Introduction
The following Annual Report covers aspects of St. Patrick's School, Holbrook that reflect achievements, policies and events for the 2008 school year.

1. The School

Vision and Mission

This year the staff has reworked the Vision and Mission Statements. St. Patrick’s Primary School Holbrook it is recognized that we are part of a Catholic Community in a rural area.

In the Spirit of the Sisters of St. Joseph (who founded the school) we commit to:

- The person of Jesus Christ and living out the Gospel values
- The development of children to their full potential, spiritually, emotionally, socially, academically, physically and culturally
- The individuality and uniqueness of each person
- The partnership between school and parents, Parish and the wider Community.

St. Patrick’s School, Holbrook is a Catholic Primary School located on the Hume Highway, 540 kilometres south of Sydney, in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga. The school was originally staffed by lay teachers until the arrival of the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1892. The Sisters remained up to the end of 1985 with the first lay Principal commencing in 1984.

As enrolments initially grew, so too did the need for improvement in teaching and learning resources and student services. Improvements included the administration wing comprising staff room, principal’s office, toilet facilities and tuckshop. Various other physical improvements to the school in the past decade include:-

- All purpose weather shed
- Adventure playground equipment
- Cementing between major buildings
- Landscaping of front and rear gardens
- Wireless computer networking across the site

Our local historical significance provides many of our Catholic families with a third or fourth generation of presence within our school. The result of which is a pride and passion with which they hold ‘their school’.

History aside, St. Patrick’s continues to maintain enrolments in a town that is generally reducing in population. To achieve this it is important that we continue to keep abreast of both current trends within education and Board of Studies syllabus requirements. We have also highlighted five areas that are relevant to our current position. These are:-

- the continuing ability to learn and teach to deliver the best possible services to our children and our parents
- to be compliant with the Board of Studies in both curriculum and school environment
- the smooth and structured delivery of educational services which include pastoral care and the inclusion of the wider community while catering for the needs of both ends of the educational spectrum
- to be competitive in the education ‘market’ in order to give parents a clear, viable choice of educational systems.
- to provide a technology rich learning environment and to ensure that all staff and students are skilled in the use of this technology

Religious Education

The students of St. Patrick’s actively participate in a wide range of prayer and liturgical celebrations. Senior students are supported in learning how to plan and lead these celebrations throughout the year. We are fortunate to have students able to provide support and participation in all aspects of these liturgies. Traditionally, the fourth Sunday of the month has been allocated to St. Patrick’s School to provide readers, altar servers and offertory for the parish. This has the dual outcome of strengthening the bond that exists between church and school, whilst giving the parish the opportunity to know that the spirit of God is alive in the younger members of our parish.
We celebrate the contribution St. Patrick has made, particularly as our school bears his name. Our school mass on St. Patrick’s Day reflects the spread of his influence to the community of Holbrook. Mass is followed by a ‘green inspired’ morning tea. Parents and friends are always invited to all the activities that take place up until lunch time.

The students of St. Patrick’s contributed over $313.58 to the various mission events during 2008. Through its contribution to Project Compassion and Mission Week activities our students developed an insight into the lives of developing nations. This year each class has taken on at least one project to raise funds and awareness of the missionary work of the church. It is through such events as this that our students gain an understanding of the disparity between nations and in their way contribute support and awareness of the problems that exist in our world.

Our students followed the Sharing Our Story Religious Education program in 2008. Students received their first Eucharist as part of a parish celebration. Later in the year, nine students were presented to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. Confirmation on November 23rd saw 15 students from the parish, nine who attend St Patrick’s received the sacrament of Confirmation. For the first time this programme was presented as a Parish based programme with the lessons conducted on a Tuesday night for six weeks.

The Arts
Our students participated in visual art exhibitions in both school and community. Students from K to 6 covered all aspects of Dance, Music, Visual and Performing Arts. Our students participated in the Albury Eisteddfod receiving two second place awards for their efforts. Our students contributed to the Holbrook Art Show, Flower Show and Annual Show in both visual and performing arts.

Sport
Our intensive swimming program was again held in 4th Term. This placed a greater emphasis on water safety and water awareness skills. The success of this program was highlighted by the positive feedback from parents and in the annual swimming carnival. Whilst all children participated in our localised carnival, fifteen children represented us at Albury Deanery with nine going to the Diocesan carnival in Leeton. We had two students selected to represent Wagga Diocese at the MacKillop Trials.

Our annual athletics carnival was held at Alexandria Park, Albury on 2nd May. The venue supports the school’s emphasis on participation and the tremendous support from parents ensures a safe, enthusiastic sporting environment. As a result of the carnival, 14 children represented our school at the Albury Deanery athletics carnival. Five students from our school competed at the Diocesan athletics carnival held in August.

Our school cross country carnival was held on Holbrook Golf Course which proved to be a successful venue. Ten students travelled to Narrandera for the Diocesan Cross Country Carnival on 18th May. Our school finished second in Division Five.

Our school participated at the local PSSA level in the team sports of football and netball in the Bernie O’Connor Memorial competitions.

Our school encourages students to participate fully in physical activity. We compliment the two hours per week given to physical activity with our involvement in the Active After Schools sports program. In 2008 we presented the program in Term 1 through to Term 4 with over seventy students from Holbrook district participating.

School Initiatives
The School Council supported the application for Investing in Our Schools. The submission was made in 2007 for enhancements to school buildings, resources and computer equipment. The School Council took an active role in fundraising, assessment and reporting and educational focus. As a result the school’s IT was significantly enhanced with the purchase of an electronic whiteboard. The staff and School Council have also agreed to a long term plan to upgrade the technology in each of the classrooms.

As a school we reflected on learning and teaching in the curriculum area of English.
School Policies
In 2006 a comprehensive review of Maths and English Policies was implemented. These policies were acted upon and reviewed in 2008. As a result, the policies were found to contain relevant and practical information for the working of our school. We will continue this practice of review over a five year cycle.
In the latter half of 2008 attention was given to formal testing results, particularly the NAPLAN in Year 3 and Year 5 and the University Test results. We noted growth in our Literacy formal testing results as a result of significant resources and personnel being directed towards this area.

Student Welfare and Discipline
Catholic schools are places of belonging, respect & justice, hope, celebration and quality learning & teaching.

They are based on the dignity of the whole person and provide witness to Gospel values as a means to living out daily life. These values are captured in the Diocesan and Schools’ Pastoral Care Policy. The school based policy provides information on programs to support students and families, approaches to discipline, creating a safe school environment, codes of conduct and suspension & expulsion guidelines.

The school has a policy that prohibits the use of corporal punishment.

Complaints and Grievances
Catholic schools in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga are committed to a safe and supportive environment, characterized by fairness, mutual trust, respect and reconciliation. Any parent, student or community member who has a complaint or grievance has the right to have this addressed.

The key elements of the school’s complaints handling procedure and what a community member may do if they have a complaint are detailed in the Diocesan Policy Document www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au

School Council
The parent body contributed significantly to the educational, spiritual and financial existence of our school. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month and are well attended. As a result over $12500 was raised, $8500 of which went directly into the school budget. The major fundraising activities included Henty Field Days catering $10 000; Bull Sale catering, stalls and raffles $2500.

The School Council contributes to the maintenance of the school grounds through working bees and a school maintenance plan, whilst the school canteen is staffed on a voluntary basis and has a policy that dictates a healthy canteen serving only foods approved by NSW Health and Department of Education.

The School Council was the driving force behind the Investing in Our Schools application.

Water Grant
This year we completed the programme under the Federal Governments Water Grant Programme. We were able to complete the construction of 90000 L water tank and the collection of water from 60% of the roof area, the replacement of all the student toilets and with dual flush cisterns.

We were also able to purchase an additional 4500l tank to collect water from the Administration building to be used to water our no dig garden.

Coles Landcare No Dig Garden Grant
During the year the school was successful in applying for a grant to construct a no dig garden. This project was undertaken by the 4/5/6 class and construction was completed in December of this year.

Solar Power Grant
The school under the Federal Governments Solar Plan has applied for funding up to $50 000 for the installation of solar power generation. It anticipated that this project will be undertaken in 2009.
2. Information on Key School Programs

Curriculum Focus
Due to the changes in reporting format in 2006, 2008 saw its full implementation across all KLA's. This process involved reflecting upon teaching practices and the role of assessment in programming. As a result teaching practices and teacher programs reflect the expectations of parents in the reporting system and are complimented by the two interviews offered to parents throughout the year.

Programs to Support Learning
Due to the relatively small nature of our classes, individual learning styles are to some extent already catered for. However, given the nature of learners, some students require an individual learning program. To this end we offer learning support programs on a needs basis. Parents are contacted if it becomes a specific one on one program which requires out of school help.

In 2008, we were fortunate to be able to offer initially a single Language Support Class, with additional funding obtained in Term 2 we were able to expand this to two classes, which has seen 6 students progress through the programme for the year. The results have been that all students in the programme have shown improvement in their language scores.

Equity Programs
At St. Patrick’s programs that compliment the broadening of students understanding of indigenous issues and cultures are integrated into the curriculum. Throughout the year events of significance which respond to community issues and national days of importance are acknowledged. We have had on occasion guest performers from Albury for our students’ appreciation of significant cultural issues. Though the teachings of Human Society and its Environment a multicultural perspective is both encouraged and taught. Over-arching this is our mission based on the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Programs to Support Students
All students are supported in their studies through appropriate curriculum processes. In 2008 parents were invited to attend information sessions, during which the teaching expectations and teaching programmes for the year where outlined. Interviews during July were an opportunity for parents to talk with classroom teachers with respect to the progress of their children. In 4/5/6 for the first time three way interviews were conducted involving parents, teacher and student. Teachers’ programs reflected a variety of learning styles and assessment processes.

Respect and Responsibility
Supporting the Government’s National Safe Schools Framework, St. Patrick’s developed a whole school community pastoral responsibility program. We ensure, to the best of our abilities, that St. Patrick’s is a safe and secure workplace for all. Our policies and practices reflect the care and respect with which we hold parents, staff and students. St. Patrick’s has on display the Values of Australian Schools and National Safe Schools Framework posters.

Student Performance
State Wide Tests and Examinations
The table below indicates the percentage of students who have achieved national minimum standards in literacy and numeracy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Punctuation and Grammar</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Punctuation and Grammar</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</table>

NAPLAN Comment
This year for the first time students took part in the National Assessment Programme Numeracy and Literacy, known as NAPLAN.
Our student results are measured against standards in literacy and numeracy.

3. School Renewal

Progress of the School Renewal Framework

School Improvement Targets
Vision and Mission
Work continues in the area of a new Vision and Mission Statement. With staff changes occurring for 2008, this will be completed.

Policies & Curriculum
In 2008 we implemented the bullying and peer support program commenced in 2006. We have in place Policies and Strategies that address this area and recognise it is an ongoing area of need.

- Semester 1 - we complied with the changes to assessment and reporting. This was a culmination of many months of preparation. Our parent night was extremely well attended which resulted in a comprehensive understanding of the A to E grades. This format has future ramifications for our Programming Policy.

In 2008 the focus for curriculum review was English. A new English Policy was written and implemented with the effect of significant change in programming, learning and teaching and evaluation. The review process will continue in English in Semester 1, 2009. We have commenced tracking all students K-6 in four areas of numeracy and literacy.

Professional Development
Our staff had the opportunity to attend professional development courses run through the Diocese for literacy and numeracy. On two occasions staff members sought outside workshops on inquiry based learning to compliment strong teaching and learning in the classroom.

A Spirituality Day was held where the staff from St Joseph's Culcairn and All Saints Tumbarumba joined with St Patrick's staff for a day of prayer and reflection.

Resources & Facilities
This was a significant boost to the staff and students needs. Funds were made available for Key Learning Areas. We have a well resourced school across all KLA's.

In conjunction with parents, staff and Parish Priest the maintenance plan is complete and is included in the Investing in Our Schools grant.

4. School Overview

School Enrolment

Enrolment Policy
St. Patrick’s Enrolment Policy follows the guidelines of the Catholic Schools Office - Wagga Wagga.

Enrolments can be taken from Years 1 to 6 throughout the year whilst Kinder has a formal interview and orientation process. Enrolment packages outlining relevant school information are available upon request 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>29</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Language background Other Than English

Structure of Classes

In 2008 class groupings consisted of
Kinder/Year 1;
Year 2/Year 3;
Year 4/Year 5/Year 6.

These classes were staffed by an individual classroom 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.
2008 Annual Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
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</table>

**Professional Learning**

During 200, two staff members have Bachelor of Education, two staff members hold Masters Degrees and one staff member has a Diploma of Teaching. Staff are required to and do hold, qualifications in CPR with all staff holding accreditation in First Aid. The staff participated in Workplace Relations, Harassment and Child Protection Inservices, whilst on a professional level undertaking literacy and numeracy workshops and NAPLAN.

**Staff Achievements**

The staff of St. Patrick’s hold qualifications equivalent to Bachelor of Education or Masters of Education. Two staff members hold formal qualifications in Religious Education.

During the year we hosted a 2nd Student Teacher from CSU, Albury Campus.

**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 96.57% was achieved in 2008 by staff at St. Patrick’s.

**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 St. Patrick’s School.

**Parents**

My child (son or daughter) is usually happy at St Patrick’s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
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</table>

**Students**

I am usually happy at St Patrick’s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Staff**

I am usually happy at St Patrick’s

<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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</table>

**Parent Involvement and Participation**

Parents are welcome in our school on a formal/informal basis. The school celebrates St. Patrick’s Day, Religious feasts, Sacramental events, sporting occasions, Book Week and fortnightly assemblies – all of which are extremely well attended by parents.

**Community Use of School Facilities**

The school makes available the facilities for sporting, social and community groups. The Parish Council and the Youth Group hold monthly meetings in the School Library while our safe playground can be used by community groups. The Active After School Programme is conducted on the school grounds.

**Financial Statement Summary**

![Financial Statement Summary Chart]
About This Report

This Report was written by the Principal, Rob Unsworth, using information from school records, parent surveys and School Council reports.