Introduction
Welcome to the St Peter’s Annual Report for 2008. This annual report is written for the 2008 school year and provides an account of what occurred at St Peter’s Primary School during that time.
St Peter’s is a small school of 74 students who travel from the Darlington Point and Coleambally areas. The school was opened in 1970 and is proud of its friendly and welcoming children.

1. The School

The School
St Peter’s Primary School is a faith based, caring, positive, family school. It is a member of the Wagga Wagga Diocesan system of schools. St Peter’s provides Primary education to students from within the Darlington Point/Coleambally and Jerilderie Parishes. Students travel from Darlington Point and from farms within the Coleambally Irrigation Area.

Catholic Identity

St Peter’s Vision Statement
St. Peter’s School is a school where:
- Christ’s teachings are implemented each day and where faith is fostered and nurtured.
- The staff as Catholic school educators is passionate about supporting & understanding all within the community of St. Peter’s.
- Every child has the right to learn.
- We strive to accept, care, value, trust and recognize the self-worth of individuals.
- All are part of a learning journey in a happy and safe environment.
- There is a genuine partnership between children, parents, staff, Parish and the wider community.

Our school’s vision statement goes hand in hand with the new Values for Australian Schools which are:
- Care and Compassion
- Doing Your Best
- A Fair Go
- Honesty and Integrity
- Respect and Responsibility
- Inclusion

Religious Education

Religious Education is a vital part of the curriculum at St Peter’s and all classes participate daily in the Diocesan Religious Education Program “Sharing Our Story”. This program was supplemented by fortnightly visits to each of the classrooms by our Parish Priest, Fr Andrew Grace.

Sacraments

On Tuesday 4th September nine Year 2 students made the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. They were thoroughly prepared for this sacrament by their teacher Mrs Sally McFadyen.

On Sunday 7th September, 11 Year three students celebrated their First Holy Communion. Miss Carlie Rake and Father Grace prepared the children for this sacrament. The celebration was a lovely occasion with the children wearing their white gowns and their families witnessing them on this sacramental journey. Each student received a medallion and was invited at the end of the mass to cut the First Communion Cake.

The Sacrament of Confirmation Mass was co-celebrated by Bishop Hanna and Fr Grace on Saturday 8th November with 13 children from Years 5/6 receiving the sacrament. The children were prepared by Mr Craig Smith. The Mass was well attended with a large number of family and friends and the celebrations continued after Mass with the traditional cutting of the Confirmation cake.

Prayer and Liturgies

Prayer is a daily occurrence in all classrooms and at whole school assemblies. The children have opportunities to participate in both formal prayer and informal prayer.

On Thursday May 8th we held a Mother’s Day Mass with many mothers and grandmothers in attendance. The children decorated the walls of the Church with illustrations and stories about their mothers.

Witness

During Lent this year the children walked the equivalent distance from Coleambally to Uluru (2400kms) to raise money for Project Compassion. The children were sponsored by family and friends and raised an excellent total of $1290 which was sent off to Caritas.
The children visited and entertained the residents of Cypress View Lodge during the year with their poems that they learnt for the Leeton Eisteddfod. Both the children and oldies enjoy the visit and the opportunity to sit and talk together.

Parish Involvement
Our First Sunday of the Month Masses are organised by the staff, with children volunteering for readings, prayers of the faithful and offertory. The children enjoy being given the opportunity to participate in the Mass at their Parish. These Masses were well attended, especially the annual Fete Mass.

A Message from Key School Bodies
School Council Report
2008 has been a busy year for the School Council. We as a school community have achieved a lot during the year and many thanks go to all the parents who support our school in any way.

The main project this year has been the implementation of the second stage of the Federal Government's Investing in Our Schools Program (IOSPX). We purchased many new literacy based resources for all classrooms as well as installing new partitions in the toilets. The school with the help of the P & F Association also purchased a new ride on mower which has cut mowing time in half.

Many projects have been approved for the 2009 including the extension of the sprinkler system, exterior painting of the school, new sewerage line, new lunch tables and the extension of the lunch area concrete.

Many thanks to those parents who have helped at the working bees or catering jobs during the year.

Barry Mannes
Chairperson
St Peter's School Council

Parent & Friends Report
In 2008 the Parents and Friends have had a successful and busy year with the all our fundraisers turning a profit- Fete, Pie drive, Catering for 3 clearing sales, 2 21st, Bridge Day, Rev 'n' Rumble, Business Opening and Coly's 40th B'day. With the funds from these events we were able to give the school council $4000 towards a new ride-on-law mower, fund one of the church air-conditioners, pay $1,000 of the parish loan, Sponsor a horse at the riding for the disabled and pay our commitment of $13,000 to the school council. We are in the process of building lunch tables for the infant children and purchasing a set of rugby jumpers for the school children attending shield days.

This would not be possible without the help from all the parents at our school. Look what we have achieved for the benefit of our children when we work together. The fete is a great example of what a small school like ours is capable of. Thanks to all parents - we made over $9,000 on that day and managed to successful keep the after fete tradition alive! This year we spend some of our funds on better equipping ourselves for catering, this made the work much easier for those who cooked, served and washed up. Lots of fun times were had and we thank those who helped. We certainly looked the part in our new monogrammed aprons. I would like to make particular mention to Monica Whelan who co-ordinated all the sales. This is not an easy job working out how many people will attend a sale and how hungry and thirsty that may be!!

The tuckshop for 2008 has been run smoothly and efficiently thanks to Kim Mannes. Not only did Kim make a profit this year she changed the menu and managed to get all our kids to eat healthy food. The fishing club donated funds for a new pie warmer and with new shelving and operational changes our very small tuckshop ran like a well oiled machine. Thank you to all the mums who help out and to Kim who filled in the gaps sometimes working 7 out of the 10 weeks in the term - it is not possible to offer tuckshop with out all your help. Kim has applied for a volunteer's grant and hopefully we will start 2009 with a new freezer.

Lastly I would like to thank the committee for all their extra effort, support and enthusiasm this year. Especially our vice president Colleen Mader, treasurer Andrea Hogan and Secretary Monica Whelan. We look forward to another successful year. Remember you are all welcome to attend our meetings we look forward to your ideas.
Alison Hayes  
President  
St Peter’s Parents and Friends Association

2. Information on Key School Programs

School Determined Improvement Targets  
Each year the school, through consultation, determines priorities for development in the following year in categories including Vision and Mission, Policy, Administration, Professional Development and School Facilities.

Priorities for the 2008 school year included the revisiting of the School’s Vision and Mission, the planning and preparation for School Registration, celebrations during Catholic Schools Week, curriculum reviews in HSIE and PD/H/PE, a focus on bullying and resilience through the Peer Support Program, and the completion of the second stage of the Investing in Our School Program.

Priorities for the upcoming 2009 school year include curriculum reviews in Religious Education and Science and Technology, a review of the English Scope and Sequence, implementation of the ‘Making Jesus Real’ program, painting of the exterior of the school, extension of the watering system, a focus on the Number strand in all classes and further development in ICLT.

Programs to Support Students  
Current Curriculum Initiatives  
Successful curriculum reviews were held this year when both the HSIE and PD/H/PE policies were reviewed. In the lead up to the reviews the teachers worked on developing the scope and sequences and assessment plans for each stage.

In 2009 the Religious Education and Science and Technology policies will be developed before going up for review.

A numeracy project focusing on the number strand was implemented during the year. Identified children were withdrawn individually or in groups to improve their number skills and knowledge.

Other Learning Support Initiatives  
Technology has been used in all classrooms successfully during the year. The children down to Year 1/2 have learnt how to use many programs including Photostory, moviemaker and PowerPoint through completing projects or presentations on topics of study in the respective classrooms.

Equity Program Initiatives  
Multicultural Education is alive and well at St Peter’s with other cultures embedded into the curriculum. This year many of the classes had a focus on China, being an Olympic year and China being the host country. They studied their customs and beliefs, celebrations and how they were similar and different to us.

Indigenous children receive extra support through IESIP funding. The funding is used to employ a teacher assistant who works with the children in the classroom on literacy and numeracy development as well as school attendance.

Student Support Programs  
The Peer Support Program was implemented in February of this year. The program required children from Year 6 to be leaders and conduct the activities for their group of children. The groups comprised children from Kinder to Year 6. Activities ranged from engaging in games, rules of games, fair play, feelings, emotions and allowing children to express themselves in group format with positive feedback from the remaining children in the group. A teacher was allocated to supervise a group on the Friday when Peer Support was up and running.

The Riverina Life Education Van visited St Peter’s in November and all classes had the opportunity to visit the van and learn about a variety of topics from healthy eating to smoking and its effects on the body. The visit ties in with our PD/H/PE scope and sequence and follow up activities are completed in each class after the visit.

Each child at St Peter’s has access to a school counsellor from Centacare, who visits the school each fortnight, where needed. This may be to improve self esteem, work through family issues or to provide strategies for building positive and effective relationships. Teachers are also supported by the counsellor in dealing with individual needs of children in their class.
The Diocese supports students who are at risk academically through testing and referral support from Diocesan Education officers. Our school is serviced by Mrs Mandy Catena who visits the school on a regular basis. Children are referred by their teacher and are seen after parental support and permission is received.

**Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility**

During Term 3 the staff developed a Social Skills Program which was implemented school wide at the beginning of Term 4. Each fortnight a different skill such as sportsmanship or generosity is focused on with the children spending time in class discussing the skill and what it might look, sound and feel like. The parents made aware of the focus skill through the newsletter.

Each year the children of St Peter’s visit Cypress View Lodge to entertain the residents with song, play or verse speaking. The children’s performance may be linked to an eisteddfod piece, assembly item or part of the class creative arts program.

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

St Peter’s School has participated in BST Literacy and Numeracy 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.

**Comparison to Statewide Results**

Our Year 3 results show that in overall Literacy 81% of our children scored Band 4 or above compared to 76% in the state.

Our Year 5 results show that in overall Literacy 92% of our children scored Band 5 or above compared to 87% in the state. In overall Numeracy 92% of our children scored Band 4 or above compared to 79% in the state.

**Basic Skills Trends**

Recent trends show that there has been a steady improvement in the amount of growth in Literacy and Numeracy between Year 3 and 5.

**3. School Overview**

**School Policies**

**Discipline Policy**

During registration preparation this year the school’s discipline policy was updated. It is available from the school’s office.

**Student Welfare Policy**

The school has adopted the Wagga CSO’s Safe School – Child Protection Policy which is available at the school office. The school also has a number of other policies relating to student welfare including the Student Safety Policy and Supervision Policy. These are available at the school office.

**Complaints and Grievances**

The school adopts the Wagga CSO’s ‘Complaint Handling Procedures’. A copy of this is available at the school office.

**Enrolment Policy**

St Peter’s 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 Diocese of Wagga Wagga has established an Enrolment Policy which is implemented in all schools. The CSO 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>38</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Language background Other Than English

Structure of Classes
In 2008 the school provided 3 composite and 1 single stream class. The small class numbers in the infants area provide good teacher student ratios and opportunities for solid early learning. The class numbers and structures were as follows:

Kinder = 10       Year 1/2 = 21
Year 3/4 = 25     Year 5/6 = 18

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>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Professional Learning
The staff has been active this year in their pursuit of professional improvement. The teaching staff worked on the requirements of registration in the lead up to the registration visit in Term 4.

Two staff members attended in-service days in Wagga with Lesley Craig on curriculum. Infant staff members attended a numeracy in-service as well as early literacy meetings and a reading and writing workshop.

One of our teachers has been working towards continuing development of their professional skills in the Institute of Teaching Programme. They have been very well supported by the experienced teachers on staff during their journey.

The whole staff completed a number of compulsory in-service sessions including: CPR, Duty of Care and Harassment in the Workplace.

Other professional development teachers were involved in included SENA training, Making Jesus Real training and a Spiritual Renewal day for all staff.

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 St Peter’s.

Parents
My child’s needs are being met at St Peter’s Primary School.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>-</td>
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Students
My needs are being met at St Peter’s Primary School.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>-</td>
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</table>

Staff
My needs are being met at St Peter’s 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>-</td>
<td>-</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 99.69% was achieved in 2008 by staff at St Peter’s Coleambally.
Financial Statement Summary

About This Report
This report was written by the staff and principal of St Peter’s Primary School. The School Council and Parents and Friends reports were prepared by Council Chairperson Barry Mannes and P & F President Alison Hayes.