



2013

Annual Report

Holy Spirit Primary School, Lavington

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The School

The community of Lavington dates back to the 1850's and is steeped in Gold Rush and Soldier Settlement history. Holy Spirit school was established in 1970.

From humble beginnings, the school has enjoyed a steady growth in student numbers and now enjoys wonderful facilities and resources, and a student population nearing 300.

We pride ourselves on; the family atmosphere that is evident in and around our school, the strong link we enjoy with the parish, and the caring nature and professionalism of all staff.

I hope that in reading this report, you will gain a greater insight, understanding and appreciation of our school.

Catholic Identity

Holy Spirit School is a part of the teaching ministry of the Church and we work in partnership with parents and the Parish Priest.

The celebration of the Sacraments, Liturgical Celebrations, and Prayer, are an essential witness and visible sign of the life of faith in our school. Children begin preparations for their First Reconciliation in Year Two, First Holy Communion in Year Three, and the Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated on Trinity Sunday, when the children are in their final Stage (Year 5 or 6) of Primary school. It is important to note that each Sacrament has an element of parent education attached enabling them to fully support the school and their child/children during these times.

Prayer is an integral part of our daily school life. We commence and conclude each week with a whole school prayer at assembly- led by our Year 6 students who are members of our MJR (Making Jesus Real) leadership team. Formal and informal prayer is an important feature and much respected part of daily classroom practice, as well as staff meetings. Every classroom and the staffroom, has a special prayer table featuring; religious pictures, statues, a candle and prayer book(s). Our Religious Education Coordinator, Mrs Maree Brosolo closely liaises with our

Parish Priest, Fr Peter Murphy, in relation to whole school Masses (enjoyed 2-3 times per term) and other faith related activities.

A Message from key School Bodies

The past few years have seen considerable development at Holy Spirit School. A major focus of our school has been the development of a child-centred learning environment based on extensive research and the latest data on learning and teaching. Learning starts from the first day a student enrolls, encouraging and supporting their creativity and individual learning style through play based learning and encouraging inquiry learning skills.

To do this it is important that our school has physical learning spaces which reflect and support this approach to learning and teaching. Holy Spirit School has undergone a major transformation, initially with the redevelopment of the Stage 1 learning centre which was opened by our Bishop, Gerard Hanna in 2013, followed by the refurbishment of traditional classrooms into contemporary learning spaces for all year levels. Further planning and development is underway which will see our school continue to improve the facilities that support contemporary learning and teaching methods.

2013 saw the introduction of a new school sports uniform. It is great to see the children in their red, green and white sports polo and there has been quite a lot of positive feedback when our students represent Holy Spirit at district and diocesan sporting events. Following the successful implementation of the new sports shirt and short, we have received requests to update the school sports tracksuit. The School Council began investigating supplier options and sourcing sample garments in the later part of the year. A decision will be made on a new tracksuit in 2014.

The School Council relies on a dedicated team of parents who commit their time and talent to ensuring our school principal and staff are supported and assisted in providing a quality education to our students. We are fortunate that many parents and grandparents, aunts and uncles, volunteer in many and varied ways to provide activities, equipment and resources for our students. In

particular I would like to acknowledge the Fundraising committee and their dedicated band of volunteers who run our weekly bingo, school discos and other fundraising events. The Fundraising Committee contributed approximately \$30,000 this year to the school budget. In the past few years the school has relied on these funds to purchase smart boards and other valuable classroom equipment to assist student learning and development.

This has been another busy year and I must acknowledge the commitment of the staff at Holy Spirit School, they have spent many, many hours on research and professional development to ensure that our children are provided with the best possible education. The contribution of Fr Murphy and the Parish community is also very much appreciated, as they guide the faith development and sacramental enrichment of our children.

I have decided that this will be my last year as Chair of the School Council, my youngest son will be moving onto High School in 2015 and I would like to spend next year supporting and encouraging my successor into the role. I have taken the time to reflect on the growth of my sons during their time at Holy Spirit, we are so glad that we chose Holy Spirit, it has been an enriching and joyful journey. I hope and pray that each one of our school families can experience the same fulfilment.

Vanessa Williamson
Chair, Holy Spirit School Council

Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing

In 2013, 43 students in Year 3, and 34 students in Year 5 sat the National Assessment for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). Utilising and critically analyzing data generated from this assessment tool over a number of Staff and Stage level meetings, priority goals were identified and established for implementation in the 2014 school year. Throughout 2013, staff focused on 'Reading', 'Spelling' and Whole Number as a result of the 2012 NAPLAN results. Results are readily available on the Myschool website.

Professional Learning

In line with our School Strategic Plan, throughout 2013 staff were engaged in a number of professional learning opportunities. These opportunities were supported by the work and research of John Hattie and Alfie Kohn in relation to Contemporary learning in the 21st century. The professional learning undertaken by staff included: Effective Teaching Strategies for Open Learning Spaces, Learning Fluencies, Positive Partnerships (Autism), PETAA Literacy Conference, the M.O.R.E. project, and the implementation and analysis of ACER Progressive Achievement Tests.

Teaching Staff

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 within Australia
- B) have qualifications from a recognised higher education institution within Australia but no formal teacher education qualifications
- C) have relevant successful teaching experience and appropriate knowledge but no formal teacher qualifications.

A	B	C	TOTAL
18	0	0	18

Workforce Composition

Holy Spirit School operates 11 classrooms (Kindy to Year 6). Eleven teachers are full-time, four are part-time and there are three general assistants. Six staff members are male, and we are very fortunate to have six teachers trained in Reading Recovery, one teacher Librarian, and a Music teacher

Student Attendance

Student attendance rates for each Year level and the whole school

Year	Attendance %
Kinder	89.19%
Year 1	93.55%
Year 2	92.78%
Year 3	92.58%
Year 4	92.30%
Year 5	90.14%
Year 6	90.91%

Student Non-Attendance

Attendance at school is compulsory and staff are aware that Class Rolls are legal documents and must be marked daily in accordance with specific codes representing reasons for student absence.

It is also 'policy' that chronic non-attendance is reported to the school office for further action/follow up from the Assistant Principal. Parents are required to supply a note to classroom teacher explaining any absence from school upon a child's return.

Enrolment Policy

Holy Spirit School adopts and uses the enrolment policy of the Catholic Schools Office, Wagga. This policy is available on the following websites:

www.csoww.catholic.edu.au

www.hsww.catholic.edu.au

Characteristics of the Student Body

Boys	Girls	Indig'	LOTE*	TOTAL
156	140	12	23	296

**Language background Other Than English*

In 2013, our class structures were as follows:

- 2 x Kindergarten
- 4 x Stage 1 (Yr 1 & 2)
- 3 x Stage 2 (Yr 3 & 4)
- 2 x Stage 3 (Yr 5 & 6)

School Policies

Discipline

At Holy Spirit School, we believe Pastoral Care is a way of life. It is about creating a positive school climate through living out the Gospel.

We believe Pastoral Care is achieved through established relationships and the recognition of each person's sense of worth, belonging and overall well-being. Our Behavior Management Policy is inspired by the philosophy of 'Restorative Justice'. It is a whole school commitment and approach to quality relationships. It provides us with strategies that promote inclusiveness and collaborative problem solving, while maintaining the respect and dignity of all parties concerned. At no times, under any circumstances, is 'Corporal' punishment acceptable or tolerated at our school!

Student Welfare

The physical and emotional well-being and safety of all children and staff are a priority at our school. We embrace the models and practices of; 'buddies', peer support, and MJR (Making Jesus Real). Our Well-Being committee (Counsellor, Principal, Religious Education Coordinator, and Learning Support Coordinator), was established back in 2011 and continues to meet on a weekly basis to discuss and prioritise parent and teacher identified 'needs'. Members of the committee are trained in 'Kidsmatter' and **all** staff completed training components throughout 2013.

Staff are familiar with the Diocesan initiative 'SWIMS'- an online information and referral program catering for students with additional needs.

Complaints and Grievances

Our school acknowledges that at times a dispute or grievance may occur between a staff member and another party (staff member, parent...). To ensure all parties concerned are treated justly and to maintain professional and legal responsibilities and obligations, we adopt and use the procedures developed by the Catholic Schools Office, Wagga. Procedures for 'Harassment' are also adopted by the school. The objective of these procedures is to provide a process for a

speedy resolution when a dispute occurs, while maintain the dignity of all parties involved.

Changes to School Policies

All policies, curriculum documents, teacher programs and assessment plans are in line with current methodologies. To ensure they are kept up-to-date, weekly staff meeting time is allocated to peruse, familiarise, share, discuss, and amend if necessary any and all school policies. Newly amended policies can be viewed on the school's webpage.

Improvement Targets

The main priorities identified in our Strategic Plan included; introducing Pre & Post Testing, finalising & publishing of Mission Statement, to better cater for 'Gifted & Talented' students, introducing a more flexible timetable to support small group learning, and to continue pedagogical change with the support of research from J. Hattie, Alfie Kohn and others.

- Staff have embraced the concept that children already know 40% of what they are going to be taught, and that every child can learn and succeed. Prior to teaching a 'concept', children are given a pre- test to determine what they already know & understand. As a result 100% of teaching and learning time can be spent on the 60% children don't know. The academic 'growth' of children will be recorded, tracked, and shared with colleagues, students and parents.
- It was agreed that ALL staff articulate a whole school Belief (Mission) Statement. This statement to be sent to parents and translated into the 11 different cultures that represent our school community and displayed in our school front office.
- WE explored possibilities/options available to work closely with Xavier High School and their teachers in offering 'workshop' type activities with a number of our Year 6 students. In Term 4, groups of 4 children enjoyed one hour classes for 6 weeks in; Science, Music and TAS.
- Teachers have embraced the research of John Hattie, Alfie Kohn,

and others. As a whole school we no longer 'set' traditional homework (A4 sheets), provide timely 1:1 feedback, allow children to work independently and in small groups, and encourage peer mentoring. We also use assessment as a tool to inform and drive future teaching & learning opportunities.

Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility

Holy Spirit School embraces a number of initiatives that promote respect and responsibility:

- A Counsellor from Centacare visits every Thursday, talking/working with the children referred to her directly via the Well-Being committee. Programs introduced to date include; drum beat, restorative practices, friendship circles and whole class proactive sessions on issues outlined by the classroom teacher.
- All of our Year 6 students are actively involved in a system of leadership teams or committees. They are also instrumental in our Peer Support and 'Buddies' programs.
- All of our Year 5 students participate in 6 week Pre- School program. Local Pre- schools and Day Care providers enjoy groups of 2-4 children visiting for one hour a week for the 6 weeks to work/play with the children. This initiative has been well received by 9 local centres and it helps with a smoother transition into Primary School.
- MJR (Making Jesus Real) is an initiative adopted throughout the whole school. The children are encouraged to identify other children in their classroom or in the play ground who are; welcoming, inclusive, resilient, well-mannered and behaved, and so on. The children displaying these attributes are 'real life' role models and are celebrated accordingly.

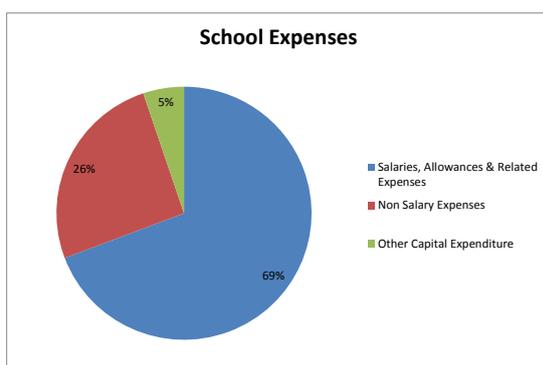
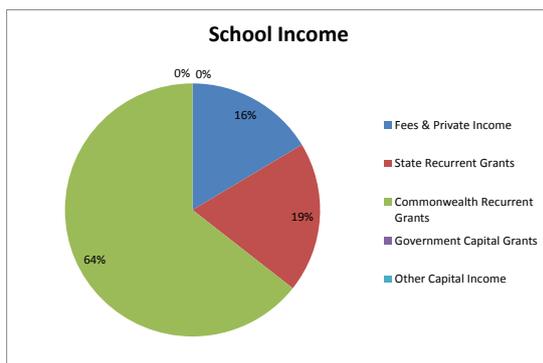
Community Satisfaction

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

1. 92% of parents believe that their child/children are well supported.
2. 99% of parents stated that their child likes coming to school.
3. 93% of parents commented that our school newsletter is easy to read and informative.
4. 98% of children are enjoying the introduction to Contemporary Learning.
5. 92% of children are enjoying having more than 1 teacher.
6. 90% of children believe they are going to learn more and learn better in this 'new' environment.
7. 100% of Teachers agree that Pre & Post Testing/Assessment is changing their teaching practices.
8. 100% of Teachers support the decision to do away with 'traditional' homework at Holy Spirit School.

parents of the school, parishioners and the general public. In the main it was written by the Principal, Mr Mark MacLean, and the School Council Chair, Vanessa Williamson.

Financial Statement Summary



About This Report

This report was written to satisfy the requirements of the Federal and State Governments as well as the Catholic Schools Office, Wagga Wagga. The information contained within should be of interest to