

ANNUAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY REPORT

Year 2009
School Name JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC SCHOOL
School Type K-6
Suburb CLARENDON VALE

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Principal: Mr Jim IRELAND

School Profile

John Paul II School, Clarendon Vale, TAS

John Paul II Catholic School is a vibrant school community. Our school is nestled in a semi-rural environment on Clarence Plains. The school space is generous and characterised by numerous trees, gardens and very large playgrounds. High-quality teaching is delivered by a very dedicated and committed staff. Our culture is unique and diverse. It draws from a wide community who work magnificently as one under the banner of Catholic Education. Our technology program is impressive. The school uses a combination of portable lap top computers, wirelessly connected and a full computer lab which can cater for a class of thirty students. This program is all-inclusive and gives all children a chance to develop their individual skills and reach a level of competency difficult to achieve in a primary setting. Another feature of our school is our Youth Parliament. This gives every child the opportunity to work in teams, take responsibility for delivery of activities, develop oral language skills and fosters the confidence to speak in front of

people. This program also enriches understanding of democratic process and decision making. [Visit the school website.](#)

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. John Paul II Catholic School had an enrolment of

We are proud to have been named after 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 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. 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. Currently, with the BER funding our school facilities are being refurbished and increased in size. We now have eight classrooms, a spacious multi-purpose hall, a new library, wide corridors, three smaller focused learning areas, a board room, various offices, two change rooms and three blocks of toilets, 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.

Our Learning Community and Environment:

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 2009 included

- regular attendance at parish and school masses
- daily classroom prayer
whole school prayer and reflection at Thursday 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 Rosny)
- Project Compassion (Students and their teachers arranged a series of activities to help support this Catholic charity that runs each year before Easter.)
- St. Vincent de Paul Society

2009 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 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 Principals (Teaching and Learning APTL and Religious Education- APRE) attended a three-day conference in Hobart as part of their Professional Learning for the year.

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.

Student Attendance:

Student attendance for 2009 was a rating 1 of 95%.

Non attendance at John Paul II is dealt with by using the following attached policy.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Rationale:

The *Education Act* requires that children of school age (six-fifteen years) resident are required to be in full-time attendance at a government or registered non-

government school unless they are receiving approved home tuition, correspondence education, or have been granted an exemption by the Education Department.

Aims:

To maximise student learning opportunities and performance by ensuring that children required to attend school do so regularly, and without unnecessary or frivolous absences.

Implementation:

*Education is a sequential process. Absences often mean students miss important stages in the development of topics, causing them to find 'catching up' difficult.

*Absenteeism contributes significantly to student failure at school.

*All enrolled students are required to attend school unless reasonable and valid grounds exist for them to be absent.

*Illness is reasonable grounds for an absence, shopping excursions or birthday parties are not.

*Parents have a responsibility to ensure that their children attend school regularly, and are only absent if ill or if absolutely necessary.

*Parents have a further responsibility to provide either a written note or phone informing the School for the absence.

*The principal has a responsibility to ensure that attendance records are maintained and monitored at school.

*All student absences are recorded daily by teachers, are aggregated on our database.

*The principal has a further responsibility to ensure that unexplained absences are investigated, and that high levels of absenteeism are adequately explained.

*Phone calls are placed by the School Office daily to ascertain the status of absent children.

*The principal will contact parents of students with high levels of unexplained or unapproved absences, using the agreed protocols issued by the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office. (attached). Student attendance and absence figures will appear on student end of year reports.

Evaluation:

*This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

PRINCIPAL

Curriculum and Pedagogy:

Learning and Teaching

As with all registered Primary Schools in Australia our curriculum features eight Key Learning Areas: Mathematics, English, Society & History, Science, The Arts, Health & Wellbeing, 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 2009 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.

In 2009 John Paul II Catholic School was re-registered and underwent a successful validation. Our school received some very positive feedback and some great recommendations for our future directions. The school community was very proud of its joint efforts.

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)
- Moderation
- Moving Moderation into Primary Schools
- Epilepsy
- ICT in the Primary School
- Covey: 7 Habits of Highly Effective People
- Learning difficulties / disabilities
- Medazaline
- Magic 100 Words Literacy Workshop
- Pedagogical Leadership: Leading & Supporting Teachers to Improve Classroom Pedagogy
- Reading Links: Phonological Processing
- Planning RE units (Sr Margaret)
- You Can do it
- Courage to Be Retreats
- Action Maths Workshops
- Aboriginal Education

In 2009 various staff members were also involved with the following networks:

- ICT
- Special Learning Needs
- Assistant Principals
- Aboriginal Education & Perspectives
- Kindergarten

In 2009 two teachers started their Grad Cert in Mathematics.

Aboriginal perspectives:

10% of John Paul II's enrolment is Aboriginal. Staff have one Aboriginal Teacher and one non teaching staff member who identifies as Aboriginal.

During NAIDOC week our school had a special celebration where children ate roo patties and abalone. They also held a major assembly where children concentrated on different aboriginal topics. We also had a visit from local Aboriginal people.

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 receptive 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)**

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.

School ICSEA value: 957

Bottom quarter	Middle q's	Top quarters
57%	6% 28%	9%

Number of Grade 3 students= 10

National Average Grade 3:

Read	Writing	Spelling	Grammar	Numeracy
411	414	405	420	394

John Paul II Grade 3:

322	378	377	381	371
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Number of Grade 5 students= 24

National Average Grade 5:

494	485	487	500	487
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John Paul II Grade 5:

447	459	451	465	461
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In 2009, 17 grade 6 students went to MacKillop College (Local Catholic Secondary) and 2 Grade 6 students went to Rokeby High School (the local State High School).

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.

Parent Satisfaction: Parents indicated a high level of satisfaction with teachers and pastoral care. A few people indicated that communication to parents could improve. They are happy to be involved in school activities and expressed that they felt that the school was moving in a positive direction and that their children's outcomes were improving. They also said that there was an improved focus on education.

Student Satisfaction: Students expressed a deep connection for their school and particularly liked the School Parliament. They said that they liked their teachers, felt safe and enjoyed their friends and activities.

Teacher Satisfaction: Teachers expressed a positive response to their workplace. They liked the children, the diversity of people in our school and the fact that the school appeared to be going forward with a focus to improve outcomes.

Strategic Planning

Enrolment and Staffing

In 2009 the school consisted of 6 classes ranging from Kindergarten to Grade 6. The configuration of classes was: Kindergarten Saplings, Grade Prep/1 Bluegum, Grade 1/2 Wattle, Grade 2/3 Blackwood, Grade 4/5 Huon and Grade 5/6 Sassafra. During the year there were approximately 159 students at John Paul II Catholic School, including the Kindergarten students. The average class size was 26.3 and 16 students identified as Aboriginal. As of December 2009 we had 85 boys and 74 girls. Approximately 9% of students were funded for various needs over and above ordinary funding.

The staff consisted of 12 teachers (7 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. Our Parents and Friends is very vibrant with a number of younger mothers becoming involved.

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; 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; and visiting the local cemetery. 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.

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 Principal, Mr Jim Ireland, with the assistance of the staff of John Paul II Catholic School.

Signed:

Jim Ireland.

Mr Jim Ireland

Principal

Friday April 30, 2009.

Summary Financial Information

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

