Be convinced that no work of charity can be more productive of good to society or more conducive to the happiness of the poor than the careful instruction of the young.

Catherine McAuley 1778-1841
Contents

This report is documented under the following headings.

Faith

St Patrick’s Primary School goal is to actively participate in the evangelising Mission of the Catholic Church through the Bishop’s mandate.

Learning

St Patrick’s Primary School is a place of learning where the emphasis is on inspiring, informing and engaging all. We believe the well-being of the whole person is clearly focused on the physical, social, cognitive, emotional and spiritual development within a Christian caring environment.

Care

At St Patrick’s Primary School, we believe that each person is made in the image of God. Our school within the Griffith and wider community is a school for all with special attention to those who are marginalised.

Service

Service is one of the cornerstones in which supports our foundation at St Patrick’s Primary School. Our school and all within have a role to play in the provision of Christian service.

Stewardship

St Patrick’s is concerned for the environment. All who interact with our school community understand and appreciate the interrelatedness of all creation and know it is a gift from God.
Preamble

The St Patrick’s Primary School Annual Achievements Report plays an important role in fulfilling our school’s commitment to school improvement, accountability and transparency. This annual achievement report is a record of our school’s accomplishments and activities during 2013. The report is documented under the headings of our Bishop’s Mandate in order to fulfil our goal by actively living fully in our Catholic faith which is committed to dimensions of

- Faith
- Learning
- Care
- Service
- Stewardship

A full report on our direction for 2014 is available either at the front office or on our website.

In addition to this report, I wish to draw to your attention the “Photo Gallery” button in the Quick Links on our website and the photographic review highlighting our achievements. It is here in the photo gallery that the 2013 Achievements Report is enhanced further, capturing our students engaging in activities from ANZAC Day through to our concert entitled, “Grooving to the Movies”.

I invite you to view this report which is endorsed by the Parish Priest and the Chair of the School Council 2013. You will find the Achievements Report under, “Annual School Report” (in the School Profile section of the main menu). Please note this document is our Achievement Report linked intentionally for school improvement. This document is not to be confused with the Annual Government Report that is also submitted every year.

St Patrick’s Primary School continually strives to meet best practice, reporting on the values and views of our families and community. You are invited to provide feedback on this report by clicking on the Feedback link on the front page of our website. I hope you find this report to be informative and a valuable resource. Should you have any enquiries about this report, please feel free to contact us by email at info@spgww.catholic.edu.au.

May God be with you always!

David Adams-Jones

Mr David Adams-Jones

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Faith

Teaching Celebrating and Living our Catholic Faith!

It is within this Mission that our environment of St Patrick’s that our Christian education is carried out. In essence, our school’s role is to provide an education where our young primary schools children and their parents encounter and engage with Jesus and his message of love. As a Catholic School, we are a place of Faith and below is a record of our Faith throughout 2013.

The school has played a vital role within the Church by actively participating in First Friday Masses for staff and then followed by morning breakfasts, support for charities such as Project Compassion, introduction of our first class Mass with Year Five Students in March, engaged in St Patrick’s Day Mass and fun activities, Ash Wednesday and finally in Holy week activities that concluded with Stations of the Cross in the Fr O’Dea Hall. Throughout the term the leadership team consisting of Ann Friedlieb, Fr Grace, Alan Wedesweiler and David Adams-Jones met weekly ensuring communication and organisation were explicitly planned for. In Term Two, Ann Friedlieb and Fr Grace were instrumental in highlighting the sacramental program, linking the school and parish. The sacrament of Reconciliation concluded with the Year Two students, parents and staff involved in the traditional cutting of the cake. At the conclusion of Term Two, the school community farewelled Ann Friedlieb who commenced her long-service leave until the end of the academic year, 2013.

Sarah Ellis rose to the occasion as Acting Religious Education Coordinator in Term Three and continued with a focus on living our faith within the Church. Under Sarah’s leadership the school actively engaged in the sacrament of Communion with students from Year Four. Throughout Term Three the staff and students gathered together in recognition of our first Australian saint, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and for the sacrament of Confirmation which was celebrated with Bishop Hanna, Fr Grace and the families, staff and most importantly the students from Year Six.

Under the school leadership team, the school began the journey of identifying our charism/ story at St Patrick’s School, Griffith. Staff from the Catholic Schools Office visited us and supported the school community with professional development. Brother Tony from the Marists Brothers and a Mercy Sister spent time with our staff after school sharing their stories. At the conclusion of the four twilight staff meetings our staff not only gained further insight into the Charism of St Patrick’s Primary School but developed key phrases that make our school a dynamic place of diversity, care, learning, stewardship and faith.

At the conclusion of the year, Mrs Sarah Dunbar and staff from Year Six worked closely with the parish for the graduation Mass. Once again this Mass was well attended by the parish and school community. After the celebration, the community shared a meal together to farewell our Year Six Students.

These activities and more can be viewed in more detail on the school website by clicking on “Photo Gallery” as we continue to encounter, engage with Jesus and His message.
Learning

**Inspiring Informing and Engaging Communities of Learning!**

The interrelatedness of knowledge and well-being flows through all key learning areas of Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Health and Physical Education, Creative Arts and Human Society and its environment. As a place of learning, we aim to help students reflect critically, and creatively contribute to all areas.

**A place of Learning where...**

- Staff gathered together for the first two days of professional development in the school library.
- Students participated in the school and Deanery Swimming carnival.
- Engagement in the traditional celebrations of St Patrick’s Day with a whole school Mass followed by sporting fun day rotation carnival.
- Students and community gathered together for Ash Wednesday.
- Students in Year Six engaged in cooking Balise style as part of their HISE assignment.
- Students successfully engaged in Cross Country activities locally and regionally.
- Students actively participated in Catholic Education week.
- The new exciting Glee Club held once a week at lunch time in the library was formed.
- Chess, writing, garden clubs were held for students at lunch times.
- Students engaged in Chess tournaments.
- Students in Year One wrote their first report on the life-cycle of the butterfly.
- Students engaged in research skills using laptop computers.
- Students in Years Three to Six participated in the annual School Athletics Day.
- The Canberra Brumbies visited our students.
- Mother’s Day liturgy was participated in.
- Many Kindergarten students were recognised for their school work with the fortnightly awards ceremony.
- Year Five students tackling confidently Andy Griffith’s books broadening their reading abilities.
- Year Three students engaged in journal writing highlighting the best part of their weekends and holidays.
- McAuley house won the 2013 Athletics Carnival.
- Students and staff celebrated Italian Day with food and fun activities.
- Kindergarten students learnt about new sounds in words through the Jolly Phonics program.
- Year Four students learned about writing Diamante poems.
- Year Six students and staff went to Canberra as part of the curriculum.
- Successful students rewarded at the MIA Deanery and Albury Athletics Carnivals.
- Year Two began their swimming program proudly supported by the P&F.
Inspiring Informing and Engaging Communities of Learning!

Continued...

- Marian College students read to our Kindergarten students.
- A sensational book week full of fun activities was enjoyed by all who participated for the love of reading.
- Students engaged at the annual Jackie Murphy Gala Netball Day.
- New garden bed was put in and each class designated a patch to look after. Thank you staff and parents.
- Table Tennis Club held during lunch times extended student skills individually and as a team.
- The Science program began in Semester Two for all students.
- Success at the first Annual Art Show for 2013. Students’ art work acknowledged by the community.
- Senior Boys relay team came second in MacKillop Athletics Carnival at Olympic Park, Homebush.
- Year Four visited Pioneer Park as part of their curriculum.
- Year Two learned about safety on the internet.
- Father’s Day liturgy was participated in.
- Year Five students learned about Sidney Nolan.
- Students loved the outdoors with the annual Trent Barrett Cup.
- The yummy Cake Stall was set up as part of the Annual Graduation project.
- Year One students learned about all aspects in telling the “Time.”
- Year Five students visited Bendigo and stayed in Ballarat looking for Gold!
- Year Five students investigated books entitled, A Banner of Gold and the Diary of Rosa Aarons- insights in to living on the Goldfields in 1854.
- Kindergarten to Year Six dance program began with ended with the finale at the Griffith Theatre.
- Senior Boys came seventh in the state for athletics –Relay.
- Two students represented NSW PSSA in Sydney in long jump, discus, shot put.
- Students represented NSW PSSA Touch Football Girls Team.
- Students represented the state in Brisbane for the Nationals.
- Year Four explored character descriptions about the school’s principal.
- Students from Kindergarten to Year Two participate in the explicit science program.
- School community engaged in Socktober as part of Catholic Church Missions week.
- Students received a certificate of Achievement at weekly assemblies.
- Whole school achievements in NAPLAN results especially good in English.
- Kindergarten students reading stories to the principal.
- Staff attended a Bill Rogers In-service day in Wagga.
Building Caring and Supportive Environments!

St Patrick’s Primary School locally and globally is an inclusiveness community where we are all not only a witness to Jesus Christ’s life and teaching but a place that responds with compassion and kindness.

Throughout 2013 our school continued its journey to enhance our inclusiveness as a community. Our students, staff and parents engaged and encountered many opportunities that supported our goal for school improvement, accountability and transparency.

- **Introduction of outside school hours care.** This service responded to an important need where students at St Patrick’s are cared for while their parents worked outside school hours. Extend Outside School Hours Care is a Melbourne based company that provides a service to communities across the Nation.

- **Making Jesus Real program** is a response to Jesus’ message where we as a Catholic community act locally and globally. Students and staff were acknowledged throughout the year at school assemblies for being a creditable witness in their everyday lives.

- **Seasons for Growth Program** was also another example of our commitment to compassion and kindness. Throughout term three the eight week program led faithfully by our Pastoral Care Worker and School Councillor worked with over eighty students in supporting them. The program successfully achieved its goal to strengthen the social and emotional well-being of the children in our care. By reaching out to our children and their families, we were able to help our students to learn new ways to think about and respond to the changes and losses in their lives.

- **CanAssist Griffith** was locally supported this year by our school community. Two students from St Mary’s Primary School in Yoogali raised funds in order to cut their hair for CanAssist Griffith Branch. Our school began the fund raiser with a one hundred dollar cheque presented to the students at their school assembly and we also ran a weekly five cent Friday campaign throughout Term Three in support of raising funds. At the conclusion of the program a second cheque was presented to the Principal and students of St Mary’s School Yoogali.

- **St Patrick’s supported MS Read-A-Thon** by actively supporting for Multiple Sclerosis through a read-a -thon. MS is an unpredictable and mysterious disease of the central nervous system (the brain and spinal cord) causing disruption to messages being sent to and from the brain. The progress, severity and specific symptoms of the disease cannot be predicted. One in 20 Australians will be touched by MS through a family member or friend living with the disease. Our school through acts of kindness read over 3,631 books and raised $3,750 for research and so the students were able to see Mr Moraschi’s beard shaved off at a school assembly.
Service

Embracing Leadership that Fosters Collaborative Practices for Mutual Benefit and Partnership!

*We are witnesses to collaborative practices which further the evangelising mission of the Catholic Church. Within the context of the Griffith community and the surrounding districts, our school came to serve.*

- **Relay for Life** was fully supported by staff, families and students with many acts of kindness and compassion. The school community generously gave their time to walk for Relay for life at the Exiles Oval in Griffith on the weekend of March 23rd to raise funds for cancer research.

- **St Patrick’s Day** was for us one of the most important days on the calendar. We celebrated the wonderful service of St Patrick and are committed to remembering the significant contribution he made to communities around the world. Our students engaged in a memorial Mass and then concluded the day with tabloid sports. Our parents held a High Tea in the Fr O’Dea Hall.

- **ANZAC Day** was a day where we all gathered as a community embracing a time for prayer and reflection. St Patrick’s Primary School was well represented with over sixty-five students and staff participating in the memorial walk and service.

- **Police Legacy Day** was acknowledged by our school community. Our students truly served the local police members by offering a barbeque lunch for all. The students also raised funds for the appeal that supported the six hundred police officers who have lost their lives in the call of service.

- **Italian Carnival Day** was a day bigger than “Ben Hur”. The school community through the work of our Italian teacher came together to celebrate the wonderful influence and traditions that Italian migrants brought to our Griffith community. Viva La Carnival Day!

- **Catholic Church Mission Sunday: Socktober** was acknowledged in true style. School Captains organised a fund raiser event where students could wear to school crazy coloured socks. The school raised over five hundred dollars that was donated to Mongolia.

- **Parish Fete** our school and wider community came together to celebrate the uniqueness of generosity. Parishioners, school and wider community engaged in a fun fill afternoon where all parts of the community were represented.
Stewardship

Caring for People Creation and Resources

As a gift, we are all responsible in sharing the decisions that ensures we are ecologically and ethically sustainable in everything we do. St Patrick’s school is about caring for people, creation and resources.

- **First Friday Mass and Breakfast** was an important sign of being dynamic Catholics. On the first Friday of each month our staff gathered together to celebrate the Eucharist through prayer. After the celebration, the grounds staff provided a cooked barbeque breakfast. It is during these times that we come together as a community, caring for each other, listening to each other and giving thanks.

- **Making Jesus Real for Staff** is about making God moments explicit in our school. Every day our staff expressed acts of kindness and caring as part of our making Jesus real by writing on cards of appreciation to each other. Each fortnight we have a draw where the names of our staff are drawn out and their act of kindness is acknowledged with an unknown prize. These prizes are provided by the school and parent community as a way to show they care about the staff at St Patrick’s. Each month the appreciation cards on average about 180 of them is given back to the staff.

- **Weekly School Newsletter** initially was printed 380 times a week through the photocopier. The average newsletter consisted of seven to nine pages. In response to our ecological commitment, the weekly newsletter is now e-mailed to all families and only thirty copies a week made available in printed form.

- **Memorial Garden** On Thursday 14th March at 2.30pm we celebrated the opening of the memorial in honour of Miss Cath Frey, outside the 600 Block. The graduating Year 6 class of 2010 raised and then donated the money towards the establishment of this memorial outside 605 and 606. Miss Frey was a very much loved teacher at St Patrick’s from 1984 to 2009. During her twenty-four year career she taught Kindergarten, Year 1, Year 2, Year 4, Year 6 and ESL. She was well respected by students, colleagues and parents. This special place in our school will be a quiet and contemplative space accessible to all.
Caring for People Creation and Resources...continued

- **Australia Day Clean Up** Listening and following the call from Bishop Hanna’s mandate about Stewardship, all classes participated in Clean Up was participated in Australia Day on Friday 1st March, by working together to clean up our School grounds. We are thankful to Griffith Council for their assistance in providing resources.

- **New Vegetable Gardens** were established by the students under the watchful eyes of staff, groundsman and parents. We were very grateful to the successful grant provided to St Patrick’s by the State Government of New South Wales. All the students were provided with seedlings and were designated their garden beds in preparation for spring.

- **New Resources** - the school and Parents and Friends Association worked very hard throughout the year that enabled the school to purchase many resources for the school. Some resources included new I-pads for the classrooms, new computers and interactive board for the library, science equipment, and sporting equipment.

In closing this report I wish to acknowledge the fantastic staff at St Patrick’s, the Sacred Heart Parish, School Council and Parents and Friends Association for their amazing support, dedication and friendship throughout 2013. May God Always be with you.

Yours Sincerely

**David Adams-Jones**

Principal

Signed by: Chair of School Council

... Ms Rob Kelly...........................

School Principal

Mr David Adams-Jones..............

Parish Priest

Fr Andrew Grace.....................

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