Annual Report
Sacred Heart Primary School, Tocumwal

CONTACT DETAILS:
PRINCIPAL: Mr Patrick Boake
ADDRESS: 37-45 Charlotte Street
Tocumwal NSW
PHONE: 03 5874 2371
FAX: 03 5874 2934
EMAIL: info@sht.wagga.catholic.edu.au
**Introduction**
Sacred Heart is a small Catholic rural school in the Murray Darling Basin, which supports families with the holistic development of their children. As a staff we live and model the teachings of Jesus and how they apply to everyday life.

**1. The School**

The School

Vision Statement
Sacred Heart Primary School, Tocumwal as a community is the foundation of the whole educational enterprise in a Catholic school.

Mission Statement
Sacred Heart Primary is a community of Learners where the children, staff and parents are witnesses to their faith. Therefore we:

- Model gospel values when dealing with others
- Promote, through our religious education programme, a knowledge and understanding of, Catholic teachings and a celebration of the sacraments.
- Foster an environment which encourages Christian attitudes and behaviours towards others
- Demonstrates care and support for all members of our learning community
- Participate in regular liturgies and celebrations of prayer

As a community of Learners parents are acknowledged and supported in their role as prime educators. We exist in, and are independent with our local and wider community. Therefore we:

- Provide regular recognition of parental efforts
- Provide opportunities and encourage parents to be involved in our learning community
- Provide opportunities for members of our learning community to participate in a broad range of activities at different venues
- Meet regularly to exchange information about their child

As a community of learners we promote the balanced development of the whole person. Therefore we:

- Provide quality education through spiritual, academic, emotional, physical and social programmes that stimulate, challenge and support our children
- Promote opportunities that develop leadership, responsibility, acceptance, tolerance, confidence, cooperation, flexibility and self esteem
- Recognise the talents of all members of our learning community
- Have a Pastoral care policy which encourages Christian attitudes and behaviour towards others
- Utilizes the 7 Key Learning Areas (Religion, English, Maths, Human Society and its Environment, Science & Technology, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education and Creative & Practical Arts) to extend, challenge and support all children

As a Community of Learners we, as leaders strive for personal excellence, equality of opportunity and justice for all. Therefore we:

- Regularly participate in professional development, either formally or informally
- Use staff meetings for professional dialogue and development
- Incorporate ideas into the newsletter that affirm and/or challenge parents as they support their children

**Religious Education**
Sacred Hear Primary School is a Parish primary School which we see as an extension of the local Catholic Church, existing for and serving that Church. The school promotes values and attitudes that will enhance the growth and development of the parish school children. School resources will be made available for the good of the whole Parish. The participation of the Priest and the parishioners in the school will always be sought for furthering the growth and development of our Community. Through school and classroom prayer we join as a community to pray. Teachers pray with children daily. Staff and children are encouraged to share to share prayerful experiences, both formally and informally. Mrs Kelly Baldwin our Religious Education co-ordinator and Mrs Dorothy MacMinn our Music teacher support the Religious Instruction in our school with their diverse talents in both these areas. Father Martin
Cruickshank our Parish Priest has a strong supportive presence in the school and is always willing to give of his time to the various families of our Parish. The school Religious Education Curriculum is called Sharing Our Story K-12. Sacramental programs are conducted in the school with the support of the Parish and the Parish Priest. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered in Year 2, Eucharist in Year 3 and Confirmation in Years 5 & 6 (every even year).

The Arts
Music lesson include breathing and vocal exercises, rhythm and time recognition, musical terms e.g. ritardando, etc, playing of percussion instruments with arrangements by Peter Leyden. The students sing popular songs, musicals, country songs, songs for special events e.g. Anzac Day etc. Religious hymns are also taught which are used for Religious and Liturgical ceremonies and lessons. Children perform at school assemblies, entertain with end-of-year performances and also perform at the Lions’ Hostel for the Aged.

Sport
Physical Education is a lynch pin in the School environment. Each day the students partake in some form of sport. The School holds an annual Swimming and Athletics Carnival. Children have the opportunity to go on to compete in Deanery and Diocesan level sporting events. Several programmes are initiated at the School - Swimming lessons, Auskick, Golden Circle Fun Run, Jump Rope for Heart, from time to time - sporting clinics are held locally so the children can access the very latest in skill development. Kelly Baldwin is currently our Sports Co-ordinator.

School Initiatives
At the beginning of each year a Senior student is paired with a new kindergarten student to offer peer support, this relationship is fostered throughout the year through various tasks undertaken, e.g. boarding the bus, playground activities, school orientation. Kindergarten orientation occurs each November when for one day each week the new Kinders are invited to come and take part in school activities. The school is encouraging those Parents with school age Pre-Schoolers to think about part-time school, for the transition to full-time schooling. A research project has been started to trial a social and emotional program written by Michael E. Bernard, PhD. Called “You Can Do It”. All staff members have been in serviced and this program has run successfully each term in 2007.

School Policies
During 2007 the Sacred Heart staff has been actively working towards the development of a new Plain English Reporting System. In 2008 the school will continue to review & develop school Curriculum & Policy. www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au

The welfare of all students at Sacred Heart is of concern to all the staff at school. School staff do their best to care for each and every student’s needs at school and in the home environment if the need arises. It is part of building a Christian Community to care for all in that community where possible. The staff encourages all students to strive for self-discipline through a system of relationships, rules, rewards and sanction. It is our aim that students will gradually develop as persons who are responsible and inner-directed, capable of choosing freely in conformity with their conscience. All complaints from parents and guardians are firstly dealt with by the class teachers and then passed onto the Principal for further consideration if there is a need.

School Council
The Sacred Heart School Council brings together representatives of all those within the parish who are concerned with the work of the Catholic School. The School Council is comprised of:
The Parish Priest
The School Principal
One Staff Representative
Two or three parents elected by parents
One representative appointed by the School Auxiliary
One representative from the Parish
The School Council meets at the school on the second Wednesday of each month.
2. Information on Key School Programs

Curriculum Focus
During 2007 the Curriculum focus was to improve literacy skills through-out the school. The Curriculum focuses for 2008 is English. Both these KLA’s are undergoing curriculum audits to bring them in line with the latest trends in Teaching and Learning.

Programs to Support Learning
Reading Recovery is an early intervention Reading Program that is implemented in Year 1. Children needing extra support in this area are targeted and given 20 weeks intensive reading support. In 2007 Trish McKenna our Technology skills teacher will focus on improving the skills of the students and staff in computing. She presents a technology lesson for all students K-6. She also in-services the staff once a month on the latest trends or improvements in Education and Technology.

Equity Programs
Sacred Heart is a CAP (Country Areas Program) school. This means that the school develops needs-based priorities for funding each year. The programs developed might include excursions to Melbourne, DECA - Driver Education in Shepparton, Melbourne Zoo, Canberra, Sport and Recreational camps where available, Dance workshops and development of Internet skills.

Programs to Support Students
Through support from our governing body we can offer student support in various ways. We have a family counselling service – they visit the school regularly and have several students on their files. We have two special needs assistants – they currently work 42 Hrs each week with students deemed to have disabilities. Each year the school is visited by the Life Education Van – this has the facility to enhance the students learning through real life strategies.

Respect and Responsibility
Sacred Heart encourages our students to self-discipline through a system of relationships, rules, rewards and sanctions. The students gradually develop as persons who are responsible and inner-directed, capable of choosing freely in conformity with their conscience. The attainment of self-discipline can be fostered by giving students a degree of responsibility, according to the situation. Where student behaviour is inappropriate or unacceptable a discipline response may be considered necessary. The purpose of any punishment should be reformative, directed towards altering attitudes and subsequent behaviour. Any students who come into conflict with the standards of our school must be made aware that it is their actions and not the student that is unacceptable.

Student Achievement
Statewide Tests and Examinations
Sacred Heart has participated in BST Literacy & Numeracy since 1998 and 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.

The table below indicates the percentage of students who have achieved national literacy and numeracy benchmarks.

Year 3

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

Year 5

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

Basic Skills 1998 to 2007
The students at Sacred Heart in years 3,4,5&6 participate in the NSW University Tests. These tests give each student the opportunity to experience an external test. These tests are returned to the University of NSW for marking. All results are sent back to the school and then passed onto the parents. The KLA’s covered by this year’s testing are Literacy, Maths & Science.

As a school we achieve high results in these tests. With children receiving annually, credits and distinctions in their results.

The children in years 3&5 each year sit a State-wide Basic Skills Test. (BST) These cover the KLA’s of Numeracy and Literacy, and in particular the art of writing. As a small rural school we always perform above
average in these tests with the results also being sent to the school parents. The professional teaching staff at Sacred Heart then analyse the various data produced from the test and use it along with other forms of assessment to guide their future teaching.

Staff Achievement
Mr Patrick Boake – Diploma in Teaching BA
• Bachelor of Arts (Major in Religious Studies. Reading Recovery trained 2004.)
Mrs Kelly Baldwin – Teaching & Learning and the development of Integrated Teaching Units.
Mrs Melissa Jones – Teaching & Learning and the development of Integrated Teaching Units.
Mrs Patricia McKenna –
Mrs Dorothy MacMinn – 3 year trained
• 57 years teaching.
• ATCL – Music, Trinity College, London
Mrs Patricia Bush -

3. School Renewal

Progress of the School Renewal Framework

School Improvement Targets
The Creative Arts program in the school will be reviewed this year and the English will be audited by the staff for its review in 2007.

Leadership & Administration
All compliance records will be completed and the Principal will continue to share his professional reading with the school staff.

Professional Development
The staff will receive professional development in Creative Arts, Chemical Safety, My Internet, Senior First Aide, Religious Education, Reading Recovery & Harassment.

Facilities & Resources
The School Maintenance Plan will continue to be completed when school funds become available. www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au

Vision and Mission
This will continue to be displayed around the school and the classrooms. It will also be published in the school newsletter and in the foyer of the Church.

4. School Overview

School Enrolment
Enrolment Policy
All parents give a firm commitment that they accept and support the life, nature and identity of the Catholic school, including the participation of their children in religious education programmes.
No enrolment is denied simply because of an inability, as against an unwillingness of the parents/carers to pay.
NSW Legislation allows for the enrolment of children into Kindergarten who turn five before 1 August. Parents of children who turn five after 30th May are advised by the principal of the possible implication for their child. Students are to start school by the age of 6. A copy of the Diocesan enrolment 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>21</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Language background Other Than English

Student attendance and retention rates
Sacred Heart has a high attendance and retention rate of students at our school.

Post-school destinations
Students attend Finley High School or St Mary’s Nathalia at the completion of their primary schooling.

Structure of Classes

Junior Room
Kinder & Year 1 – Mrs Melissa Jones (on Maternity leave) & Mrs Patricia McKenna – Full Time

Middle Room
Years 2/3/4 - Mr Pat Boake – Four days a week (.8) Principal Release one day a week (.1) Mrs Pat Bus one teaching day a week (.1)

Senior Room
Years 5 & 6 – Full-Time Mrs Kelly Baldwin
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></th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 92.9% was achieved in 2007 by staff at Sacred Heart Primary School, Tocumwal.

Parent Involvement and Participation
School Council meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month to discuss the needs of the School. Parent Support Group meets 1st Wednesday of each month. The Parent Support Group has enlisted the help of all the parents/carers to be part of teams designed to assist in Fund-Raising for the School, including a Tuckshop Tam and a Uniform Team.

Community Use of School Facilities
The local Parish Community uses the school toilets before, during and after Masses. The Catholic Women’s League uses the School Library for their monthly meetings. The Tocumwal Cricket Club uses the School oval and cricket nets for training and playing their Saturday morning games. On the off occasion the Tocumwal Police have used the school grounds for fitness training.

Community Satisfaction
The following information has been provided to the school/college. It has been a valuable gauge for determining the level of satisfaction our community has with Sacred Heart School.

Parents
My child (son or daughter) is usually happy at Sacred Heart Primary School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students
I am usually happy at {school name here}.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Staff
I am usually happy at {school name here}.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 was generated in collaboration with the Principal, the School Staff, School Parent Community, the Catholic Schools Office of Wagga Wagga and the Catholic Parish Community of Tocumwal.