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

School Achievement Report

2014

David Adams-Jones
St Patrick’s Primary School
12/18/2014
This report is documented under the Bishop’s Mandate that is aligned to set goals.

**Goal 1: Faith**

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

**Goal 2: Learning**

*St Patrick’s Primary School goal is to be a place of learning where the emphasis is on inspiring, informing and engaging for 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.*

**Goal 3: Care**

*At St Patrick’s Primary School goal, is based on our belief 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.*

**Goal 4: Service**

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

**Goal 5: Stewardship**

*St Patrick’s Primary School goal is concerned for and focussed on the environment. For all who interact within 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 goals and commitment to school improvement, accountability and transparency. This annual achievement report is a record of our school’s accomplishments and activities during 2014. The report is documented under the headings of our Bishop’s Mandate in order to fulfil our goals by actively living fully in our Catholic faith which is committed to dimensions of

- Faith
- Learning
- Care
- Service
- Stewardship

Our annual plan highlighting our direction for 2014 is available on our website along with this report.

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 2014 Achievements Report is enhanced further, capturing 248 pages of our students engaging in activities from ANZAC Day through to our concert entitled, “A Tragedy at The Four Clovers Theatre”.

I invite you to view this report which is endorsed by the Parish Priest and the Chair of the School Council 2014. 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 towards 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 e-mail at info@spgww.catholic.edu.au.

May God be with you always!

David Adams-Jones

Mr David Adams-Jones MACE
Faith

Goal: To Teach, Celebrate and Live 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 school 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 2014.*

At the beginning of the academic year, the school community welcomed Fr Rafter to the Parish. 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 at Mei Amici. It has supported charities such as Project Compassion, introduced our first School Leadership Mass with Year Six Students on the 28th 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 Sarah Dunbar, Fr Grace, Alan Wedesweller and David Adams-Jones met weekly ensuring communication and organisation were explicitly planned for. In Terms One and Two, Sarah Dunbar and Fr Grace were instrumental in highlighting the sacramental program, linking the school and parish with Reconciliation and Communion. The program was further supported by Sister Siony who worked alongside the staff and students with visits to the classrooms. The sacrament of Reconciliation and Communion concluded with the Year Two and Three students, parents and staff involved in the traditional cutting of the cake. The semester concluded with regular visits from Fr Rafter who visited the classrooms and shared stories with the students.

Under the guidance of Sarah Dunbar as Religious Education Co-ordinator we continued our focus on the Sacraments on living our faith within the Church with Confirmation in September. The staff and students gathered together in recognition of our first Australian saint, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and the Assumption Mass 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 year continued its journey of articulating our Catholic Identity and Religious Education with a major focus on staff well-being. Two counsellors from Griffith Counselling Services led the staff through a variety of twilight in services with a strong focus on social and emotional intelligences. The four sessions began from an understanding of the “self” to fully engaging their social and emotional intelligences. At the conclusion of the four twilight staff meetings our staff not only gained further insight into themselves as educators in the 21st Century but how the context of the Charism weaves through our work as teachers. Next year, the staff will participate in rewriting our School vision and mission statements.

As we gathered together throughout 2014, new and current staff were engaged in a new induction program that provided vital information about our school, our Catholic Schools Office and Diocese. The school Council established a Policy Working Party that successfully updated new school policies throughout the year. The policies were shared with the school and wider community and Andrew Chinn visited our school and thrilled the students. These activities and more can be viewed in more detail on the school website by clicking on “Photo Gallery and School Policies” as we continue to encounter, engage with Jesus and His message.
Learning

Goal: To Inspire, Inform and Engage 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 professional development in the school library focussed on the Key Learning area of English.
- 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 successfully engaged in PSSA Swimming, Cross Country activities locally and regionally.
- Students actively participated in Catholic Education week with a Live Radio Program from the school grounds.
- The Glee Club continued formation and rehearsals performing at the Annual Art Show held in August.
- Chess, writing, garden clubs were held for students at lunch times.

- Students engaged in Chess tournaments which saw a number of students travel to Sydney for state championships.
  - In September Year One students engaged in The Great Science Event with activities that were well received by all the community. (See Facebook September 15th)
  - Year Four Students engaged in making I movies using their new I pads and presented them at Book Week.
- Students in Years Three to Six participated in the annual School Athletics Day.
- Mother’s Day liturgy was overwhelming supported by parents at St Patrick’s.
- Many Kindergarten students were recognised for their school work with the fortnightly awards ceremony.
- Patrick House won the 2014 Athletics Carnival.
- Brendan House won the 2014 Swimming and Cross Country Carnivals
- 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.
Learning: Inspiring Informing and Engaging Communities of Learning!

Continued....

- Successful students rewarded at the MIA Deanery and Albury Athletics Carnivals.

- Students represented MacKillop at Cross Country State Carnival
- Year Two students participated in the swimming program proudly supported by the P&F.

- The Ukulele Program was introduced for Year Three Students proudly supported by the P&F.

  - Students participated in the Life Education Program throughout Term 1
  - Year Five engaged in leadership qualities through the Making Jesus Real program.
  - Students begun their fortnightly House Meetings with staff-wearing their new house shirts.
  - Staff completing postgraduate study and TAFE courses. Life-long learners.
  - Horse riding lessons!
  - Puppets visited our students as part of our Italian cultural program.
  - Virtues Project introduced as part of the House Meetings and Assemblies.
  - NAIDOC Week was celebrated in the beginning of term three.

- The Circus visits the Kindergarten.
- Kindergarten to Year 2 participate in a healthy aerobics program to begin the week.
- Professional Development focussing on Emotional Intelligences –Understanding the self and the role of teacher in the classroom offered through Building Cultures to Last.
Learning: Inspiring Informing and Engaging Communities of Learning!

Continued....

- It was the Logies Book Week with Students presenting Book Week winners using -Imovies.
- Students engaged at the annual Jackie Murphy Gala Netball Day in Wagga.
- A paved 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.
- Thirteen students successfully participated in the MacKillop Diocesan Cross Country in Sydney.
- Year Four visited Pioneer Park as part of their curriculum.
- Year Two learned about safety on the internet.
- Father’s Day liturgy in the Hall was very successful. Thank You Fr Grace!
- Year Five students learned about Sidney Nolan.
- Students loved the outdoors with the annual Trent Barrett Cup.
- The yummy Cake Stall and Car Wash was set up as part of the Year Six 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 Two Dance program concluded with a Santa Play in the Fr O’Dea Hall.
- A huge success at the Second Annual Art Show: The international year of family farming for 2014. Students’ art work was acknowledged by the community and reported via Win News. See the video on the website.
- Kindergarten to Year Six dance program continued this year with a Year 3-6 finale at the Griffith Theatre A Tragedy at the Four Clovers Theatre written by Year Six Students.

A Tragedy at the Four Clovers Theatre written by Year Six Students
Learning: Inspiring Informing and Engaging Communities of Learning!

- Our students represented all primary school students across the nation with the laying of a wreath at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

- School community engaged in Socktober as part of Catholic Church Missions week and State Of Origin as a fund raiser.
- Students received a certificate of Achievement at weekly assemblies and acknowledged on Face Book!
- Whole school achievements in NAPLAN results - especially strong in English.
- Year Two students celebrating their spelling talents with the Principal.
- Staff attended a professional development day on Australian Curriculum on English and later on Science and Technology.
- Students visited the Griffith Library to see author, Tony Flowers.
- Engineering introduced to Year Six. See the photo gallery for more details!

- Students received awards for the New South Wales ICAS in English, Maths and Computer Skills Tests.
- Students travelled to Wollongong for Basketball.
- Year Six public Speaking completion was strongly supported. The students presented five minute speeches to the parental community at assemblies.
- CSIRO visited and thrilled the students with fantastic experiments.

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Care

**Goal: To Build Caring and Supportive Environments!**

*St Patrick’s Primary School locally and globally is an inclusive 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 2014 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.

- **Supporting local Catholic School: St Therese Primary School.** Throughout the year the school supported St Therese Catholic school by responding to their needs in resources and professional development. The school provides World Book on Line and Zip tails online access at no financial cost. The staff have attended several professional development days at St Patrick’s where all staff share knowledge and skills and learn from others.

- **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. A report on the pastoral Leader was submitted to the Catholic Schools Office;

- **School House Meetings:** This year the school introduced House Meetings as part of the building caring and supportive environments. The students wore their house colour shirts to school once a week along with the teachers and staff. Each fortnight the students and staff gathered together to build house spirit through the introduction of a virtue. The virtue of the fortnight was provided in the newsletter and classrooms for students to draw upon. The houses enacted the virtue at a fortnightly assembly. House flags were purchased which were on display throughout the school and presented at assemblies.

- **CanAssist Griffith** was locally supported this year by our school community as a school and P&F. This year our students wore to school their favourite footy shirt as part of the State of Origin series and the P&F held a CanAssist Morning tea in the parish hall. The funds raised were presented in a cheque to the Region Manager of CanAssist in the MIA at an assembly.
Goal: To Embrace 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.

- **Life Education Program and Police Liaison Officer Visits:** This year our students had the opportunity to engage in the Life Education Program and presentations by the New South Wales Police Liaison Officer. In Term One Life Education provided support for all our students and in Term Four Constable Janelle Lynch provided support to staff, students and families with a presentation and Q&A session on topics associated with social media, physical bullying and cyber bullying to all our students from Years Four to Year Six. This followed on from our Term One program on the Life Education program.

- **Catholic Schools Week:** St Patrick’s offering more than just a great education. This year our school gathered together to promote Catholic Schooling by launching a live Radio Program with a breakfast morning on the school grounds. Local radio hosts along with many students, staff, parents and community members came along for a free sausage sizzle and heard about the Bishop’s Mandate, our faith, learning, care, service and stewardship. During the Catholic Schools week our community gathered for a Grandparents’ luncheon day on the school grounds. Many grandparents commented on the opportunity to see their grandchildren learn in such a beautiful environment. There are a number of photo pages available in the “photo gallery” entitled Catholic Schools Week that give witness to St Patrick’s offering more than a great education.

- **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. Furthermore, our students laid a wreath at the National War Memorial.
Embrace Leadership that Fosters Collaborative Practices for Mutual Benefit and Partnership!

- **P&F and School Art Show:** This year our school celebrated its second Art Show with a theme around, The International Year of Family Farming. All students presented art work depicting the surrounding districts of Griffith. The business community kindly donated up to ten thousand dollars to the Parents and Friends Association. Invitations from the wider community were accepted with over four hundred people attending the Art Show in the Fr O'Dea Hall. I wish to also thank the parent and business community for their kind donations towards the Art Show this year totalling over approximately ten thousand dollars in cash donations before the Art Show commenced. Parents also donated prizes towards the staff, Making Jesus Real Program as their sincere acknowledgement to the hard work our teachers do for their children.

- **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 once again to celebrate the uniqueness of generosity. Parishioners, school and wider community engaged in a fun filled afternoon where all parts of the community were represented.

- **A Tragedy at the Four Clovers Theatre** was an opportunity accepted by the community to see our talented students in Years Three to Six engage in the Arts in dramatic performances at the Griffith Theatre. The Year Six students wrote the play which was supported by Melissa Dance Studio, Midwest Conveyor and Belting Services for prop design, Betty Boo costume design and the P&F. A fabulous production!

- **Weekly Assemblies:** Every week our students and parent community gather together to acknowledge the effort and achievements of our students. The students consistently demonstrated their service to not only themselves but the school community and for this they were acknowledged.

- **Griffith Community Counsellors:** A team of counsellors provided workshops for staff that focussed on understanding “the self” which led into skills for building effective teams.
Stewardship

Goal: To Care 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.

- Principal Monthly Letters: At the beginning of each month the principal wrote personally to all families within the school community. The letters contained important reminders and information about the happenings around the school. The feedback from parental surveys has affirmed the importance of not only keeping an open communication channel between the school and home but is a demonstration that they are important and cared for.

- Remembrance Day: Our students from Kindergarten to Year Two gathered together under our school flagpole to participate in Remembrance Day. The students wore red poppies that they had made and participated in the service. The service concluded with everyone joining in saying “Lest we forget”.

- International Teachers’ Day: The school community and leadership acknowledged our staff on International Teacher’s Day with an article in the newsletter and a small gift. The number of acknowledgements through our Face Book page was a testament to parental support for the work they do in educating children at St Patrick’s and the school.

- Introduction of Social Justice Leaders: Last year our school introduced Social Justice Leaders. This was a fantastic opportunity that provided students in Year Six to work alongside the Religious Education Coordinator, staff and the Parish. The SJL lead the school community in prayer at assemblies, participated in School Masses and on special occasions such as ANZAC DAY march.

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• **Australia Day Clean Up:** Listening and following the call from Bishop Hanna’s mandate about Stewardship, all classes participated in Clean Up Day which was participated in Australia 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.

• **The Vegetable Gardens** were upgraded this year by an external paving company to assist with the control of weeds. We were very grateful to the successful grant provided to St Patrick’s by the State Government of New South Wales. The funding has now been exhausted to ensure we carried out our intentions to build a vegetable garden,

• **New Resources**- The school and Parents and Friends Association worked very hard throughout the year that enabled them to achieve their four main goals in 2014.

  **Inside and Outside Resources:** Purchase of new sports equipment to the value of twelve hundred dollars, new soccer goals and netball posts, and purchase of two refrigerated water bubbler fountains.

  **Beautification Project:** Completion of paving work around the trees in the quadrangle and new seating.

  **Educational Programs:** Full costs associated with World Book on Line, full costs for Melissa Dance Program for all students and 50% financial support for the Year Two swimming program, purchases of musical instruments-Ukuleles,

  **Charity:** Catholic Church Mission, financial support for World Book Online to St Therese Primary School and CanAssist Griffith Region.
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 2014. May God Always be with you.

Yours Sincerely

David Adams-Jones

Principal

Chair of School Council

Mr Anthony Salmon

School Principal

Mr David Adams-Jones

Parish Priest

Fr Andrew Grace

All goals of the Bishop Mandate have been achieved 2014