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**Introduction**
St Brendan’s Primary School is a small Catholic school situated in the town of Ganmain. Students enjoy a rural lifestyle and large play areas. It serves the parish, town and nearby countryside and had been in operation for one hundred years.

The school has had many highlights throughout the school year and this Annual Report is an account of the many areas addressed, attainments made and the achievements of our students and staff.

**1. The School**

**The School**
The year 2006 marks one hundred years since the foundation of St Brendan’s School. It has been a year of celebration, culminating in the Centenary Weekend in October 2006. On behalf of the school community we would like to thank everyone associated with the school for their involvement and help throughout the 2006 year and for making this a very successful and memorable one.

**Centenary Celebrations**
St Brendan’s School boasts a proud history of quality Catholic education. This year we looked back over the hundred years since its humble beginnings and appreciated the enormous sacrifices that the people of the Ganmain Parish and district have made to build a vibrant and Christian place of learning.

We appreciate the contribution and dedication of the religious orders and parish priests who have supported and inspired us as religious educators. We aim to continue to instil Catholic ethos and values into all aspects of our students’ learning and nurture each individual’s talent and skills.

Our school motto “Launch out into the Deep” reflects our aim of reaching out others. Our Vision and Mission statements are the heart of what we aim to live out and celebrate - our uniqueness as a Catholic school in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

**Religious Education**
In 2006 we have continued to proclaim the Catholic faith through the school’s religious education programme, sacramental preparation, prayer life of the school and activities which foster positive, caring relationships among its members.

Students attend Mass regularly and are provided with opportunities for involvement in the sacramental life of the parish.

In cooperation with parents, who are the first educators of their children, the school exists to support parents in the education of the faith.

Students are also encouraged to develop in their prayer life through daily prayer, both formal and informal, and through programs which help to them to live out Gospel values and to develop Christian virtues. Children respond generously to mission days and fund-raising opportunities.

**The Arts**
During the year, all children are involved in the Creative Arts programs. This programme provides many opportunities for listening, performing, responding and creating music through singing, playing and movement. This occurred through class activities individually, within a group setting and often as a whole school. There are many opportunities for children to perform such as for the senior citizens and the preschool groups.

**Music**
Throughout the year, children have enjoyed many opportunities to learn about and enjoy music through the music program run by Mrs Ros Guthrie. As well as singing for religious occasions, they learn an appreciation of many types of music including liturgical music. Children have the opportunity to learn the recorder or guitar in stage two or three classes.

**Drama and Dance**
In 2006 the children had many opportunities to use their skills in front of an audience. They regularly perform on feast days, assemblies and various school and community activities as well as within the classroom.

The highlight of 2006 year and the culmination of learning and practice was a performance, by the whole school, of a play based on the past one hundred years of life of St Brendan’s School. This was a resounding success and a highlight of the Centenary Celebrations. Children sang, acted and danced to depict the many eras of school life to a very large audience of past pupils, teachers, principals.
and families who had returned from many parts of the country and overseas for the occasion. It was extremely well received and the children gained a great sense of ownership and involvement in the centenary celebrations.

Art and Craft
Children make, critique and display and appreciate many art and craft works during their class lessons. There are many other opportunities throughout the year for them to demonstrate and develop their skills through their involvement in such things as displays for events and special occasions, visits to the Art Gallery in Wagga and the inclusion of art works in the Ganmain Show. In 2006 St Brendan’s was awarded the “Best In Show” award for our whole school display of the night sky.

Sport
Students attended several sporting events this year.

- **Swimming Lessons** The whole school was involved in a swimming program over three weeks at the beginning of 2006. Mrs Rachelle Cox conducted the lessons and all the children increased their swimming skills and safety awareness.
- **Swimming Carnival** The school carnival was held in early February. The whole school participated in this Carnival. From this Carnival children were selected to represent the school at the Deanery Athletics Carnival which St Brendan’s organised at the Ganmain Pool. This was a very successful day for all.
- **AFL & Netball Trials** These were held in March and Sam Hatty and William Lawton went on the represent the Diocese at the McKillop trials in Wagga in April.
- **Touch Football** St Brendan’s girls Junior Touch Football team won the Grand Final in the Coolamon Touch association in March.
- **Athletics Carnival** The School athletics carnival was held in March. From this, children went on the represent the school at the Deanery athletics carnival in Wagga in May.
- Caleb Noble was successful in the **Diocesan Cross Country**. He came third and was eligible to participate in the McKillop trial at Eastern Creek in June.
- The Year 4 5 & 6 girls participated in the Gala Netball day held in Wagga in August.
- Lauren Brill and Dominic Proctor represented the Wagga Country Deanery at the Diocesan Carnival held in Albury.

School Initiatives

**Centenary** In 2006 St Brendan’s School celebrated 100 years since the opening of the school in 1906. The Centenary celebrations were a large focus of the school activities through the year. A database of ex-students was set up and over 1000 letters were sent inviting people to attend.

The celebrations were held in October 2006, with the weekend starting with registration and afternoon tea on Saturday followed by a Centenary Dinner and Auction. On Sunday an outdoor Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Carroll with a very large gathering of ex-students, parishioners and current families in attendance. This was followed by the Centenary Play and Lunch. Thanks to the hard work and initiatives of the centenary committee the parent body, the many friends and parishioners and the community it has been a great year to remember.

School Policies

**Student Welfare (Pastoral Care)**
This policy aims to:
- Enhance positive relationships amongst the students and the school community
- Foster a positive learning environment where student confidently share their thoughts and ideas and learn to make responsible choices, and
- Underpin other policies as the foundation of work with the children in our care.

**Discipline**
This policy aims to:
- Foster positive relationships within the school environment with explicit links to the vision and mission statements
- Clarify acceptable behaviour and procedures or processes to be used in the management of students in the school.
• Provide a framework for good communication between school and families with regard to behaviour of students
• Provide support for teachers and staff in the management of student within the school

Complaints and Grievances
The school has adopted an approach to resolving complaints and grievances that is based on procedural fairness. It recognises that parents/caregivers and students must have access to processes that allow them to resolve concerns in a supportive and conciliatory way.
Parents/students with a complaint are encouraged in the first instance to contact their class teacher. If the need then arises contact with the Principal and the www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au may be appropriate.

The complaints and grievances resolution policy is planned to be redeveloped over the next year.

School Council
The School Council meets monthly on the third Tuesday of each month. Representatives from the Parish, Parent Body and Staff make up the members of this Board.

The School Council was heavily involved in the organisation of the School Centenary celebrations.

During the year the School Council has been working towards developing a 5 year strategic plan for the School and establishing priorities for 2007.

2. Information on Key School Programs

Curriculum Focus
In 2006 St Brendan’s School focus was on the area of Creative Art. Trialling and programming for the syllabus outcomes has been the focus with a view to setting the policy and overview early in 2007. Curriculum review is planned for later in the year.

In 2006 the teachers also attended to planning and programming for the diocesan program for Religious Education: Sharing our Story

Programs to Support Learning
At St Brendan’s we are able to offer support to children in Year One who require further literacy assistance.

Under the guidance of Mrs Ros Guthrie, children are given individual tuition in the necessary skills to advance them in Reading. This is an intensive program and the teacher attends ongoing professional development inservices.

Also, individual education plans (IEPs) are formulated to support and encourage children with additional needs so that they can have access to the curriculum and reach their full potential in consultation with parents and the principal and the special needs consultant.

Children have access to the library on a daily basis through class activities. These are usually set up by the teacher throughout the day under their teacher’s guidance and once a fortnight Mrs Diane Brill has assisted the children in their library skills and choice of reading materials.

Equity Programs
As a part of HSIE unit and our Centenary year the children looked at the local history of Ganmain. Guest speakers from the local Wiradjuri people talked to the senior students about the past, their association with the local area and showed several artefacts from the past. The younger children visited local heritage sights. Classes were also taught through stories, music and dance and were involved in activities for National Sorry Day
Programs to Support Students
During the school year the students attend sessions on health and safety. In particular children and staff receive asthma education through the local health services. The Life Education Van supported the health and safety policy in the school.

Respect and Responsibility
Students are always encouraged to follow their commitment to Christ and support the ethos of the school through programs, which encourage respect and responsibility for each other. The Peer Support program and Values Education program along with the Safe School Framework have encouraged children to develop positive attitudes towards others and persistence in their efforts to care for each other.

Student Achievement
Statewide Tests and Examinations
The table below indicates the percentage of students who have achieved national literacy and numeracy benchmarks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</table>

Basic Skills 1998 to 2006
Our school has participated in BST Literacy and Numeracy since 1998 and in BST Writing since 2001. The school monitors the BST Trend Data each year and uses that information to inform its learning and teaching practices for the upcoming year.

Staff Achievement
Staff are encouraged to seek professional and personal development opportunities and further their own learning. Several staff members have attended courses and developed their own learning plans.

3. School Renewal

Progress of the School Renewal Framework
School Improvement Targets
In 2006, St Brendan’s Primary School’s focus for improvement included:
- Establishing a Peer Support Program
- Curriculum Review of Mathematics and Writing of Creative Arts policy
- Introduction of the electronic role marking
- Assessment and Reporting changes to meet new State and Commonwealth government legislation.
- Professional development in Writing
- School maintenance and building improvement

A major incentive for the year was the Centenary celebrations.

Major Grants Received
At the end of 2005 St Brendan’s was successful in obtaining two grants. The Community Water Grant of $29,995.00 and Investing in our Schools Grant of $55,000.00.

We are very grateful to have been given these substantial funds as they have enabled us to carry out a great deal of necessary work around the school.

The Community Water Grant enabled the school to install an automatic watering system as well as a tank to harvest the rain water from the school roof. This has enabled us to plant a lawn area on the eastern and southern end of the school. This will also help reduce soil movement and stabilize the moisture levels around the school.

The Investing in our Schools Grant has enabled us to upgrade facilities and equipment throughout the school. An outdoor shade area has been constructed over the playground area, blinds have been installed in the classrooms. We purchased seven laptop computers and a trolley, landscaped the front and back of the school grounds and planted many scrubs. Also we updated the phone system throughout the school, purchased office equipment, a portable PA System, portable whiteboards and more resources for the classroom. These items were all part of the 5 year Strategic Plan.
4. School Overview

School Enrolment
Enrolment Policy
St Brendan’s Primary School’s Enrolment policy aims to provide equitable placement for students seeking a Catholic education and to ensure that the requirement of State and Commonwealth legislation are met. Our enrolment policy is supported by the Catholic Schools office Enrolment Policy.

www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au

Student Enrolment Profile:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Indig*</th>
<th>LOTE*</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Language background Other Than English

Structure of Classes
St Brendan’s classes are structured as follows:

Morning Session
- Early Stage I and Stage 1-Years K, 1 & 2
- Stage 2 - Year 3 & 4
- Stage 3 - Years 5 & 6

Afternoon Session
- Years K, 1, 2 & 3
- Years 4, 5 & 6

Staff
Teacher Standards
At St Brendan’s School all teaching staff have teaching qualifications from a recognised higher education institution.

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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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Professional Learning
Throughout the year, teacher and staff attended professional development days provided by school and also enhanced their knowledge and skills through other self-directed learning. Some opportunities for professional development were:

- Insights into Autism
- Reading recovery Training Continuing Contact
- Early Literacy
- SENA Testing
- Beginning Teachers Program
- World Youth Day Workshop
- Curriculum Review
- Children’s Writing Workshop
- Basic Skills Assessment
- Assessment and Reporting Training
- Principal – Marketing Schools
- SAS Reporting

Teacher Attendance and Retention
The federal Schools Assistance Act 2005 requires that each school report on the average attendance rate of staff members in a given school. The end figure is determined by calculations including certain periods of absence due to sickness, personal carers leave, leave without pay, special leave and accident/workers compensation leave. An attendance rate of 98.8% was achieved in 2006 by staff at St Brendan’s Primary School, Gannain.

Parent Involvement and Participation
In 2006 we were once again very encouraged by the tremendous support of parents and their involvement in the life of St Brendan’s School. Being the Centenary year, 2006 was a very big year for us and the P & F were involved all aspects of the preparation and Centenary Celebrations. This was evident in the working bees, catering for the centenary dinner and the BBQ lunch on Sunday, organising the Auction etc leading up to and including the weekend of the Centenary.

St Brendan’s relies heavily on the financial support from the P & F to help with the day to day costs of running the school. The main source of income for the P & F is catering for functions throughout the year. In particular, the Debutante Ball held in March each year is a gala event which relies heavily on the generosity of the parents. This is usually very well attended and a highlight of the social calendar in the community. Stalls at the Hall...
markets and street stalls are held throughout the year to help raise needed funds for the school.

**Community Satisfaction**
Feedback from the school community is seen as a valuable gauge for determining the level of satisfaction our community has with St Brendan’s Primary school.

Survey data will be provided for the 2007 report.

**Community Use of School Facilities**
The school facilities are used by a number of community organisations. The Parish, Legion of Mary and other organisation hold meeting etc at the school. Parents and the community are welcomed on to the school grounds for many activities during the year. With the greatly improved facilities and features established in 2006 we are very proud of the overall visual appeal the school presents in the town.

**Financial Statement Summary**
See Appendix A

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

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.

**System Income 2006**

- Capital Income: 3%
- Commonwealth Government Recurrent Grants: 57%
- Other Fee Income: 5%
- State Government Recurrent Grants: 21%
- School Fees: 14%
- System Income 2006

**System Expenses 2006**

- Capital Expenditure: 7%
- Non Salary Expenses: 20%
- Salary and Related Expenses: 73%
- System Expenses 2006
The total income and expense of the school, that is included in the above, is shown below.