2008

Annual Report

Henschke Primary School, Wagga Wagga

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Introduction

1. The School

The School

Henschke Primary School motto is ‘To Serve One Another in Love’. This motto is actively displayed throughout the school by staff and families every day. The school has had many highlights throughout the year and this Annual Report is an account of the many areas addressed, attainments made and the achievements of our students and staff.

Catholic Identity

Henschke Primary School is the largest coeducation Primary School in Wagga Wagga, located ‘on top of the hill’ in Bourke Street. We are proud of our strong traditions and foundations as the Saint Maria Goretti School founded by the Presentation Sisters in 1952. We have grown from modest beginnings to our current enrolment of 550, and have many plans for the future development and growth of our school.

Although the physical appearance of Henschke has changed significantly over the years, our core values remain the same. We aim to instil Catholic ethos and values into all nurture each individual’s talents and skills through our range of curriculum experiences and extra-curricular opportunities. Our school’s Vision Mission is very much at the heart of what we do.

Our Vision and Mission

Vision

The Children of Henschke Primary will know that they are always loved by God and they will return that love in word and deed as they follow Jesus throughout their lives.

Mission

To achieve this vision the Henschke Primary School Community commits itself to being:

• A community of faith where the good news of God’s everlasting love is proclaimed and our Catholic religion and faith traditions are taught and celebrated.
• A community of Christian witness, where gospel values form the basis for living and learning.
• A caring and inclusive learning community where diversity is respected and individuals are supported to maximise their talents and achieve their potential.

Religious Education

In 2008 we have continued to live-out and celebrate our uniqueness as a Catholic school within the Wagga Wagga Diocese. The Sacramental life of the Parish has been strengthened with children in three grades, under the guidance of their dedicated and committed Sacramental Teachers, prepared for and receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. The Teachers’ at Henschke consider it a privilege to assist and work with parents and our Priests in this important area.

This year the school community have continued their St Vincent de Paul Winter and Christmas Appeals with the students donating presents and food to the Society for the needy in our community.

The staff of Henschke had a Pray and Reflection Day at the CSU, Mr John Goonan and Br Justin led the day. There was time for quiet prayer and reflection throughout the day.

Our commitment to Social Justice is highlighted in our RE Units, our teaching perspectives and our faithfulness to financially supporting the ‘Missions’. Every class takes part in this on a weekly basis and it culminates with Mission Month in November. This year we raised $6000; Mrs Cathy Carroll, the Diocesan Director for Missions in our Diocese attended one of our Assemblies and pointed out to the children that they had been recognized in the National magazine as the most generous primary school.

We could not do this without the generous support and commitment of all our parents.

The vision and inspiration of the Presentation Sisters and their Foundress Nano Nagle, continues to inspire us as Religious Educators. The Sisters are always welcome visitors, faithful friends and enthusiastic VIP’s at our Presentation Mass and celebration held each year in November. This year we continued to introduce the children to the spectacular Nano Nagel Icon and the story it
contains, as each year we delve a little deeper into the vision of Nano.

Mass is celebrated almost every week of the year with either a school Mass or a Stage level Mass. Every Primary grade receives the Sacrament of Reconciliation each term. This year each primary class created beautiful large Stations of the Cross in a black and white with the WYD crosses that made a spectacular display on the Primary grounds and stayed up all through Lent to remind us of this special season. As well, we celebrate our seasonal Paraliturgies, weekend Commitment Masses and evening Reconciliation Liturgies for Sacramental families. This year students from the local State schools were able to join with Year 6 for their Reflection Day at Vianney College before their Confirmation.

Our school hosted local seminarians who were thus able to visit and teach every grade from Kinder to Year 6. It was a valuable learning experience for them and reminds us all of the close and vital connection between priest, parish and school that must be strengthened and enhanced.

We worked with our Parish Priest to plan and prepare the children and parish for World Youth Day. We had our own wonderful welcome and celebration of the WYD to our Parish with many of our families attending.

This year we have included ‘Henschke School News’ on the Parish newsletter to keep the parish informed of our school activities. Every student had the opportunity to place the names of departed relatives and friends in our special Henschke Holy Souls book that stays on display at the front of our Parish Church in November. With the help of our parents we hope the children will continue to see the connection between the school and the Parish and this in the future they will continue to see the connection between the school and the Parish and that in the future they will continue to live out our school vision with an active and spirit-filled Catholic life that reflects the unconditional love of our God.

A Message from key School Bodies

School Council

The School Council supports the mission of Catholic education in the local community. It works closely with the School Executive and Parish Priests to ensure the well being of students and provide direction to the school. The Council is another expression of our school motto “To Serve One Another in Love”.

The main areas the School Council has responsibility to advise on (and where appropriate endorse) are:

- Supporting the development of the Catholic ethos in the school.
- Promoting the school in the local community.
- Developing capital and maintenance programs.
- Developing local strategic plans (finances, buildings, resources and contributing to Diocesan educational strategic planning).
- Developing the school fee structure and annual budget.

During 2007 the Council’s major activities were:

- Managing the Primary area refurbishment project.
- Co-ordinating the Library refurbishment.
- Implementing an ongoing whole school technology program
- Setting the budget and school fees.
- Co-ordinating and implementing the school maintenance plan.
- Continuing the traffic management audit/issu in conjunction with the RTA and WWCC.

Challenges for 2008 include:

- Continuing the five year maintenance plan.
- Technology in the classrooms.
- Continuing grounds improvements.

Capital Improvements
Over the last three years Henschke has completed some significant projects that have improved classroom environments and whole school facilities. Some of these are:

- Year 4, 5 and 6 classroom refurbishment (2007)
- Primary toilet refurbishment (2007)
- Library refurbishment (2007)
- Year 2 ceilings and lighting (2006)
- Year 3 classrooms and outdoor area (2005-6)

Through the generosity of the parish, parents and local trades people and the school working bees a significant amount of maintenance work has been completed and continues to be worked on. The school is currently in a sound position in terms of the condition of its buildings, whilst challenges lay ahead, many of the “big ticket” items have been addressed and the hard work of the maintenance committees can be seen. The five year maintenance plan allows this work to continue through specific working bees and maintenance work paid from the school budget.

Projects such as the recent cricket nets replacement are wonderful examples of the school community working together to improve facilities for students and are evidence of “Serving One Another in Love”.

**Technology**

The commencement of the whole school technology program has been successful. The input of staff and advice from consultants has resulted in an ongoing program which will allow each classroom to have up to date technology and professional support. This will provide both teachers and students with the tools necessary to stay in touch with technology in the classroom.

The Council would like to acknowledge the contribution to the school made by the Parents and Friends Association through fundraising activities, working bees and raising issues from the general school community. The Council would also like to acknowledge the outstanding administrative support it receives from Val Dolan and the other office staff.

The Council would also like to acknowledge the financial contributions and support to the school made by the priests, Father Gabriel Murray and Father Peter Stojanovic and parishioners of the Parish of Our Lady of Fatima, South Wagga Wagga.

**P & F Report**

The P & F has enjoyed a very successful 2008, both financially and socially. Our fundraising activities, including the Tuck Day; Melbourne Cup Afternoon Tea; the Kindergarten picnic; Fete; Face painting at the Food and Wine Festival; Wood Raffle; Trivia Night and Pizza/Mufti Day were all well supported.

Providing opportunities for social interaction, with the hope of encouraging a strong school community, has also been a major focus this year. The Social Dance Night at the Rules Club and a disco for the students was also well supported.

Involving more parents in the P & F meetings held once a month, proves to be an ongoing challenge. The P & F executive are investigating ways to meet and beat this situation and look forward to another great year in 2009.

**2. Information on Key School Programs**

**School Determined Improvement Targets**

**VISION AND MISSION**

- ‘You Can Do It Program’ to be integrated into both Pastoral Care policy and PDHPE
- Promote Vision and Mission Statements at assemblies
- Provide more opportunities for staff spiritual development
- Review use of Monday prayer time
- Incorporate longer prayer time on pupil free days
- Promote the use of the staff reflection room amongst the staff
- World Youth Day
Programs to Support Students

POLICIES, CURRICULUM AND PROGRAMS

- First Steps Implementation
- Successful Curriculum Reviews in Science and Technology, HSIE, and PDHPE took place in Term 4. Lots of hard work went into the preparation for these reviews, and we were more than pleased with the positive feedback.
- Major purchases occurred for Yr 4 and 5 – replacing their Literacy resources with a comprehensive new scheme.
- Yr 6 also received new class reader sets. Year 3, 4, 5, 6 also had their classroom libraries replenished with some beautiful new fiction and non-fiction books purchased.

Other Learning Support Initiatives

Technology

2008 has been another year of progression within the field of ICLT. We have continued our roll-out plan of replacing old classroom desktop computers, and now have six out of seven grades with new systems installed. We have also added to our multimedia equipment, mainly the Interactive Whiteboard which is placed in the Library as well as more data projectors, and mobile laptops available to assist classroom learning and teaching. Some exciting units of work have been completed using these facilities, such as Claymation movies, Photostory projects and Powerpoint presentations. We are looking forward too an exciting year in 2009, where we aim to place ICLT at the forefront of our integrated learning and teaching activities. A new ICLT Plan has been formulated, which will allow us to cater for the growing needs of our staff and students within this area.

Music

Henschke Primary School students performed in the Eisteddfod again this year. In Term 1 each year our Year 4 students put on a sing-a-long for the senior citizens of our school community. The School Choir also performed at the Wagga Wagga Marketplace and at Calvary Hospital.

Art and Craft

As well as classroom art and craft lessons and projects all students make an item of craft for sale at the Annual School Fete, students also enter various sections of the Wagga Wagga Show including the art and craft section.

Drama and Dance

Drama is an important part of our school Curriculum. Highlighting religious feasts are times when we use drama especially Holy Week, Easter, Advent and Christmas. Anzac Day and Reconciliation Week are other opportunities for students to display their skills. Each year all students learn about dance as part of the curriculum. Social dance is a focus for Year 6 students leading up to their Graduation and Social

Equity Program Initiatives

Firestick is a policy document that has been implemented into Henschke Primary School in 2005. This policy was produced by the Catholic Schools Office. An explanation of the policy of Firestick is that the Elders, both Aboriginal and Christian, give us wisdom. The knowledge and wisdom flows from our Elders and guides us on our journey. The Firestick painting is on display at the school office, an explanation of the painting is also on display.

Student Support Programs

ESL Program

The ESL program was introduced into the school this year with the increase of the number of students with languages other than English. Barbara Kane took on the position for teaching students through specialized targeted classes. Before commencing work she observed children in classrooms, spoke to health professionals and sought resources. The main areas for concentration were:

- Receptive language skills
- Improving their spoken language
- Helping students to develop skills and knowledge to keep apace in class
- Encouraging them to be proactive in their learning, using what they know to expand their knowledge
- Gathering ESL resources in one location – the purchase ad development of new resources
Pastoral care

Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility
The "You Can Do It!" program was introduced to staff and students at the beginning of 2006 and has continued throughout 2008. This program supports our Safe Schools Framework while developing attitudes and values in our students that will equip them with the foundations for academic achievement – getting along, organisation, persistence and confidence. These foundations also support and develop resilience in the students to help them through the ups and downs of life.

Kindergarten Orientation
In Term 4 of the school year Orientation is held for the new Kindergarten children. The children spend an afternoon with a kindergarten buddy and enjoy the atmosphere of the classroom environment. This enables the children to prepare for the beginning of school in the new year.

Peer Support
The Peer Support program is run every year through the school. Year 6 students are trained as leaders at the beginning of the school year, and then once a week the whole school from K-6 meet in small groups with the Year 6 leaders conducting the groups.

School Buddies
All Henschke Primary School students are involved in a buddy system, eg Kindergarten and Year 6 students; Year 1 and Year 5 meet once a week in the classroom. The older students normally help with younger students with craft activities, and the younger students also enjoy having an older student who is looking after them especially on the playground.

Student Performance
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>Spelling</th>
<th>Punctuation and Grammar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>97%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Comparison to Statewide Results
The school has performed above the statewide performance in most areas. Particularly favourable are the results in reading.

Basic Skills Trends
The general trend has been an increase in literacy skills, particularly Reading and stability in the area of Numeracy from 2004 to 2008, with a high proportion of students reaching and working above the benchmarks.

3. School Overview

School Policies

The following policies can be located at:
www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au

Student Welfare (Pastoral Care)
This Policy aims to:
• Enhance positive relationships and connectedness across the whole school community by promoting mutual respect, communication, security and well-being.
• Recognise and nurture approaches to learning and teaching, across all curriculum areas, which endorse pastoral care.
• Coordinate and link policies and programs within the school with a particular focus on pastoral care.

Discipline
This policy aims to:
• Make explicit the links between the school’s vision and mission and the systems of behaviour management operating within the school.
• Assist teachers as they work to support, develop and maintain students’ ability to make responsible behaviour choices
• Clarify processes and procedures to be used to manage irresponsible or inappropriate behaviour choices.
• Provide a clear and accountable framework for communicating behaviour expectations and management strategies to all stakeholders.

Dealing with Complaints and Grievances
The School’s Community Grievances Policy aims to support and encourage the ongoing development of positive relationships. It provides a Positive, clear and effective processes for resolving grievances between the school and community members assists in the building of strong relationships, dispels anxiety, and ultimately provides students with an enhanced learning environment.

Enrolment Policy
Henschke Primary School’s Enrolment Policy aims to provide equitable prioritising of enrolment applications and to ensure that the requirements 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>291</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>541</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Language background Other Than English

Structure of Classes
In 2008 Henschke Primary School had three streams from Kindergarten - Year 6. The average class size was 26 students.

Staff
Teacher

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>33</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Professional Learning
Henschke Primary School is fortunate to have many dedicated teachers who love and value learning. During 2007 they not only participated in the Professional Development opportunities provided though the school but also took up many other opportunities to further their own knowledge and skills. Particular focus has been placed on the following areas, provided through staff meetings and professional development days and school and CSO assistance: "You Can Do It", Naplan, Atomic Learning, Plot, Curriculum Alignment, Bloom's Taxonomy, First Steps Writing, Observation Survey, Developing Number Sense, Electronic Smartboard, Good Grief, Seasons For Growth, Approaches to Dealing with Bullying in Schools, Inquiry Learning and Learning Communities.

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

Parents
My child is usually happy at Henschke Primary School.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Students
I am usually happy at Henschke Primary School.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>%</td>
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</table>

Staff
I am usually happy at Henschke Primary School.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>%</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 96.48% was achieved in 2008 by staff at Henschke Primary School, Wagga Wagga.

Financial Statement Summary

About This Report
The Henschke School Principal, Assistant Principal, Coordinators and teachers with areas of special responsibility have contributed to Henschke Primary School 2008 Annual Report. We also acknowledge the Chairs of our School Council and P & F for their contributions.