council meeting during Local Government Week.

This year the school was fortunate to receive funds from Graincorp and the federal government Flags in Schools Grant.

The grant from Graincorp allowed the school to install blinds throughout the classrooms, and a water filter/cooler.

"Flags in Schools' funded the installation of a new flagpole. The flagpole was "commissioned" by our federal member, Susan Ley MP, at the end of year Presentation Evening.

Through the initiative of Community health and with the co-operation of local schools, our school was a participant in the biennial Farm Safety Day held on a district farming property.
6. Strategic Initiatives

6.1 2005 Priorities and Achievements

Using “communication” (TCTA) as the guiding principle for the year facilitated the development of school projects for 2005.

Professional development commitments regarding syllabus requirements for the Key Learning Areas of Maths, Creative Arts and English were major achievements.

Training in Technology, and in its incorporation within integrated units of work proved a practicable and beneficial method to enhance skills in this everchanging facility.

6.2 2006 Priorities and Challenges

It is planned the guiding principle for 2006 “Thinkers” underpin planning.

Priorities for 2006 include-

- The development of higher order thinking skills within the school program
- The completion of modules for English, review of policy and documentation
- The implementation of 'Reporting to Parents’
- The process for registration of school
- Further development of technology skilling
7. **Parent Participation**

Our school has a unique situation allowing all families representation at meetings of the whole school, and in the election of executive members.

Parents willingly carry out grounds and maintenance works around the school, and have completed appropriate training in the use of chemicals and fuel to allow them to do so.

Fundraising is a major activity in which parents are involved throughout the school year.

Parents show their interest in their children’s learning through their attendance and participation at Parent Information Evenings, Parent/Teacher Reporting Interviews, School Meetings and through the provision of transport for many school events around the diocese.
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.

**Income**
- School Fees: 8%
- Other Fee Income: 5%
- State Government Recurrent Grants: 21%
- Commonwealth Government Recurrent Grants: 66%

**Expense**
- Salary and Related Expenses: 85%
- Non Salary Expenses: 15%