



2011

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 boasts 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 and understanding 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 year 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 six students who are all members of our MJR (Making Jesus Real) leadership team. Formal and informal prayer are a feature and important and much respected part of daily classroom practice, as well as in 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 continues to liaise 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

2011 has been a year of change and growth at Holy Spirit. We welcomed a new Principal, Mark MacLean and inducted a new leadership team with the appointment of Margaret Brassil as Deputy Principal. The new team have brought a fresh approach, some new ideas and continue to enhance the wonderful traditions of our school. I would like to acknowledge their commitment and the tireless efforts of the staff at Holy Spirit School. Our school community is very fortunate to have dedicated staff who go above and beyond in their efforts to provide an outstanding education for our students and create a welcoming and inclusive community environment. The school musical production 'Conundrum' was a shining example of their commitment and talents. The Circus Day for preschool students, the great family atmosphere at sports carnivals and the many other activities organised throughout the year are testament to their efforts.

I would like to thank all of our parents who give of their time and talents to add an extra dimension to the school experience. Our Bingo helpers are a fantastic, dedicated team raising funds to buy; sports equipment, smartboards and much more. Our school could not hold major carnivals like; swimming, cross country and athletics without the help of parents and grandparents. The parents who come into the school on a regular basis to help with reading and other classroom activities, the canteen helpers, the dads who volunteer for mowing and maintenance tasks and all the parents, grandparents...who come along to assemblies and School Masses give our school a rich sense of community. I see the joy on the children's faces when they see that you take an interest in their school life.

As a Catholic school, we enjoy a rich pastoral life led by our Parish Priest Fr Murphy and Religious Education Coordinator Mrs

Brosolo. Our school Sacramental Program and the Making Jesus Real initiative are just some examples of our children growing their Catholic identity and becoming faith filled, life long learners.

The School Council has discussed many issues affecting our school throughout 2011. Maintenance of ageing school buildings, the expansive grounds, school fees in line with the financial pressures families are facing, the school budget, a review of the school's sports uniform, and fundraising to further support the school and its resourcing and other initiatives have all been on the agenda. The members of the School Council represent the school community in general and are open to hear your input and feedback on issues affecting our school.

Vanessa Williamson
Chair
Holy Spirit School Council

Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing

In 2011, 34 students in Year 3 and 35 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 whole staff and Year level meetings, priority goals were identified and established for implementation in the 2012 school year.

Results are readily available on the Myschool website.

Professional Learning

In 2011, FSiW (First Steps in Writing), continued to dominate staffroom discussion and classroom practice. Other Staff professional Learning opportunities included; MJR (Making Jesus Real), Riverina Maths Conference, Dr John Irvine seminar, Cyber smart (& safety), Autism workshop, Scootle in the classroom, and Asthma awareness.

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.

<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
18	0	0	18

Workforce Composition

Holy Spirit School operates 11 classrooms (K to Yr 6). Eleven teachers are full-time, five are part-time and there are four General assistants (6 staff members are Male). We are very fortunate to also have six teachers trained in reading Recovery, and one teacher Librarian, and Music teacher.

Student Attendance

Student attendance rates for each Year level and the whole school.

Year	Attendance %
Year 6	95.17%
Year 5	94.69%
Year 4	96.30%
Year 3	95.61%
Year 2	94.60%
Year 1	95.07%
Kinder	94.74%

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 the 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
136	134	10	11	270

**Language background Other Than English*

In 2011, our class structures were as follows:

2 x Kindergarten
 3 x Stage 1 (Yr 1/2)
 3 x Stage 2 (Yr 3/4)
 3 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 the living out of 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 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 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). In late 2011, we formed a Well- Being Committee and 3 staff (including the school counsellor from Centacare) were trained in 'Kismatter' (a program to be introduced in 2012).

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 maintaining the dignity of all parties involved.

Changes to School Policies

In 2010, Holy Spirit School underwent a process for registration. As such all policies, curriculum documents, teacher programs and assessment plans are in line with current methodologies. To ensure the above are kept up-to-date, staff meeting time is allocated to peruse, share, discuss, and amend if necessary any and all school policies.

Improvement Targets

The main priorities identified in our Strategic Plan included; a new more informative prospectus, a revamped newsletter, mentoring, more professional

learning opportunities, and a more inclusive transition program.

- The new prospectus is now bright, colourful, with more relevant up-to-date parent friendly information and is easy to read.
- The newsletter is FULL of colour and photos. As a result of parent feedback from a survey, weekly articles now include; bullying, road safety, calendar of events, library news, and children's birthdays.
- This year we introduced a 'Welcome To Big school' program that included; Local visits to Preschools & Day Care centres, theme days, and a 5 week transition program culminating in orientation day.
- In terms 2 & 3, teachers were introduced to a collegial mentoring scheme. Teachers modelled 'best' practice and opportunities were given for pre and post observation discussions.
- Professional learning opportunities were a high priority. Money and time were provided, and staff encouraged to identify and participate in areas of need/interest.

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 children referred either by a teacher or parents. Programs adopted successfully to date include; drum beat, and friendship circle.
- All our Year 6 students are involved in a system of leadership committees. Children are asked to nominate for one of the following; MJR, Environment, Library, Fundraising, Media, Sports, and

Task Force. Throughout the year they are called upon to contribute to the school via involvement in that particular committee.

- Early 2011, a Bullying survey was given to all children in Years 3 to 6 to ascertain their perspectives and understanding of bullying, teasing and overall treatment and respect of one and other. The questions asked; whether they had ever been bullied, or bullied, who did they tell, what happened as a consequence, what would you do if you saw someone being bullied, and so on. Results were collated and an informative and proactive booklet was sent home to every family. It highlighted results, offered interesting discussion points to use at home, and introduced our families to cyber bullying. We are very confident that our children are now able to articulate their rights and responsibilities.

Community Satisfaction

Our School Council consists of; staff and parent representatives, Principal and Parish Priest. The school council meets monthly to discuss a range of relevant school related issues.

In 2011, a school council newsletter was introduced to better keep our families abreast of school issues and initiatives.

We enjoy very positive feedback from our parents. The BER projects were wonderful additions to our facilities and well received by all stakeholders (parents, staff, and children alike).

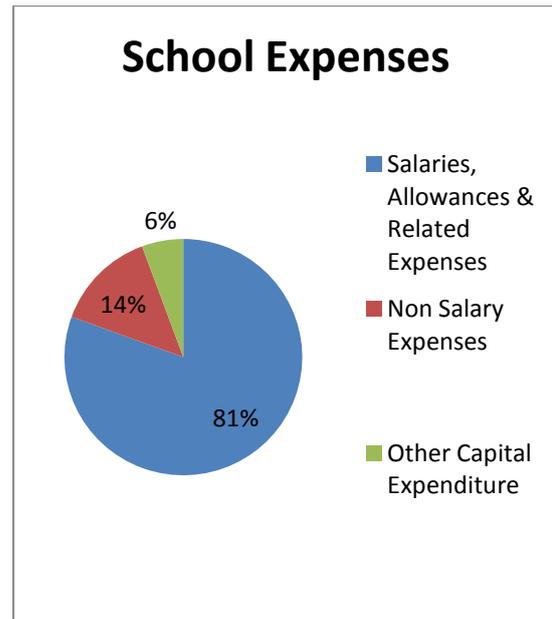
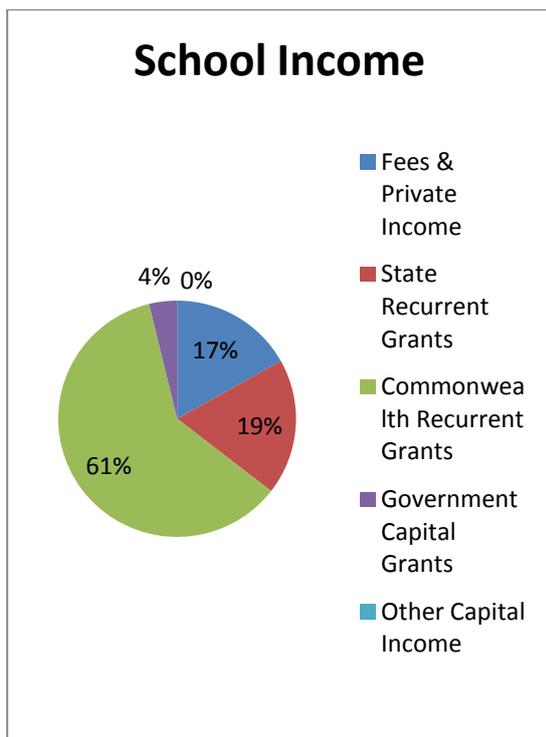
Staff are invited to provide input into the schools 5 year strategic Plan. This plan is updated on an annual basis. It looks at areas; Faith, Care, Learning, Service, and Stewardship.

This year we introduced a number of changes to our newsletter. An 8 question survey to our parents revealed that; 96% of our families like the 'new' format, 94% look forward to it coming home and reading it, and 100% enjoy all the 'new' inclusions.

Our school council have explored changing the sports uniform. 75% of parents support the idea of a new style and coloured sports top, and 96% of parents agreed with the new naming of the four teams.

In a survey of students, 97% feel safe at our school, and 93% are aware of and like our school rules and policies on bullying and teasing.

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