1 The School

St Peter’s Primary School was established in 1970 and was the first school in the Diocese with an all lay-teaching staff. It was set up because local Catholic families saw the need for a local Catholic school. The population is made up of girls and boys from Coleambally and Darlington Point, as well as surrounding rural areas.

VISION STATEMENT

St. Peter’s School is a school where:

- Christ’s teachings are implemented each day and where faith is fostered and nurtured.
- The staff as Catholic school educators is passionate about supporting & understanding all within the community of St. Peter’s.
- Every child has the right to learn.
- We strive to accept, care, value, trust and recognize the self-worth of individuals.
- All are part of a learning journey in a happy and safe environment.
- There is a genuine partnership between children, parents, staff, Parish and the wider community.

MISSION STATEMENT

Christ’s teachings are implemented each day and where faith is fostered and nurtured.

We promote this through opportunities to participate in:

- Regular reflection and worship
- Sacramental programs
- Daily involvement in Religious Education
- The celebration of religious events

The staff as Catholic school educators is passionate about supporting & understanding all within the community of St. Peter’s.

We promote this through:

- Opportunities to encourage the support received and value the importance of parents in all facets of the school.
- Participate in events in the school, parish and Coleambally Community.
- Attend professional development to ensure that staff is exposed to current best practices for the benefit of students.

Every child has the right to learn.

This is lived through:

- Recognizing and catering for individual differences for children through use of effective teaching and learning practices.
- Encouraging opportunities for all to reach their potential.
We strive to accept, care, value, trust and recognize the self-worth of individuals. This is lived through:

- Acknowledgement of children’s achievements in a variety of ways.
- Recognition of parent’s commitment to our school.
- Valuing children’s opinions and promoting self-esteem programs.

All are part of a learning journey in a happy and safe environment. This is lived through:

- Providing and stimulating an environment which provides opportunities for children to learn.
- Ensuring that education happens within an enjoyable framework.

There is a genuine partnership between children, parents, staff, Parish and the wider community. This is lived through:

- Fostering community, through invitation, participation and involvement in relevant activities.
- Children encouraged to take leadership roles in the school.
- Regular and ongoing collaboration between school and parish.

The St Peter's School motto is the “Way Truth and Life” and this is the motto we strive to live by at our school. Christ is the central figure in our school and in all our interactions with each other.

1.2 Religious Education

In 2005 St Peter’s School students celebrated the two sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Reconciliation was held on the evening of Tuesday November 8th with 10 Year 2 students making their First Reconciliation with Fr Howie. First Holy Communion was celebrated on Sunday June 19th with 4 students receiving Communion for the first time.

St Peter’s has regular school masses that are celebrated by Fr Howie and attended by the children, parents and parishioners. The important celebrations during 2005 were the Beginning of School Year Mass, Ash Wednesday Mass, Mother’s Day Mass, St Peter’s Feast Day Mass, and the End of Year and Graduation Mass. We also held a paraliturgy in memory of Pope John Paul II at the end of Term 1 which was well attended by parishioners.

Students from Year 5/6 continued their participation in an “Adopt a Granny” program with residents from Cypress View Lodge. The children were taken up to the lodge to visit during school time and where possible visited their adopted grandparent in their own time after school. The residents also made a visit to St Peter’s that both the children and residents enjoyed.

St Peter’s held a Mufti Day on Holy Thursday to raise money for the Missions. Children donated a gold coin per family for the privilege of wearing casual sports clothes. During Lent we also held “5 cent Fridays” where the children were invited to bring in 5 cents per week for Project Compassion.

1.3 The Arts

On May 19th we had a visit from singer/songwriter Andrew Chinn who worked with the children for a day. He worked with all classes for a period of time and the parents and grandparents attended a concert by Andrew and the children in the afternoon.

Nine St Peter’s children took up the opportunity to participate in the local Colcom production, “Happy Days” that was staged for the local community in June. The girls were part of a dance routine and performed admirably.

The teachers and children of St Peter’s all placed a hand print on the town mural “Give Us a Hand” at the back of the main street shops in March.

1.4 Sport

On Friday 14th February at our third attempt St Peter’s held their annual Swimming Carnival. The carnival was again a success and 23 children were chosen to represent the school at the Deanery Carnival. From the Deanery Carnival 5 children qualified to compete at the Diocesan Carnival. We had a child selected to compete at the Inter Diocesan Carnival in Sydney.
Our Cross Country Carnival was run at The Town No. 1 Oval on 5th April and we selected a strong team to attend the Diocesan Carnival in Narrandera. 2 children were selected to attend the Mackillop Trials in Sydney.

On Friday 10th June we held our Athletics Carnival at the town oval. All children had an enjoyable day and a large squad of 25 students was chosen to represent our school at the Deanery Carnival in Griffith. At the Deanery Carnival the children competed very well and 11 were selected to represent the school at the Albury Diocesan Carnival. From the Diocesan Carnival 4 children and the girls junior relay team were selected to attend the Mackillop Trials in Canberra.

Selected Year 5 and 6 girls and boys attended diocesan trials in netball, soccer, rugby league, hockey and Australian rules during the year.

St Peter’s children attended Gala Days in netball, rugby league and Aussie Rules in surrounding towns. Development officers also visited the schools to run skills sessions with the primary children.

1.5 General and Specific School Initiatives
The school captains, their parents and the principal attended the Young Leaders Conference in Melbourne on Friday 4th March. This was a wonderful experience for the children to attend a conference with over 4000 people. The children listened to speakers including Matt Welsh, Rev. Tim Costello, Wendy Orr and Michael Lee who all spoke about leadership and what good leaders do and can aspire to.

A number of students attended the local Anzac Day March on Monday April 25th. The children who marched showed our school’s support of those that have served our country. On 13th May the school captains planted a small pine tree that is grown from a seed from the Lone Pine at Gallipoli. The ceremony was attended by all the children and local members of the RSL.

The Student Representative Council met 2 or 3 times each term during lunchtimes. The SRC consisted of 1 representative from each year level as well as the school captains. During 2005 the children helped organise events such as Sports Mufti Day as well as giving input on what new facilities and procedures could be implemented for the good of the school.

During Terms 3 and 4 the Year 5/6 children teamed up with a kindergarten child who they read to and listened to read. During this time the children came together twice a week and it was a great opportunity for the children to develop a positive relationship.

During Term 4 we held our Kindergarten orientation program for students beginning kindergarten in 2006. The preschool children visited on 6 occasions with the visits ranging in time from two hours for the first visit up to the full day for the last. The children were introduced to the school and kindergarten classroom routines and really enjoyed their visits.

1.6 School Policies
The following policies are available at the school and the CSO public website (below)
- enrolment policy
- discipline policy
- student welfare policy
- complaints and grievances policy

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

2 Information on Key School Programs

2.1 Educational and Management Practice Evaluation – School Culture
The teachers and children focused on the guiding principle of ‘inquiry’ from the Diocesan document “Today’s Children, Tomorrow’s Adults”.
2.2 Curriculum Focus
The curriculum focus for 2005 was Mathematics. In October our Mathematics Policy was reviewed by a panel of teachers led by CSO personnel from our Diocese. The response was positive and there are only some minor adjustments needed in 2006.

We also began looking at our Creative Arts Policy and the staff attended an in-service day in Finley completing the first module. Our Creative Arts policy will be reviewed in 2006.

2.3 Programs to Support Learning
Reading Recovery was offered to those students in Year 1 who were seen to need a boost in their literacy skills. The students were given daily one on one lessons by the Reading Recovery teacher and were able to show improvement in independence upon their return to the classroom.

All children in Kinder and Year 1 participated in the Perceptual Motor Program during terms 2, 3 and 4. The PMP program benefits the children by developing perception and motor skills along with memory training. The children participate in activities that require running, hopping, skipping, jumping, balancing, crawling, throwing, catching, bowling and sliding. This program would not be possible without the wonderful support of parents who roster on to help the teacher run the program.

2.4 Equity Programs
Indigenous children receive extra support through IESIP funding.

2.5 Programs to Support Students
Reading Recovery operates each day with our reading recovery teacher. Two children are taught daily. Monitoring is ongoing with children who have discontinued the program and are currently in Years 2 and 3.

Children who participate in the Reading Recovery are fortunate to receive an intensive individualised program that works hand in hand with what the children are currently learning in class. Early intervention is the key to gain success in all aspects of literacy.

The school receives regular visits from the team at Centacare who assist students in need as well as supporting teachers in dealing with the individual needs of children in their class.

During Term 4 we received a visit from Robert Pereira who worked with all children in groups from Year 3 to Year 6 on bullying.

2.6 Student Achievement
The children in Year 3 and 5 both completed the Basic Skills Test and Primary Writing Assessment during Term 3. Overall the children’s results in both Year 3 and 5 were satisfying with most children performing well. Overall areas of strength included a majority of children achieving satisfactory growth in writing between Year 3 and 5 and gaining good results in the number strand of Mathematics. Areas for future focus include the Space strand of Mathematics and reading and interpreting maps and diagrams in across Key Learning Areas.

During Term 2 we had children compete in the University of NSW Exams. The children performed well and received certificates at a school assembly.

2.7 Staff Achievement
One staff member successfully trained with others for the Diocese in the Reading Recovery Program during 2005. She taught two children each day for the year and the children showed marked improvements in their literacy skills.

All staff has current Senior First Aid and CPR qualifications through registered organisations.

One staff member was a member of the Indigenous Education Reference Group who wrote the Indigenous Education Policy for the Diocese. The document ‘Firestick’ was launched in July 2005.
A staff member attended a full day Peer Support training course in late 2005 and we will be implementing the first part of this program in the second half of 2006. All staff attended a copyright session.

3 School Renewal

3.1 Progress of the School Renewal Framework

The teachers attended an in-service day on Creative Arts and have developed a school scope and sequence. They will be rewriting the policy during 2006 when it will be reviewed.

The construction of a Covered Outdoor Learning Area has been carried over to 2006 and will hopefully be completed by the end of Term 1.

The staff will be rewriting the Behaviour Management Policy in 2006 and will participate in the English Modules when available.

4 School Overview

4.1 School Enrolment and Attendance Profile

St Peter’s School census enrolment for 2005 was 86 children. Our daily attendance rate for the year was very good. During term 2 and 3 there was an increase in absences due to sickness.

4.2 Structure of Classes

4 class groups were used in 2005 with 3 composite and 1 straight class. The classes were Kindergarten, Year 1/2, Year 3/4 and Year 5/6. The principal shared the Year 3/4 class with the release teacher who gave the teachers their weekly release as well as giving the reading recovery teacher time each day. The breakdown of year numbers is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enrolment at St Peter’s in 2005 was 86 children.

4.3 Staffing

Four full time teachers, one part time teacher, a secretary and a part time teacher assistant/librarian were employed at St Peter’s in 2005. All teachers have suitable qualifications to teach in the Wagga Diocese.

4.4 Parent Involvement and Participation

The School Council is active in supporting the principal in the administration and decision-making in the school. They are active in providing support and knowledge on any building and maintenance work required.

The School Parents and Friends Association is committed to raising funds to help in the running of the school. They play an important role in bringing parents together as a school community and are willing to help out with the purchasing of new resources for the school. In 2005 the P and F bought the school a new television as well as new CD players for 2 of the classrooms.

Parents are very active in the daily running of the school. They can be found helping out with the upkeep of the grounds, working in the tuckshop and on catering, helping with PMP and in classrooms and assisting with sporting carnivals.

4.5 Community Use of School Facilities

The school grounds are used for the annual school fete which is on the first Sunday in March each year. The Parish Council and Finance Committee also use the school multi-purpose room for their meetings.
4.6 Financial Statement Summary
This data shown below is a summary of the Diocese of Wagga School System income and expense and includes income and expense of all system schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Fees</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Fee Income</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commonwealth Government</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recurrent Grants</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salary and Related Expenses</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non Salary Expenses</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.7 About This Report
This report was prepared and written by the staff and principal of the school.