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**Introduction**

St Francis Xavier’s Primary School is a small school situated in an isolated area of the Wagga Wagga Diocese. It services families who in the majority are engaged in rural-related industries.

The parish school is a valued institution in the community.

Community members continue their commitment to the school and its function in the Catholic education of its students.

1. **The School**

**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 the 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

**Religious Education**

Throughout 2007 the core religious Education document “Sharing Our School” has undergone a review of its implementation. Strands covered in the original draft syllabus were rearranged into four major strands.

Our school has continued to adjust the syllabus to suit our Kindergarten – Year Six class situation.

Work has also begun, across schools, to revise and write a generic Religious Education Policy. This work will continue next year, as will alignment with Board of Studies’ requirements.

Our school assists parents in the preparation of their children for the reception of the Sacraments. Parents 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. This year five children received the Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist.

Biennially Stage 3 children prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. In 2007 five students were confirmed by Bishop Hanna.

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.

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.

**The Arts**

Outcomes of the Creative Arts Syllabus are integrated within the school’s cycle of learning units.

During Term 3 of this year students have been fortunate to participate in pottery lessons. Father Clinton, parish priest, has generously shared his expertise with the children learning about the various techniques of pottery, and producing some great pieces.

The Drama strand of the Arts is greatly anticipated by students whose skills are rewarded by the significant community attendance at the end of year production.

In order to widen the children’s experience in dance & drama production, the whole school enjoyed attendance at the performances of the “Thylacine Dance Company”, and that of Geoffrey Graham, poet, actor and musician.

**Sport**

Our school has attended a number of swimming and athletics carnivals throughout the year including:

- Deanery and Diocesan Swimming and Athletics carnivals.
- Local Schools Swimming and Athletics
- Savernake Small Schools’ Sports Day
- Cross Country Carnivals

A number of students qualified to represent the South West Deanery at diocesan level in athletics and Cross Country.

At the Small Schools’ Athletics Carnival, the school was successful in gaining the Ball Games Cup (Woods Cup), and the cup for overall points (Simpson Cup). In addition students were the Sub Junior Boys Champions and Senior Boys’ Champion.

With the emphasis on improving all children’s skills and fitness, physical education programs are designed to allow participation by all children. Physical activity is a daily occurrence.

When available to our school, the students participate in coaching clinics in netball, football and tennis. This year children received coaching in hockey with the assistance of the Paul Whitehead Sports Trust, a longstanding fund which benefits all Urana school children.

Swimming lessons are conducted annually by the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation.

**School Initiatives**

The school community sourced a number of programs to gain funds for projects around the school.

Under the Community Water Grants program $10 000 was granted to install water-saving and water-collecting devices. Funds will be expended next year to upgrade toilet systems and install rain-water tanks.

Through the ‘Small equipment for Volunteers’ Program $3 000 was received to purchase an urn, portable seating and shadecover.

In Term Four, parents joined students and staff at the school’s ‘Open Day’. Open Day included Values and Drug Education Forums presented by Stages Two and Three students, and an opportunity for all students to show parents the learning achieved in ICLT.
School Policies

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

School Policies regarding –

- Student Management/Pastoral Care
- Complaints and Grievance Resolution

are based upon diocesan policy and available from the school.

The full text of the Diocesan policies related to the above, can be accessed by through the following link;

www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au

School Council

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. Major fundraisers this year have been the annual Paddy’s Market, catering ventures and commission gained from plant markets.

Parents demonstrate 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.

A major consideration for parent body has been their input towards ‘Investing in Our School’ Program. This most welcome funding has allowed the school to complete improvements to the school and grounds - to replace windows, to install blinds and watering systems, and to paint the school building roof. It also funded the purchase of eight additional laptops for students.

2. Information on Key School Programs

Curriculum Focus

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 “Thinkers” continued to underpin the year’s work. Our school is committed to helping children grow into adults who are able to think creatively and critically, who can make sound decisions and tackle complex problems, who know how to access, use and apply learning processes and information in many different contexts.

This year involved the review of English policy and associated documents.

Considerable time throughout this year involved the implementation of A-E Reporting. Staff members have received training in the administration and application of ‘Reporter Pro’, an online student reporting facility.

Aboriginal Perspectives within the school’s program was an additional component of curriculum focus for this school year.

Programs to Support Learning

Ongoing significant funding and training in Information and Communication Learning Technologies invested throughout 2006.

2007 has been further work and achievements of greater skill in office tools, myclasses facilities and multimedia presentations.

Introductory work using multimedia and Web2 tools with Macbooks began and will continue to be a focus in 2008.

Country Areas Programs projects, as listed also support learning, as did aspects of the schools ‘Investing in Our Schools’ project.

Equity Programs

Country Areas Program

Country Areas Program provided funding for the resourcing of thinking skills within inquiry learning. Staff were fortunate to attend a conference, ‘Teaching and Learning through Integrated Learning’, conducted by Kath Murdoch.
Efforts have been made to ensure higher order thinking skills are integral to units of learning.

Resources have been purchased to support the integrated inquiry approach.

CAP also allowed staff to attend a Web2 workshop, which has been the stimulus for forward-planning.

CAP funding is also greatly appreciated by the school community in reducing the travel costs for students’ attendance at excursions.

Programs to Support Students

This year the Catholic School system made available funds to conduct Literacy and/or Numeracy learning programs for targeted children. These funds enabled our school to release the classroom teacher to work individually, and small groups, with children needing literacy skill development. The program was greatly appreciated by the school community.

Additional programs conducted to support student learning were the

- Mobile Life Education Program
- RTA sponsored Road Safety/Recycling Project for Kindergarten
- Driver Education Program for Year 6 students (DECA)
- Swimsafe within school lessons-Dept. Sport & Recreation
- Hockey Coaching-Paul Whitehead Sports Trust
- CAP Projects (as recorded)
- Excursions – major excursion – Ballarat – Years 4-6.

Respect and Responsibility

The school community was involved in the conduct of Values and Drug Education forums this year.

Presentations depicting the requirements of National Safe Schools Framework, Values for Australian Schooling, and Drug Education were prepared by Stage 2 and 3 students, and presented as a component of the School’s Open Day.

Values appropriate to the nature of studies within the school program are included within the cycle of units work.

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</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Basic Skills 1998 to 2007

Our school has participated in BST Literacy 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

* See “Professional Learning”, section 4.

3. School Renewal

Progress of the School Renewal Framework

School Improvement Targets

Vision & Mission

“Thinkers” was the guiding principle of the year with the emphasis on higher order thinking skills.

School Programs & Operations; Policies & Curricula

Targets for this area of the School Renewal Framework are listed below, and found in detail throughout this report:
Integrated Learning/Programming
Aboriginal Perspectives
ICLT
Reporting to Parents
English
National Safe Schools Framework
Values/Drug Education

Leadership, Administration & Management

Major aspects under this area of the Renewal Framework included the administration of the following:-

• School Review/Registration recommendations
• IOSP funding program
• CAP
• Community Water Grants Program
• IOSPX planning

Professional Growth

Targets for this area are outlined within the “Curriculum Focus” and “Professional Learning” sections of this report.

Resources & Facilities

Previous sections of this report detail resources and facilities gained under the above funding programs.

In addition staff members have been involved in a CSO conducted website training project which has successfully ‘launched’ the school’s website.

4. School Overview

School Enrolment

Enrolment Policy

The school Enrolment Policy is based upon Diocesan Policy, and is implemented in accord with it.

The full text of the Diocesan Policy can be found at:

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>12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Language background Other Than English

Structure of Classes

Due to enrolment this year the school operated as a K-6 class setup, with a classroom teacher and teacher assistant.

Staff

Teacher Standards

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>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Professional Learning

Details of professional learning achievements regarding -

• Information Communication & Learning Technologies
• National Safe Schools Framework
• Values & Drug Education
• Integrated Programming
• Reporter Pro
• OH&S
• Child Protection
• Website Training
are outlined within the listed sections of this report:-

- **School Initiatives**
- **Curriculum Focus**
- **Equity Programs (CAP)**
- **Programs to Support Learning**
- **Respect and Responsibility**

**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 2007 by staff at St Francis Xavier Primary School, Urana.

**Community Use of School Facilities**

School Facilities are used for parish/school functions such as suppers following Sacraments, and school events such as Mission days and Presentation Night.

In addition, community groups occasionally use facilities such as tennis courts.

**Community Satisfaction**

The general community continues to show great support of the school and its work, and looks forward to an increase in enrolment. A number of new families have chosen to send their children to our school.

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**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 the school, that is included in the above, is shown below.

**About This Report**

This Annual Report has been drafted by the Principal, and reviewed by staff members, parish priest and chairperson of school meetings, and published by the school secretary.