2008

Annual Report

St Patrick’s Primary School, Albury

CONTACT DETAILS:

PRINCIPAL: Mrs Marie Cameron
ADDRESS: 444 Kiewa Street
          Albury NSW 2640
PHONE: (02) 60214464
WEBSITE: info@spa.wagga.catholic.edu.au
EMAIL: www.spa.wagga.catholic.edu.au
Introduction
St. Patrick’s Parish School is located in the heart of the city of Albury. It is a school which is strong in tradition, dating back to 1855, when the first school was opened in St. Patrick’s Parish. The school has a population of 530 students.

1. The School
1.1 Vision and Mission Statement

VISION STATEMENT
The vision of St. Patrick’s Parish School is to be a community which bears witness to Gospel values and celebrates our Faith traditions. It will be committed to the development of the whole child—a child who is principled.

MISSION STATEMENT
A COMMUNITY OF FAITH
- Promoting the Kingdom of God and the family of the children we teach through love of God, involvement and celebration.
- Defined on Christ and the sacramental life of the Church.
- Deepening our faith through modeling our life expression on Jesus Christ.
- Forming and teaching the Gospel values by example.
- Using Jesus as our model to teach children to reflect their own actions.
- Teaching children that God also works through other religious and faiths.

A COMMUNITY OF LEARNING
- Providing for individual differences and assisting children to find and nurture their skills and talents.
- Chaplaining and valuing personal achievement and effort through the provision of a comprehensive, quality curriculum.
- Supporting staff and valuing their dedication and professionalism.
- Integrating the use of technology as a tool for learning and teaching.
- Providing the opportunity for professional dialogue, to enhance learning and teaching practices.

A COMMUNITY OF SERVICE
- Acknowledging, complementing and supporting the role of parents in our school.
- Working with our students in the local and parish communities through partnerships with our parents and community personnel.
- Sharing our spiritual life by the poor and disadvantaged.
- Acknowledging the gifts of those in our community and promoting and modelling the use of those to benefit others.
- Promoting an appreciation of each other’s culture and our role within the global community.

1.2 Religious Education
This year our school has been part of a pilot program involving “Making Jesus Real”. Most of our Stage 3 teachers and some Stage 2 have been involved in professional development around this program. The students in these Stages have also had full or half day sessions as well. The program is a way of life program and will continue to be implemented in the future.

The aim of St. Patrick’s school is to support the efforts of parents by providing a school community of faith in which each child can know and experience God’s love and can grow in their relationship with themselves, others and God. To assist us in doing so, we use the “Sharing Our Story” syllabus which has been endorsed by the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

Each year, we conduct programs to help prepare the children to receive the Sacraments. The children in Year 2 were prepared to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time in October. The Year 6 children were prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in August, with Bishop Hanna. The year 3 children received the Eucharist for the first time in May. Each year Bishop Hanna comes to visit the school and all of the classes. The children enjoy spending time with the Bishop.

In terms 1 & 4 of this year, we organized a Parish mass. The children were involved in the readings and the singing. We organize one Parish Mass per semester. The school community gathered for a BBQ and catch up after Mass. The school is also responsible for organizing the mass on Christmas Eve. As part of our commitment to raising funds for the missions, the children conducted a number of activities throughout the year. These included a coloured clothes day, and coin lines. The children raised a total of $3,300. $2400 was sent to the Catholic Missions, with the remainder being distributed between Mercy Works, Moira Kelly Foundation, World Youth Day and Cancer Council.

1.3 The Arts
At St. Patrick’s, we provide activities designed to assist students to gain an increasing understanding and accomplishment in the visual arts, music,
dance and drama. We help them to appreciate the meanings and values that each of the art forms offer personally, culturally and as forms of communication. Each week the students in years 3-6, spend an hour with Mrs. Scammell, engaging in activities involving music, dance and drama. The students engage in Visual Arts activities with their own class teachers. The students in K-Year 2 also experience music, dance and drama activities as per the Creative Arts syllabus, with Mrs. Geraghty. All sessions are 1 hour sessions.

Once a year the students in each year level are responsible for organizing a whole school assembly. These are centred around a range of activities involving music, dance and drama related to classroom activities and are also great opportunities for the displaying of art works.

Once a year, we conduct a performance assembly at which children who have participated in the local eisteddfod are able to perform before their peers. Children who receive instruction in the performance arts outside of school hours are also invited to perform.

At the end of the year all of the students in year 6 participate in Time Tours, which is a musical presentation performed in the Parish Hall. The performances usually span the full week, with night performances included. This year’s performance was titled “The 7 Wishes”, and was a huge success. Many students were given the opportunity to showcase their talents.

1.4 Sport
St. Patrick’s provides for a range of sporting interests and skills. The students participate in daily pep up sessions and well as PE and Sports lessons each week. During term 1 we conducted very successful carnivals for Swimming, Athletics (both track and field events) and Cross Country. We had several students move to the Deanery and Diocesan levels in these areas, with some of the squads having over 50 students in them. We also had 2 students who were successful in representing the state in Australian Rules.

During terms 2,3 and 4, the students from St. Patrick’s participate in the PSSA competition with the local state schools. This competition covers a range of sports including soccer, netball, cricket and hockey. Children who do not participate in this competition are involved in a range of skill development activities and games back at school. These include tennis, T-ball and netball.

Throughout the year we have visits from development officers who conduct clinics to enhance the development of various skills. The clinics involved all children and included such sports as Australian Rules, Soccer and Tennis.

1.5 School Initiatives
Each year the students participate in a range of activities designed to develop an understanding of the qualities necessary for a successful student leadership team. The students then take part in a voting process to elect their student council for the following year. The student council meet every 2nd week with the co-ordinator. They are responsible for representing the school at various functions throughout the year, including the Anzac Day wreath laying ceremony. They also assist around the school with fund raising activities.

Each year we conduct a Kinder Orientation day, during which the Kinder students for the following year are invited to school to meet the other children in their class as well as to meet their teacher. While they are doing this, the parents gather in the library to meet each other and to gain information about the school and its functioning.

All classes are allocated a “buddy class”. These buddies take part in a range of tasks with each other, including visual arts activities, St. Patrick’s Day games, Book week activities etc.

Each class also has a class parent who is responsible for being a contact person for other parents in the class. They make contact with new class members, organize morning tea for after the school assemblies and other social functions as they arise.

One of our Year 5 classes has undertaken responsibility for our paper recycling. They have placed special bins in each class and in the office area. They are responsible for the collection of
these daily, as well as the collection of the large wheelie bins each week. The school has 3 vegetable patches which are maintained by a range of classes. The vegetables are planted and harvested. Some have been used for cooking by our Tuckshop supervisor. Classes from Years 3, 4 and 5 have been involved with the Slow Cooking Group throughout the year. They have seen food prepared from harvest through to consumption. Some groups have made sausages as well as pizzas. When they attend the Slow Food sessions, residents from the local nursing homes have been involved as well.

1.6 School Policies.
Our school has policies in place which are designed to address Student Welfare, Discipline and procedures for dealing with complaints and grievances. These policies are available for perusal at the school.

The diocese of Wagga has established policies which are implemented by all schools in the Diocese. The full text of these policies can be found at: www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au

The school has recently undergone a successful Registration & Accreditation process. The implementation of these policies is supported by the Catholic Schools Office.

1.7 School Council - Chairmans report for 2008
Thank you to all members of the Board for their hard work and support throughout 2008. Fundraising and social events organised and attended by the school community included:


Total raised for these events was $52,300 and the majority of these funds enabled us to purchase and install up to 7 Interactive White Boards with at least one in each year group.

I also congratulate and thank Marie and all our teachers and students for their efforts in 2008. I know at times they work above and beyond the call of duty to ensure our school maintains its standards and reputation within the community.

Brendan Hynes, Chairman School Council

2. Information on Key School Programs

2.1 Curriculum Focus
Each year it is a requirement of the Catholic Schools Office that we complete a School Renewal Framework. The basis of this comes from the identified needs of the school through discussion with staff and Catholic Schools Office personnel. For 2008, the curriculum focus was on First Steps, Making Jesus Real, Inquiry Learning, Interactive Whiteboards, NAPLAN results & Jollyphonics.

2.2 Programs to Support Learning

Once again, St. Patrick’s is fortunate to be able to offer the services of 2 Reading Recovery teachers to assist those children in Year 1 who are in need of extra assistance with Literacy. This year we had 16 students benefit from inclusion in the program. The students are provided with 30 minutes per day, individual, guided instruction. During 2008 we have operated 2 Language Support classes for children in Year 3 and Kinder. These classes are for children who have a need in the areas of expressive and/or receptive language. The programs are designed by a Speech Pathologist to include the needs of the children involved in the group. Sister Patricia assists with those children who are in need of learning support in Year 6.

St. Patrick’s is fortunate to have a bank of 4 computers in each of its classrooms, as well as in the library. These computers are used to drive and enhance the learning of all students across all KLA’s. We continued the leasing cycle that we have developed for the classroom computers, with new leases being taken out on computers for all of the Years 3 & 4 classrooms. All computers are networked, and the students each have their own email address. This year due to the extreme generosity and huge fundraising activities of our parents over the past 2 years, we were able to purchase some interactive whiteboards. We have one mobile whiteboard allocated to each year level. These boards are used as a tool to deliver the syllabus in a range of KLA’s.
Each year we are registered to participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge. All children are encouraged to participate in this extremely worthwhile educational activity.

2.3 Equity Programs
Staff at St. Patrick’s, ensure that syllabus outcomes and content reflect the learning needs and priorities of individual students. This includes the provision of quality learning tasks to allow for those students who slot into the following categories: Gifted and Talented, Aboriginal, E.S.L., Learning Support, Multi-Cultural. Provision is made to ensure that Gender equity and the difference and diversity of our students is also evident.

2.4 Programs to Support Students.
Students who are funded due to a physical or cognitive disability, are assisted by the Catholic Schools Office through the provision of a teacher’s assistant or system support. The teacher assistant works with the student and the classroom teacher to allow the student to more readily access the syllabus delivery in the classroom. Each student has a learning support plan organised by the class teacher, based upon the identified needs of the individual child. There are regular support meetings in which parents are kept informed of the changes to the plan and the progress of the child.

Each week we have the services of our Centacare counsellor, BryOny Green. BryOny visits our school twice a week and meets with students who have been referred by both parents and teachers. All children visit the Border Life Education van when it visits each year. The lessons are designed to increase the awareness of, and the necessity for a healthy lifestyle.

The students in Year 4 and Year 6 take part in the Family Life program. This is a program that highlights and assists students, in dealing with the changes that occur during human development from birth to adults.

St. Patrick’s is very lucky to have the services of Sr. Patricia, who visits families from our school each week. Sr. welcomes all new families and visits families who are in need of support. She also pops in to just say hello and catch up with our families.

We also have located at our school a Satellite Class for the South Coast School for Autism. The class opened at the beginning of 2006. Children from our school who have been diagnosed with Autism are able to apply to enrol in the class. There is huge reciprocal benefit from having the ASPECT Class on site.

2.5 Respect and Responsibility
Each year the students at St. Patrick’s participate in norm setting practices. These norms are then used as a point of reference when necessary. The basis for the process comes from an understanding of the respect and dignity that needs to be shown to all students and school community members at all times. The posters outlining the Values for Australian Schooling and the National Safe Schools Framework, are displayed in the front foyer of the school office.

2.6 Student Achievement
Students in Year 3 and Year 5 participated in the NAPLAN (National Assessment Plan for Literacy & Numeracy). These are external tests required by the Board of Studies. Our results were very pleasing and will inform future learning and teaching and our planning for future educational practice.

In Year 3 we had 99% of our students achieve National Curriculum Standards for Literacy and 97% for Numeracy. In Year 5 we had 100% of our students achieve National Minimum Standards for Literacy and 96% for Numeracy.

2.7 Staff Achievement
Staff attend weekly meetings for both the day to day school organization as well as Professional Development. We also had Professional Development for Child Protection, Workplace Harassment, First Steps and Making Jesus Real. Many of our Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 teachers underwent training in the administration of the Observation Survey, and the implementation of effective Literacy programs in the classrooms.
3. School Renewal

Each year we are required to prepare a document which assists us in planning for the future development of our school. Each year we review the progress to date, and in consultation with the School executive and the staff, we set in place some goals for the coming year. Our main focus for 2008 was the completion of St. Joseph’s Hall and fire safety in the main building. We also had a sound, security and fire system installed in our Kinder and Year 1 rooms.

4. School Overview

4.1 Enrolment Policy

St. Patrick’s School has priorities for enrolment which meet the requirements of the Catholic Schools Office. These include preference being given to Catholic children whose parents live within the Parish served by the school. The school enrolment guidelines can be viewed via the school office. The Catholic Schools Office Enrolment policy can be accessed via cso.aspirence.com.au

4.2 Student Enrolment Profile

ENROLMENT INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Kinder M</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Year 1 M</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Year 2 M</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Year 3 M</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Year 4 M</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Year 5 M</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Year 6 M</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>34</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.3 Structure of Classes

St. Patrick’s is a co-educational school. We have classes from Kindergarten to Year 6, with 3 classes at each year level. At the beginning of each year all classes are reviewed in order to allow all children to experience a range of social interactions.

4.4 Teacher Standards

At St. Patrick’s we have a highly qualified and experienced staff, who constantly challenge themselves to develop in all areas of their profession. The table below indicates the number of staff members who fit into the following categories. All members of staff have been included. This includes teaching staff, teacher assistants, clerical staff etc.

A) Have teaching qualifications from a recognized higher education institution
B) Have qualifications from a recognized 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.5 Professional Learning

Staff at St. Patrick’s are constantly learning. They meet on a weekly basis for general organization and for planning and programming purposes. As well as this there are other occasions in which staff are involved in more formal professional learning. For 2007, these occasions included the following:

- Investigating assessment practices.
- CPR/ First Aid updates.
- OH&S and Workplace practices.
- Administering the Observation Survey
- Early Literacy Practices
- Catering for Children with Autism
- Inquiry Learning
- Developing effective programming
- Making Jesus Real
- First Steps Writing
- Anaphylaxis
- Interactive Whiteboards

4.6 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 95.81% was achieved in 2008 by staff at St. Patrick’s.
4.7 Parent Involvement
At St. Patrick's we believe that the parents are the prime educators of their children. The development of a better spirit of trust, and co-operation between home and school is of vital importance. We encourage parental involvement by inviting parents to participate in:

The School Council
Assisting with classroom activities
Excursions
Sporting activities
Social Functions
Assemblies
School masses
Information Nights
Library Support
Tuckshop
School Fete
Uniform shop
Working Bees
Vegetable Garden
Art Gallery Visits
Movie Visits
Lapathon

4.8 Community Use of School Facilities.
St. Patrick's Parish Hall is used for Assemblies, Diocesan, School and Parish functions. Drama and music classes are conducted on site, but not organized at school level. Local sporting teams utilize our facilities under supervision.

4.9 Community Satisfaction
The school community was surveyed and indicated 98% to 100% satisfaction with the manner in which the school was functioning.

Parents:

My child (son or daughter) is usually happy at St. Patrick's Parish School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>98%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students:

I am usually happy at St. Patrick's Parish School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>99%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Staff: