

ANNUAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY REPORT

Year 2008
School Name JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC SCHOOL
School Type K-6
Suburb CLARENDON VALE

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Principal: BR GEOFF WHITEFIELD

School Profile

Part of our Vision & Mission Statement reminds us that we are on about preparing our students to be ethical and active members of our society. Our school aims to be a place of promise and hope. All aspects of life at John Paul II School are underpinned by our community's commitment to live out the Gospel values of Jesus Christ.

We are proud to have been named after our recent pope, John Paul II, a man who courageously pushed out into unfamiliar territories, was not afraid to challenge convention but was at the same time a valiant defender of Gospel values, and held a special place in his heart for the fragile, the dispossessed and the orphaned. Inspired by John Paul II, we endeavour to live out our motto "To love and serve the Lord in peace". As a Catholic School, while being open to the whole community we hopefully extend the hand of welcome particularly to those who struggle.

Our school is situated between Clarendon Vale and Rokeby and backs on to a farm property. While most of our students are

drawn from those immediate two suburbs a good number come to us from further afield including Acton Park, Bellerive, Clifton Beach, Dodges Ferry, Howrah, Lauderdale, Mornington, Oakdowns, Sandford, Seven Mile Beach and South Arm. While Clarendon Vale and parts of Rokeby are heavily populated with Government housing, other areas, such as Oakdale, are "developing" suburbs and further areas, such as Acton and Seven Mile Beach, could be described as semi-rural.

Our school is relatively young- we celebrated our silver anniversary in 2008. The original three classrooms were opened in 1983 while the most recent additions opened in 2001. Our school facilities include seven classrooms, a spacious multi-purpose hall, a library, wide corridors, two smaller focused learning areas, a board room, various offices, a staffroom that includes a resource area, a canteen, a uniform store, a set of three games courts, a large playing field surrounded with shade-providing trees, two sets of adventure playground equipment, a large utilities shed and well kept gardens.

Adjoining the school is John Paul II Catholic Church, which is part of the Bellerive Lindisfarne Catholic Parish. Our school is an integral part of this parish.

Catholic Life and Mission

John Paul II School promotes and fosters the values and experiences that define us as a Catholic school.

Part of the school's mission is to provide opportunities for Catholic students to learn about and to be involved in aspects of their Faith. As an inclusive school, all non-Catholic students are welcomed and encouraged to participate in the Catholic life of the school.

Such participation for students in 2008 included

- regular attendance at parish and school masses
- daily classroom prayer
- weekly whole school prayer and reflection at Friday assemblies
- classroom studies based on the Good News for Living curriculum.
- The Making Jesus Real program for Grade 4-6 students

Our school enjoys a great rapport with our Parish Priest, Fr Peter O'Loughlin, and the community of regular parishioners who attend the weekly Thursday mass. The school happily makes its resources available to support parish life. Through the parish some of the students prepared for their initiation into various sacraments. The school supported these students in a number of ways. Classes studied the same sacraments that these students were preparing for. We also raised the awareness of the school community via our assemblies and newsletters.

Students also participated in wider community gatherings. One such gathering was the annual Archbishop's Mass for Grade 6 Leavers. Another was the Edmund Rice Mass that is held at the Derwent Entertainment Centre each year

and involves close to a thousand students as well as a good number of other people involved in Edmund Rice ministries (which are chiefly concerned with outreach to the disadvantaged).

John Paul II students supported community initiatives, including

- The Anzac Day service (at South Arm and Bellerive)
- Project Compassion (Students and their teachers arranged an array of activities to help support this Catholic charity that runs each year before Easter.)
- St. Vincent de Paul Society (Mini-Vinnies)

2008 saw a strong sense of pastoral care continue within the school. Senior students were involved in a Leadership programme (sourced by the Catholic Education Office, Hobart, and facilitated by Mr Peter Mitchell) which, when combined with our 'buddy' programme, allowed for older students to provide care, direction and modelling for younger students.

Pastoral care also extends to the staff, parent body and the local community. The staff prays together on a weekly basis. All staff members aim to be welcoming and pastoral and available to the parents of our students. As well as formal parent-teacher interviews, parents are encouraged to be in communication with staff as much as they deem necessary.

As the resources and units for our new Religious Education Curriculum, Good News for Living, continue to build up, our staff continues to depth its understanding and use of this curriculum. Sr Margaret Henderson (Catholic Education Office, Hobart) facilitated this professional learning. Our Assistant Principal (Religious Education- APRE) attended a three-day conference as part of her Professional Learning for the year.

All staff participated in a Spirituality day facilitated by Dr Drasko Dizdar, a

theologian currently working with the Catholic Education Office, Hobart. We focused on the theological framework of our tradition.

Elements of Catholic Life & Mission overlap into many other areas of the life of this school and therefore also into other areas of this report, especially in the Pastoral Care and Community Involvement sections.

Our Learning Community

Learning and Teaching

As with all registered Primary Schools in Australia our curriculum features eight Key Learning Areas: Mathematics, English, Studies of Society & Environment, Science, The Arts, Health & Physical Education, Technology, and Languages Other Than English (LOTE) -Italian. Additionally, as a Catholic School we also teach the subject, Religious Education.

As part of this learning community, the John Paul II Staff is continually improving its teaching skills and pedagogical (ie. the art of teaching) understandings and reinforcing its commitment to spirituality and faith development. The staff's professional development closely aligns to the needs of the students. The staff endeavours to teach in a range of styles to cater for the different learning styles encountered across the student population.

Data from the national benchmark testing as well as in-school assessment informed our decision that the major focus for 2008 was to continue to improve various Numeracy and Literacy outcomes. Therefore the staff's professional development was tailored to suit these needs.

The staff regularly engaged in the School Improvement Process "Learn, Live, Grow" which involves reflecting on the five domains of Catholic Culture & Ethos, Student Learning and Achievement,

Learning Environment, Curriculum & Pedagogy and Leadership. It involved collection and consideration of data and feedback from all the stakeholders of the school community. Quality indicators were determined and then evidence sought to support these indicators.

Members of the John Paul II School Staff participated in a number of professional development courses, many organised through the Catholic Education Office. These included:-

- Theology for Primary School Staffs (Dr Drasko Dizdar)
- Introduction to Moderation (Heather Jatan)
- Moving Moderation into Primary Schools
- Workplace First Aid
- ICT in the Primary School (Glynis Tulley)
- Induction for employees new to Catholic Education
- Covey: 7 Habits of Highly Effective People
- Learning difficulties / disabilities
- Downs Syndrome students
- Magic 100 Words Literacy Workshop
- Pedagogical Leadership: Leading & Supporting Teachers to Improve Classroom Pedagogy
- Reading Links: Phonological Processing
- Planning RE units (Sr Margaret)
- Archiving
- Courage to Be Retreats

In 2008 various staff members were also involved with the following networks:

- ICT
- Special Learning Needs
- Assistant Principals
- Aboriginal Education & Perspectives
- Kindergarten
- Clarence Plains Community & Health: "FUTI-POP forum"

In 2008 one teacher assistant completed her teaching degree. Another staff

member continued her studies for the Grad. Cert. R.E.

Aboriginal perspectives

A combination of Aboriginal and non-aboriginal students worked with a local elder to gain an insight into aboriginal culture and spirituality. The group produced a beautiful wall-hanging which is now on display.

Some special funding was available to support our Aboriginal students. Depending on the particular students our specific aims were to enhance numeracy and literacy and encourage school retention.

Special Needs programs

Around 10 students attracted special funding for a variety of reasons. Specific programs were tailored to meet their needs. A further forty or so non-funded students were given extra tuition, involved in literacy and numeracy catch-up or reinforcement programs, or worked in small groups with the teacher assistants or volunteer parents. Three newly arrived students were funded as "English as Another Language" students.

Teachers with Special Expertise

All students Kindergarten-Grade 6 had the opportunity to benefit from classes featuring specialist teachers: singing with Mr Ian Williams and Physical Education with Mr Michael Edwards. Preps –Grade 6 also learn about the Italian language and culture with Mrs Maria di Tommaso.

Civics and Citizenship

John Paul II students from Grades 4-6 are involved in the school parliament, which is modelled on Australia's own government. While learning about our parliament, the roles within it and how it operates, the students are also having an experience of real student leadership. All students are involved in at least one portfolio (eg. Community, Culture, Sport & Recreation, Publicity) and have constituents to care for. All students are required to make at least two speeches throughout the life of the Parliament and have challenges to

meet. Challenges include bringing in guest speakers or artists to work with our school community and to organize relevant and inclusive activities to involve the students in. The Parliament is encouraged to be outward looking- to explore ways that benefit not just our own community but those beyond our immediate community. One of the 2008 Parliament's great achievements was the Healthy Food Week which involved making available fresh fruit each day, as well as competitions and prizes and a visit from some giant fresh-fruit "mascots"!

A number of senior students became involved with "Mini Vinnies" (St Vincent de Paul Society's outreach to the poor for younger people).

Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Under the direction of Mr McManus, 2008 saw a lab set up with a full class set of computers. With computers also in all classrooms and additional areas set up with multiple computers, the students have healthy access to ICT. We have been well supported by Catholic Education Office Consultant, Mrs Glynis Tully, who has in-serviced the staff in incorporating ICT within the various learning areas and has worked with classes of students.

Health & Wellbeing

As an accredited Sun Smart school the Parents & Friends Association (P&F) supplied classes with sunscreen to support this important safety initiative.

With a number of students diagnosed with serious allergies or conditions (eg. diabetes, epilepsy) the staff was educated as to how to deal with these conditions. Communication with repsective support foundations and networks was maintained.

Student Performance

Each year our Grade 3 and 5 students participate in national benchmark testing. This year a new government format, NAPLAN (National Assessment Program: Literacy and Numeracy) was used.

The areas tested this year were Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar/Punctuation and Numeracy (Maths). The feedback tells us where the students have met the benchmarks and how well they have (or have not) exceeded the benchmarks.

The table below sets out the % at or above the National Minimum Standard for John Paul II School, All Tasmanian students, all Australian students.

Number of Grade 3 students= 12

Gr 3 Reading:	92	93	92
Gr 3 Writing:	92	97	95
Gr 3 Spelling:	100	92	92
Gr 3 Grammar			
/Punctuation:	100	92	92
Gr 3 Numeracy:	100	97	95

Number of Grade 5 students= 17

Gr 5 Reading:	82	90	91
Gr 5 Writing:	82	93	93
Gr 5 Spelling:	82	90	92
Gr 5 Grammar			
/Punctuation:	94	91	92
Gr 5 Numeracy:	76	92	93

Pastoral Care

"All that we do at John Paul II School has its foundation in our belief in Jesus Christ and lived commitment to Christian values."

John Paul II Mission Statement

The John Paul II School prides itself in being a caring and pastoral community, living out the excerpt from the Mission statement above.

The staff makes a point of knowing all students at the school by name and what is going on in their lives.

A number of staff has been trained in Rainbows, a program for helping children grieve if they have suffered a loss or a dramatic change due to a death, divorce or other family separation. This program was offered to the students.

Our behaviour management policies reflect a pastoral approach. From the letter of appointment issued to staff members at John Paul II School we read: "The pastoral care of our students is a core value within this school and behaviour management should be exercised in such a way that maintains the dignity of our students."

In terms of bullying, John Paul II School believes that it is essential to create a positive environment in which students can work and learn happily and confidently. Therefore bullying is not tolerated in any form, whether it is verbal, physical or visual. Students are educated by their teachers about the options they have if they consider they are being bullied. When at play, students who don't respect the rights of other students are removed from the playground. Students are encouraged to speak with a trusted adult about any form of bullying, which is subsequently followed up. There is a whole school approach to dealing with bullying issues.

Staff members incorporate resilience skill building and social skill development activities into the students' programs as required.

Breakfast and lunch have been discretely supplied as needed, likewise have items of school uniform.

All staff members are willing to make time to talk with parent over their concerns.

Strategic Planning

2008 saw a focus on continuing to work towards stronger outcomes in both Literacy and Numeracy. Our strategy to bring this about includes reviewing and renewing our resources in this area in conjunction with further expert advice being made available to the teaching staff to assist in their planning, teaching and evaluating of these areas. Professional Development to support this focus was planned. A particular target for our school in 2008 was to continue developing

stronger Comprehension and Inference skills across the school. Resources were bought to support this. The Reading Links program has been successfully introduced, a number of staff having been trained. A good number of younger students have been channelled into the program where they enjoy the challenge of competing against themselves to move up through the various levels.

One of our major goals for 2008-2009 was a sustained lift in student outcomes as indicated in the LANNA (2007) or NAPLAN (2008) Reading score (We are aiming at 3% over 2 years).

Supporting this goal was:

- the continued implementation and review of the Rigby Literacy Collections in conjunction with the NSW English Syllabus
- the measurement of improvement or otherwise evident in tracked Guided Reading records.
- the measurement of an increase or otherwise using the TORCH TEST for Grade 3-6

As mentioned earlier in this report the school's strategic planning involves using the Catholic Education Office's School Improvement Framework entitled: "Live Learn Grow". Data has been gathered from staff, Parents & Friends and Board members and the general Parent - Guardian population. Led by the school leadership team (the Principal, the two Assistant Principals and the Curriculum Officer) the staff has researched and investigated a number of *elements* which has led to determining quality indicators which inform and steer our strategic planning.

Elements reviewed during 2008 include:

- Student Achievement
- Assessment & Feedback
- Community
- Parent-School Partnerships

- Equity
- Tradition
- Classroom Behaviour Management
- Curriculum
- Quality Teaching
- Learning and Teaching Programs

The Parents and Friends Association achieved their 2008 goal of financing a portable shelter that will be used at sports carnivals and other outside gatherings. The shelter has been ordered and will be delivered early in the 2009 school year. The P&F's efforts that all go towards enhancing the education of the John Paul II students and the building-up of the school community are gratefully acknowledged.

The school's maintenance plan continued to be followed and advice from the school's Occupational Health & Safety Officer led to some minor works being carried out around the school. Ramps were installed to improve access for all students. A new toilet and change-room facility for students with disabilities has been commissioned and should be completed for the 2009 school year. For archiving purposes a new storage area was built. As mentioned earlier, a new Computer lab with enough computers for a whole class was brought online midway through the year. Improved audiovisual facilities were installed in the school hall. Improved ICT facilities were installed throughout all classrooms.

At least twelve months ago the car park was identified as a safety risk. After writing and re-writing submissions the Board of Management was given the go ahead late in 2008 to implement the improvements. The improved car park is planned to be ready for the beginning of the 2009 school year. An education program will be implemented to help improve the car park usage.

Enrolment and Staffing

In 2008 the school consisted of 6 classes ranging from Kindergarten to Grade 6. The configuration of classes was: Kindergarten Saplings, Grade Prep Bluegum, Grade 1 Wattle, Grade 2/3 Blackwood, Grade 4/5 Huon and Grade 5/6 Sassafras. During the year there were approximately 145 students at John Paul II Catholic School, including the Kindergarten students. The average class size was 24. 7 students identified as Aboriginal. As of December 2008 the gender percentage was almost 50% girls and therefore 50% boys. Approximately 9% of students were funded for various needs over and above ordinary funding.

The staff consisted of 11 teachers (6 full-time and 5 part-time, 7 female and 4 male), 4 teacher assistants (all female and part-time), 2 office staff (both female and part-time), a utilities officer (male and part-time) and a cleaner (female and part-time). All staff members were appropriately qualified for the positions they held and all teachers were registered as required by law.

Community Involvement

John Paul II Catholic School endeavoured to build its links with the community in a number of ways.

Members of the school community were actively involved in: the South Arm and Bellerive ANZAC Day ceremonies; the local outreach branch of St Vincent de Paul Society ("Mini Vinnies" – for primary school age children); entertaining senior parishioners at the pre-Christmas party; supporting the charities Project Compassion and the Samaritan Fund with an array of fundraising activities; supporting the homeless through Hobart City Mission; visiting the local cemetery;

hosting an open day as we celebrated our silver anniversary. We invited all our grandparents along for a special morning of activities, entertainment and morning tea. We invited all the extended school community (family and friends) along to our annual concert and our AFL Breakfast.

The school has been represented in the local community forum "FUTI-POP: Facing Up To It- Playing Our Part" which aims to educate about and confront domestic violence in our community. Local principals, health workers, youth workers, housing workers and other interested parties are involved.

About this Report

In preparing this report, information has been gathered from evaluations conducted during the year. Information about the school's practices and student learning outcomes have also been analysed and from this analysis goals for the school's future development have been determined.

This report was prepared by the out-going Principal, Br Geoff Whitefield, with the assistance of the staff of John Paul II Catholic School.

Signed:



Bro. Geoff Whitefield

Principal (2005-2008)

Wednesday 24 December 2008

Summary Financial Information

This systemic financial summary has been prepared by the Finance and Administrative Services at the Catholic Education Office.

(Pie-chart to be inserted here once the CEO has issued it...)