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.
- 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.
- As a community of learners we promote the balanced development of the whole person.
- As a community of learners we, as leaders strive for personal excellence, equality of opportunity and justice for all.

School P&F and School Council

The Sacred Heart School parent bodies brings together representatives of all those within the parish who are concerned with the work of the Catholic School.

2. Key School Programs

Religious Education

Sacred Heart 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 prayerful experiences, both formally and informally. Miss Veronica Braybon 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 Confirmation was held on the 29th of August and celebrated by Bishop Gerard Hanna. It was a wonderful celebration where the whole parish and school communities came together. A major focus of our year was World Youth Day which was held during July. As part of this the cross and icon travelled through Tocumwal parish on the evening of the 5th March. All the students participated in the liturgy through reading and singing. It was a most joyous occasion celebrated by all. We also celebrated the first Catholic Schools Week from Sunday the 30th March to Friday the 4th of April. During this time we held a whole deanery liturgy at St. Joseph's Finley which was followed by a day of combined schools activities and play. We are already looking forward to getting together with our south west deanery friends again next year.

The Arts

Mrs Dorothy Macminn is our music teacher and her lessons include breathing and vocal exercises, rhythm and time recognition, musical terms and much more. 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. As part of our awareness of providing opportunities that develop student’s particular talents or interests they were invited to participate in the Albury Wodonga Eisteddfod on the 29th July. A group of 16 students presented two songs, 'A Blessing for the Night' by Andrew Chinn and 'I’m a believer' by The Monkees. The group
thoroughly enjoyed their time and presented themselves with great enthusiasm and pride. We also welcomed a special visiting performer on the 22nd of October, Andrew Chinn. Andrew is a well known Australian religious singer and songwriter. He workshoped with the students and then presented a concert that evening. The students relished the opportunity to sing and dance for their parents, families and the wider community.

**Sport**

Physical Education is a lynch pin in the school environment. Each day the students partake in morning fitness which aims to promote healthy lifestyle and involve the children in a wide variety of physical activities. The School holds an annual Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country 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. The clinics this year included golf, AFL and cricket.

**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. Transition for kindergarten begins with a series of events where the preschool children are invited to special events held at the school. This year they attended our bookfair parade and participated in a number of art activities that focused on visual literacy based on the shortlisted books from the annual Children’s Book Councils Awards. They also stayed for lunch which provided them with valuable time to experience the routine and expectations around play at big school. Parents and children were also invited to participate in our ‘Jumpstart’ program which involved any preschool aged child coming for two half days to begin the process of experiencing all that Sacred Heart has to offer. This followed by kindergarten orientation which occurs each November when for one day a week for three weeks the new kinders are invited to come and take part in school activities.

**Curriculum Focus**

During 2008 the Sacred Heart staff have been actively working towards the development of our English policy and programming. Through this we established guidelines around planning, implementing and assessing Reading, Writing and Talking and Listening. This was undertaken to ensure that the students of Sacred Heart are provided with opportunities to develop and enhance their English skills. In 2009 the school will continue to review & develop school Curriculum & Policy.

During 2008 we have also utilised a Diocesan based numeracy grant to develop and enhance the students understanding and application in the area of Numeracy. Teachers utilised information gathered from the 2007 BST results to develop and resource classroom programs to provide greater access to practical experiences in all Numeracy strands. This has been most successful and with students displaying growing confidence and ability when working mathematically.

**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 2008 Veronica Braybon our Technology skills teacher has focused on improving the skills of the students and staff in computing. She has presented technology lessons for all students K-6. These lessons assisted teachers with the full incorporation of technology into the student’s daily learning experiences. It is believed by all at Sacred Heart that technology is a tool by which all children can reach their potential. During 2008 we continued to utilise the inquiry learning approach to help students to understand the process by which they learn.

**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 technology 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. 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
National Tests and Examinations
This year saw the introduction of NAPLAN (National Assessment Plan ~ Literacy & Numeracy) from the 13th to the 15th May. Sacred Heart children from years 3 and 5 participated in these most successfully. Due to the low cohort we are unable to identify trends in keeping with CSO privacy policy. As a staff we utilise these to identify our school strengths and areas for growth. Sacred Heart 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.

Staff Achievement
Through out the 2008 school year the staff of Sacred Heart have utilised and updated their skills and qualifications in many areas. All professional development opportunities are encouraged as we believe that to provide the best for the children in our care we need to continue to seek out experiences which well reflect and respond to the ever growing needs of our pupils. Professional Development through out 2008 included:
- Inquiry Learning ~ understanding the process by which children learn (Guest Presenter: Kath Murdoch)
- Reading Recovery ~ ongoing
- Curriculum Alignment ~ aligning programs from policy through to assessment
- Spirituality Day ~ Reflecting on God’s presence in our school
- English Syllabus ~ programming and planning
- NAPLAN Analysis ~ understanding the writing component
- First Aid Training
- Child Protection Training
- Zart Art ~ visual literacy inservices

3. School Renewal
Progress of the School Renewal Framework
School Improvement Targets
The English syllabus, policy and procedures were reviewed and updated this year. During 2009 Sacred Heart will review Religious Education and Personal Development, Health, Physical Education.

Leadership & Administration
The principal aims to provide guidance and support for all in the Sacred Heart community. They encourage growth and development through overseeing the planning of programs and projects that provide opportunities for students and staff to reach their potential.

Professional Development
During 2009 the staff will continue to take opportunities that present themselves for professional growth. Some areas will include Religious Education, curriculum alignment, web 2.0 skills, use of CASTNET resources such as myclasses.

Facilities & Resources
Sacred Heart has experienced a major change during 2008. The administration and staff areas have both be redeveloped. The new administration block includes areas dedicated to the secretary, principal, sick bay, technology resources, photocopying and a meeting room.
The meeting room is utilized by many groups within the community including St. Vincent De Paul, Catholic Women’s League, Centacare and the Catholic Schools Office. The School Maintenance Plan will continue to be completed when school funds become available.

Vision and Mission
This will be reviewed during 2009 to ensure that it remains a current reflection of the school and its central focus.

4. School Overview

Student Welfare
The community of Sacred Heart are committed to endorsing the gospel values of justice, inclusion, reconciliation, respect, truth and honesty. A safe and secure environment is developed when all members of the school community respect the individual’s rights and freedoms, responsibilities and duties, as well as responding to the needs of students, staff and community. A copy of the CSO policy can be found at www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au

Discipline
The community of Sacred Heart are committed to endorsing the gospel values of justice, inclusion, reconciliation, respect, trust and honesty. A copy of the CSO policy can be found at www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au

Complaints and Grievances
The community of Sacred Heart are committed to providing a safe and supportive environment. This is characterised by fairness, mutual trust, respect and reconciliation. A copy of the CSO policy can be found at www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au

School Enrolment
All parents give a firm commitment that they accept and support the life, nature and identity of the Catholic school. School enrolment information is gathered in accordance with the Diocesan Enrolment Policy.

Student Enrolment Profile:

<table>
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<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Indig.</th>
<th>LOTE*</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<td>21</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>33</td>
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*Language background Other Than English

Structure of Classes

Junior Room
Kinder & Year 1 – Term 1/2 – Mrs Anne Stronge & Mrs Pat Bush – Term 3/4 – Mrs Melissa Jones

Middle Room
Years 2/3 – Miss Veronica Braybon (.9) and Mrs Kate Lee (.1)

Senior Room
Years 4/5/6 – Mrs Kelly Lassaline

Music Teacher ~ Mrs Dorothy MacMinn

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>
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<tbody>
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<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
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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 Sacred Heart School.

Parents
My child 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>
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<tr>
<td>85%</td>
<td>15%</td>
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Students
I am usually happy at Sacred Heart Primary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>0%</td>
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Staff
I am usually happy at Sacred Heart Primary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
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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 98.77% was achieved in 2008 by staff at Sacred Heart School.

Financial Statement Summary

About This Report
This annual report was generated in collaboration with the Principal, the School Staff, School Parent Community and the Catholic Schools Office of Wagga Wagga.