

St Patrick's Primary School

51 South St, PO Box 165

WALCHA, NSW 2354

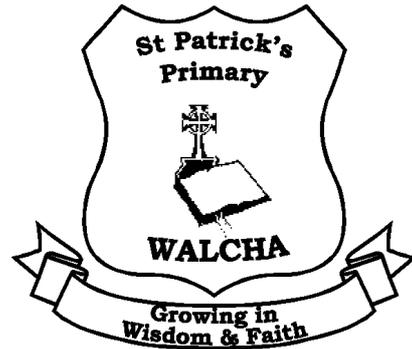
Phone: 02 6777 2328 Fax: 02 6777 2922

Email: admin@stpatrickswalcha.catholic.edu.au

Parish Priest: Monsignor Wayne Peters

Parish: St Patrick's, Walcha

Principal: Mrs Alanna McRae



Annual School Report 2013

Mission/Vision Statement

The motto of St Patrick's School is "Growing in Wisdom and Faith".

As a school community, our school's mission is to provide an inclusive Catholic environment where the Gospel values of Wisdom and Faith can grow and be nourished. We aim to develop individuals to their full potential and instil in each person a sense of responsibility, self discipline and respect for the needs of others and for the environment in which we live.

About this Report

St Patrick's Primary School is registered by the Board of Studies (NSW) and managed by the Catholic Schools Office, Armidale, the 'approved authority' for the Registration System formed under Section 39 of the NSW Education Act 1990. The annual report provides parents and the wider school community with fair, accurate and objective information about various aspects of school performance and development. The report describes achievement of school development priorities in 2013 and gives information about 2014 priorities. This Report complements and is supplementary to school newsletters and other regular communications. This Report is sent to the Catholic Schools Office, Armidale for validation with the requirements of the Education Act 1990 before being forwarded to the Board of Studies. Following its submission to the NSW Board of Studies the report will be presented to the parent body and be available on the CSO website by 30 June 2014. The school consultant also validates that the school has in place appropriate processes to ensure compliance with all NSW Board of Studies requirements for Registration.

Principal's Message

2013 was a year of stability for St Patrick's. While there was some movement of students in and out of the school numbers remained steady throughout the year with around 73 students most of the time. Parents and the community remain very supportive of the school and find it a happy welcoming environment.

St Patrick's provides a caring environment where students and teachers support and respect each other. Our dedicated teachers work with students and their families to create a strong community partnership to build a positive learning environment for every student. Teachers challenge, support and encourage each student to maximise their learning and achievements. This year our students have participated in a number of activities in and outside the Walcha Community. In February all the classes worked together to present an art display at the Walcha Show. In addition ladies from the Floral Section of the Show Society assisted the students in Years 3 to 6 with making floral arrangements to enter in the Walcha Show. Many of the students also participated individually in cooking, horse riding, art and lego sections of the Show. In May we sent two soccer teams to the Diocesan Gala Day and in October we sent two teams to the Diocesan Touch Carnival. Then in November we had 5 students represent the school at the Woolbrook Horse Sports day.

Leadership is important at St Patrick's and we strive to develop student leaders who are caring and supportive of all students. At our Opening School Mass in February two of our Year 6 students were inducted as School Captains for 2013. The School Captains were ably supported by the two Sports Captains and three Year 6 School Leaders. All students from Year 3 to 6 are a 'buddy' to students from Kindergarten and Year 2. St Patrick's has a well developed peer support network through the use of the buddy system. This system operates between older and younger students. This 'buddy system' is also of benefit for new students starting at the school in primary classes.

Whole School Assemblies provide the students with the opportunity to share their achievements and learning with the wider School and Parish community. In 2013 whole school Assemblies were held in conjunction with other celebrations in the school. In Term 1 we celebrated Catholic Schools Week and in Term 2 we celebrated NAIDOIC Week with both having a whole school assembly. In Term 3 we celebrated Literacy/Numeracy at the beginning of term with a Grandparents Day and Book Fair then at the end of Term 3 we had an Indonesian Day that was held in conjunction with our whole school assembly.

This year the school the school put on the musical 'Alice' based on Alice in Wonderland. The senior students took on the acting and solo singing roles while class groups performed dances to the different songs. The production was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the creative talents of the students.

St Patrick's runs an extensive transition and orientation program for Kindergarten students the year before they commence school. This program allows the new Kindergarten students to develop confidence and gain experience about school before they officially commence. During this time they are introduced to a senior student 'buddy' who supports them at school. Our Year 5 and 6 students participated in a number of transition days run by local and regional high schools to assist them with their move to secondary education.

Our Swimming Carnival was held in February and we were able to send a squad of fourteen students to represent the school at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival in Tamworth. We had three students selected in Diocesan Soccer teams which played in Bathurst in May – two girls and one boy. Our Cross Country was held in April with nineteen students selected to represent the school at the Diocesan Cross Country in Quirindi in May. From this day three of our students were selected to go on to the Polding Cross Country to represent the Diocese. In 2013 we returned to holding our own Athletics Carnival which was held in July. Seventeen students were selected to attend the Diocesan Carnival in August. From the

Diocesan Carnival four of our students were selected for the Diocesan team to go to Polding in September.

St Patrick's is a school that is always willing to help others. In 2013 the students and the school community participated in two fundraising events. During Lent families participated in the Project Compassion for Caritas. Then in October, Mission Month, the school held a Lapathon which raised \$2410.10 for Catholic Missions. This was a tremendous effort being nearly \$800 more than the previous year. Parents who attended the Lapathon encouraged and supported the students and were very impressed with their endeavours.

The school has been heavily involved in many activities in the Walcha community in 2013. As well as supporting the local Walcha Show, on ANZAC Day a large group of students marched in the Walcha Parade with the School Captains speaking at the official ceremony. The senior visited and sang at the Elizabeth Crosse Wing of the Hospital and a school choir performed at the town Carols by Candlelight service.

St Patrick's School is a part of the wider St Patrick's Parish. The support and advice offered by Monsignor Peters (Parish Administrator), Fr Hayes (Priest in Residence) and the Parish is much appreciated. An invitation is always extended to the Parish to participate in school events.

St Patrick's is fortunate to have a supportive School Board and a Parents and Friends Association. Both of these groups give endlessly of their time to support and help the school. In 2013 the Parents and Friends were able to support the school by buying valuable resources for the classrooms, and paying for K/1/2 students to attend Mini Minstrels (NECOM) and for the Years 3 to 6 students to participate in Athletics. At St Patrick's we recognise that with the strong support of our parents and parish community St Patrick's will continue to grow. Thank you to all members of the St Patrick's community for your contributions to the school in 2013 - it has indeed been a year where we have lived our school motto of 'Growing in Wisdom and Faith'.

Parental Involvement

As this is my final report as Board Chairman, I want to say how much I have enjoyed being associated with St Patrick's School since my eldest daughter was enrolled in Kindergarten, followed through to my last child finishing Year 6 this year. We have thoroughly enjoyed our association with St Patrick's and as Board Chair person I have been privileged to be involved in the decision making aspects of the school and to see firsthand how well this school runs. I wish to thank the P&F who are a group of enthusiastic fundraisers who make a wonderful

financial contribution to our school. As I vacate the position of Chairperson, I wish to thank all the board members for their ongoing commitment, as we continue in this significant role of service to the children and families of St Patrick's School Walcha. I will really miss my association with this school and wish everyone all the best for the future. Board Chairperson 2013

Student Leadership

Whoever named the school St Patricks is pretty smart, and I can see why they did it. Every letter in the word has its own meaning. Here is what I mean. Sharing: at St Pats, we are always willing to share our friendship and knowledge with everyone. Teamwork: all of the staff and students work together to do amazing things, for example, when we did Alice The Musical, everyone worked together and co-operated with each other. Participation: because St Pats is a small school, all students can participate in many sporting events such as Soccer and Touch football, as well as musical productions. Everyone enjoys them and we have great memories of these days. Achieve: at St Pats we are encouraged and expected to achieve the best we possibly can. Try: To achieve our best we need to try our hardest and not give up. We are also encouraged to give everything a try. Respect: we respect all of the students, whether they are older or younger. We also respect all of the staff, and they respect us. I: I have enjoyed my time at this school ever since I started. I have made many friends and will be very sad to be leaving St Pats Can: at St Pats we believe you can do anything if you put your mind to it, there is no such thing as can't. In fact whoever made up the word can't obviously didn't go to St Patricks. Kindergarten: is where the journey began for all of us. Right from kindergarten to year 6, St Pats is an amazing school, and I have enjoyed this journey. Senior: just like S is the last letter in St Patricks, your senior years are your last years at this school. Like all of the letters join up to make one word, all of the students and staff join up to make one amazing School. I have enjoyed my years at St Pats and while being excited to be moving to our next stage, we will all be sad to be leaving St Pats. Thank you to all of the teachers and students who have helped us along the way, We will miss you very much. Good luck to next year's school captains, sport captains and all of the leaders. School Captains 2013

School Profile

School History

St Patrick's School, Walcha, was established in August, 1911 by the Sisters of Mercy in what is now St Patrick's Hall. The Sisters provided a Catholic education for the pupils of the Walcha district for 64 years. In 1975 St Patrick's became the first school in the Armidale Diocese to form a School Board, and in 1976, it was the first school in the Diocese to appoint a lay principal. The current classrooms were opened in 1977 and dedicated to the Sisters of Mercy. Since then, renovations and upgrading have continued with members of St Patrick's School now enjoying spacious and attractive surrounds. Upgrades occurred in 2006 with a new Covered Outdoor Learning Area, Canteen & Amenities Block being completed at the end of the 2006 school year and officially opened in May 2007. In 2011 the School celebrated its Centenary and with funds from the Building the Education Revolution the School has its first purpose built Library and Administration building which were opened in March 2012.

Location/Drawing Area

St Patrick's is located in Walcha, which is 65km south west of Armidale, 110km East of Tamworth and a two and a half hour drive from the coast either to Port Macquarie along the Oxley Highway or through Nowendoc to Forster. Walcha Shire has a population of 3021 people and supports both a Central School and St Patrick's Catholic Primary School. A number of our students travel great distances, with some travelling up to 45 minutes in a bus to get to school.

Enrolment Policy

St Patrick's Primary School follows the Bishop's Commission for Catholic Schools policy Enrolment of Students in Catholic Systemic Schools in the Diocese of Armidale 2002. This document can be obtained from the school office or is available on the Catholic Schools Office web site: <http://www.arm.catholic.edu.au>.

Student Enrolment

Year	Boys	Girls	Indigenous	LBOTE
K	8	7	0	1
1	7	11	0	0
2	7	3	1	0
3	3	2	0	0
4	7	6	0	0
5	3	4	1	0
6	2	3	0	0
2011	27	16	4	0
2012	28	26	4	0
2013	37	36	2	1

Student Mobility

At the February Census there were 72 students enrolled at St Patrick's and at the August Census there were 73. However there was 8 students who left the school due to family movements out of town and 9 students who came to the school after moving towns or who moved from other schools.

Student Attendance

Average daily attendance for 2013

Kindergarten	95%
Year 1	91%
Year 2	90%
Year 3	91%
Year 4	92%
Year 5	93%
Year 6	90%
All students	91%

Management of Non-Attendance

School attendance is managed in accordance with the Catholic Schools Office Guidelines for the Management of Student Attendance.

If a student is absent with no contact from the parents that morning the school secretary contacts the parents to ascertain the students whereabouts. Unexplained absences are followed up with a letter home requesting a reason for the absence. Unexplained absences and total absences are included on student reports that go home each semester.

Staff Profile

In 2013 there was 3 full-time teachers, including the Principal and there were three part-time teachers, one being temporary part-time. The part-time

teachers had a 0.8, a 0.6 and 0.5 workload per fortnight. The Principal was the only executive member of staff. The Principal also fulfilled the roles of Religious Education Coordinator, Student Support Teacher, Learning Enhancement Project Teacher and Librarian. The school had two Educational Assistant one of which was also the School Secretary. All except two teaching staff member have greater than 16 years teaching experience. Of the other two one had four years teaching experience and the other was a new graduate. Three teachers had a Diploma of Teaching Degree, one additionally had a Graduate Diploma in Religious Education and a Diploma of Management. Another additionally had a Bachelor of Education. One other teaching staff member has a Diploma in Education, a Bachelor of Arts and a Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies. Another had a Bachelor of Education and the last has a Masters of Teaching (Primary). At the end of 2013 one part-time temporary staff member will be leaving and all other staff will remain the same. An additional full-time teacher will be starting in 2014.

The average daily staff attendance rate for 2013 was 93.28%.

Teacher Standards

Teacher qualifications fall into 1 of 3 categories for all teaching staff responsible for delivering the curriculum.

Teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by AEI - NOOSR* 100%

Have qualifications as a graduate from a higher education institution within Australia within AEI-NOOSR* guidelines but lack formal teacher qualifications 0%

Do not have qualifications as above but have relevant successful teaching experience or appropriate knowledge relevant to the teaching context 0%

* Australian Education Institution - National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition

Percentage of teachers accredited to teach Religious Education 85

Percentage of teachers undertaking accreditation to teach Religious Education 15

Staff Professional Learning

Professional Development in 2013 occurred in the following areas: Administration (Principal meetings, Clergy/Principal Meetings, Secretarial Inservices); Additional Needs (Student Support Teacher Days); Religious Education (RE Cluster Meetings, RE Conference, Retreat Days); Team Leadership for School Improvement Modules (undertaken by all staff); English Modules on the NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum (undertaken by all teaching staff); MiniLit Training for teachers and Educational Assistants; Library Borrowing System - Oliver; Literacy and Numeracy Programming Support; Best Start Assessment and programming; SENA Testing and Count Me In Too Assessment.

Catholic Identity

Religious Education Program

St Patrick's Primary School follows the Armidale Diocesan Religious Education Curriculum and uses the student text To Know, Worship and Love as authorised by the Bishop of Armidale, Michael Kennedy.

Liturgical Life

St Patrick's School is for many students the only link they have with the Catholic Church. As a result, the school tries to ensure that the students have regular exposure to prayer, liturgy, the Mass and the Sacraments. Each day, morning assembly begins with the school prayer (led by our School Captains). Throughout the day, students participate in class and individual prayers. The students attended Mass on most Thursdays - participating in various parts of the Mass - Entrance processions, Liturgy of the Word, Offertory and Music. Unless these class Masses coincided with a particular Feast Day, the theme of the Mass was linked to the RE unit being taught in the classroom. In 2013, St Patrick's School was involved in three Sacramental programs - Confirmation, Reconciliation and First Eucharist - as part of the St Patrick's Parish Sacramental preparation. Members of staff were involved in the preparation of Sacramental classes and proclaiming the Word at the weekday Masses.

Staff and Student Faith Formation

The students of St Patrick's have 180 minutes of Religious Instruction in the classroom each week. In addition, the children attend weekday Parish Masses

as a whole school with a rostered class undertaking preparation of the Mass this was a part of the students ongoing Faith Formation. The students, to gain a better understanding of the mission of the Catholic Church on a more universal scale were involved in various fundraising activities to support the charitable works of CARITAS Australia and the Catholic Missions. During the year, the work of these charitable organisations was outlined to the students by guest speakers and through the use of multimedia resources. Individual teachers accepted opportunities to attend spiritual formation and reflection days throughout the year including an REC Retreat Day; Teachers Retreat Day; Staff Retreat Day; New Employees Retreat Day and the R.E.C. Conference held over three days.

Year 6 Religious Education Test

Average score	Diocesan (%)	This School (%)
2011	69	72
2012	68.4	49
2013	70.8	73.4

Social Justice

Members of the Caritas team visited the school early in 2013. They spoke to students about their organisation and the projects which they sponsor in other countries. Students were then encouraged to contribute to the Project Compassion boxes throughout Lent. Awareness raising of the work of Caritas and other Church organisations was included in class units of work. Awareness of Social justice was included in the activities for NADIOC Week. Two fundraisers were held to raise money for the Catholic Missions. The largest being a Lapathon fundraiser to assist the work of Catholic Missions in Mongolia. The students raised \$2410.70.

Parish Links

Throughout 2013 the whole school attended fortnightly school Buddy Masses with the parishioners. The Parish Priest regularly visited the school. Parishioners were invited to special school Masses, liturgies and celebrations throughout the year. These included Masses for the reception of the Sacraments of First Eucharist, Reconciliation and Confirmation, Opening School Mass and Graduation Mass, Presentation Night and School Assemblies. The Parishioners were also invited to Catholic Schools Week Celebrations.

Respect and Responsibility

St Patrick's was involved in a wide variety of community service activities throughout the year including participation and representation at official ANZAC Day activities and Senior students visited and sang to the elderly at the local hospital. The students were encouraged throughout the year to take responsibility for their own actions. They were taught to address adults and peers correctly and to be respectful towards adults, their peers and themselves. As a part of leadership responsibilities a buddy system operated with students from Years 3 to 6 being buddies for Kindergarten and Year 1 and 2 students.

School Curriculum

St Patrick's Primary School follows the Board of Studies syllabus for each subject offered (as required for registration under the Education Act 1990) and implements the curriculum requirements of the Catholic Schools Office.

Features of the School Curriculum

Curriculum development in 2013 was focused on preparation for the New NSW English Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum. Teachers undertook modules of work presented by the Armidale Catholic Schools Office as a staff and individually. In addition two staff attended in servicing for two days and then shared their learning experiences with other staff at Staff Meetings and on a Staff Development Day. St Patrick's continued to utilise the Best Start Program to assess Kindergarten students in their first weeks of entering school. From this assessment planning and programming was put in place to best meets the needs of these individual students. This assessment continued to be ongoing throughout the year. Individual Plans were written and implemented for students on integrated funding and our EA worked with them to achieve the set outcomes. The students entered various local competitions in support of the local community. Healthy eating and healthy lifestyles continued to be a focus in 2013 with two staff attending a two day workshop for Live Life Well @ School. The students participated in a fruit first program where they ate crunchy fruit or vegies at 10am each morning. Students participated in School and Diocesan Carnivals for Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics, with a number of students representing the Diocese in State Catholic (Polding) Carnivals for Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country. Three students were selected for Diocesan girls and boys soccer teams. The Students from Kindergarten and Year 1 participated in a

fortnightly Mini Minstrels music program presented by the New England Conservatorium of Music (NECOM). Some primary students participated in the ICAS or University of New South Wales tests for Mathematics, Spelling, Writing, Computer and Science. A number of students received Distinctions and credits in the various subjects.

Student Performance

St Patrick's Primary School uses a variety of assessment strategies at key points in the learning framework. These include teacher observation, portfolios, projects and presentations. The school also participates in the nation-wide literacy and numeracy testing program for the purposes of diagnosing individual learning needs and reviewing whole class teaching programs. Information on student progress is communicated on a regular basis and opportunities exist for external assessment results to be discussed with parents on an individual basis annually.

Literacy and Numeracy

The National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) was introduced for students in Years 3 and 5 in May 2008. NAPLAN replaces the previous State-based Basic Skills Test and the results provide valuable information about student achievements in Literacy and Numeracy. Analysis of the results is used at school level to support the enhancement of Literacy and Numeracy outcomes for all students. Year 3 results are reported in Bands 1 to 6 with Band 6 representing the highest achievement and Year 5 results are reported in Bands 3 to 8 with Band 8 representing the highest achievement. **Please note: Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number where necessary.**

Year 3 % in Bands		1&2	3&4	5&6
Reading	School	33	0	67
	National	11	41	46
Writing	School	0	33	67
	National	8	43	47
Spelling	School	0	67	33
	National	13	42	43
Grammar & Punctuation	School	0	33	67
	National	10	37	51
Numeracy	School	0	67	33
	National	12	54	32

Year 5 % in Bands		3&4	5&6	7&8
Reading	School	14	43	43
	National	12	54	33
Writing	School	0	86	14
	National	18	60	20
Spelling	School	14	43	43
	National	16	51	30
Grammar & Punctuation	School	28	43	29
	National	14	51	33
Numeracy	School	29	71	0
	National	20	53	25

National Minimum Standards

The lowest Band for each year (Band 1 in Year 3 and Band 3 in Year 5) represents students who are achieving BELOW the National Minimum Standard (NMS) in each aspect of NAPLAN. Students in the second Band for each year (Band 2 in Year 3 and Band 4 in Year 5) represent students who are achieving at the NMS. Students in all other Bands are achieving ABOVE the NMS.

The percentages of students in this school achieving the national minimum standard are reported below.

		Year 3	Year 5
Reading	School	100	100
	National	95.3	96.1
Writing	School	100	100
	National	95	91.7
Spelling	School	100	100
	National	93.8	93.1
Grammar & Punctuation	School	100	100
	National	95.3	94.8
Numeracy	School	100	85.7
	National	95.7	93.4

School Policy Summary

Student Welfare

St Patrick's Primary School seeks to provide a safe and supportive environment which:

- minimises risk of harm and ensures students feel secure
- supports the physical, social, academic, spiritual and emotional development of students
- provided student welfare policies and programs that develop a sense of self-worth and foster personal development

The school's Pastoral Care Policy is based on the Bishop's Commission Policy Pastoral Care In The Catholic Systemic Schools Of The Armidale Diocese.

The school's Pastoral Care Policy is based on the Bishop's Commission Policy Pastoral Care In The Catholic Systemic Schools Of The Armidale Diocese. St Patrick's School has had a buddy system in place since 2008. This operates between senior students and the infants classes. New students in the primary are allocated a buddy to help them in the first weeks. Bullying and resilience activities are incorporated into the PDHPE program. Behaviour management programs to support individual students are developed as necessary to meet the needs of the student.

The full text of school and diocesan policies are available upon request to the school office..

The School Pastoral Care Policy was reviewed and updated in 2013 to include the statement that 'In accordance with the Education Act 1990, Section 47f, the Corporal Punishment of students is not permitted at St Patrick's School.'

Discipline Policy

St Patrick's Primary School bases its Discipline Policy on the Bishop's Commission Policies Pastoral Care In The Catholic Systemic Schools Of The Armidale Diocese, Policy On Suspension, Expulsion Or Exclusion Of Students In Catholic Schools In The Diocese Of Armidale and Management Of Drug Related Issues In Catholic Schools In The Diocese Of Armidale. These policies are based on procedural fairness and are discussed with students on a regular basis. In compliance with the NSW Education Reform Act 1990, corporal punishment is banned in ALL Armidale Diocesan schools.

The full text of school and diocesan policies are available upon request to the school office..

No changes were made to the Discipline Policy in 2013.

Anti-Bullying Policy

St Patrick's Primary School bases its Anti-Bullying policy and procedures on the Catholic Schools Office operational policy "Student Anti-Bullying Policy". The full text of this policy is available on www.arm.catholic.edu.au.

Enrolment Policy

St Patrick's Primary School bases its Enrolment Policy on the Bishop's Commission Policy Enrolment of Students In Catholic Systemic Schools in the Diocese of Armidale.

The full text of school and diocesan policies are available upon request to the school office..

No changes were made to the Enrolment Policy in 2013.

Complaints and Grievance Resolution Policy

St Patrick's Primary School procedures for resolving concerns and complaints is based on the Bishop's Commission Policy Complaints & Suggestions Policy for the Diocese of Armidale. This policy is based on procedural fairness and recognises that members of the school community must have access to processes that allow them to resolve concerns in a supportive, conciliatory environment. The full text of school and diocesan policies are available upon request to the school office..

Parent, Student and Staff Satisfaction

In 2013, Parents, Students in Years 4 and 6 and Staff were surveyed by an independent specialist corporation. Parents were offered the opportunity to provide comprehensive feedback across five areas - Leadership, Resources, Teaching and Learning, Improvement Processes and Catholic Ethos. Parents indicated a high level of satisfaction in all areas with all areas rated overall as Excellent. Leadership rated the highest with Catholic Ethos rating the lowest. No areas of concern were identified by parents. Students were given the opportunity to provide feedback in six areas - Catholic Ethos, Leadership, Resources, Teaching and Learning, Improvement Processes and General. with the overall student rating being within the Excellent category for all areas. General scored the highest response from students and Resources the lowest. Staff was given the opportunity to provide feedback in six areas -

Catholic Ethos, Leadership, Resources, Teaching and Learning, Improvement Processes and General. All areas except Catholic Ethos were rated in the excellent category, Catholic Ethos rated at the high end of Good. No areas requiring attention were identified. While the survey results indicate a high level of satisfaction in every area, the comprehensive reports will be analysed closely by the Leadership Team and School Board to identify areas of priority for school improvement.

School Review and Development

Annual School Priorities 2013

School Priorities for 2013 are defined under the following headings - Mission and Evangelisation; Learners and Learning; Leadership; Partnerships; and Resourcing. The priority areas for Mission and Evangelisation were: • New Staff induction and familiarisation with the School RE program • Staff formation in Prayer • Parent information on and reconnection with the Catholic faith. • Student participation in Diocesan Celebrations

The priority areas for Learners and Learning were: • Learning Enhancement Focus – MiniLit • ICT Software Implementation • NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum • Investigating and purchasing a new Resilience Program

The priority areas for Leadership were: • Staff to engage with National Professional Standards for Teachers and Leaders (ATSIL) • Staff inservicing in Team Leadership for School Improvement (TLSI)

The priority areas for Partnerships were: • Promote Parent Participation in school activities • Interact with other schools in the Diocese • Participation in local events • Engage with CSO 'Community of Learners' Website

The priority areas for Resourcing were: • Equitable resourcing across school • Inventory of English and Science Resources in preparation for the NSW Syllabi for the Australian Curriculum in these subject areas • Introduction and implementation of Electronic Roll Marking • Policy Review and Update with a focus on WH&S Policies

Projected School Priorities 2014

School Priorities for 2014 are defined under the following headings - Mission and Evangelisation; Learners and Learning; Leadership; Partnerships; and Resourcing. The priority areas for Mission and Evangelisation are: • Theological formation of Staff • Spiritual formation of staff • Family involvement at School Masses • Student formation

in different types of prayer • Review of School Mission Statement The priority areas for Learners and Learning are: • Effective integration of IT into class programs • Teacher collaboration on NSW English Syllabus • Implementation of English and Maths Syllabi • COL Modules for Science Syllabus • Anita Chinn Online Maths Modules • Implement new Resilience Program • Utilise data for planning and improvement The priority areas for Leadership are: • Development of Student Leadership • Teacher Goal setting to be based on ATSIL standards and linked to Professional Development. The priority areas for Partnerships are: • More effective communication and collaboration between Staff, Board, P&F and parent body. • Development and release of School Website The priority areas for Resourcing are: • Inventory of Maths Resources in classrooms • Link Resourcing to the Australian Curriculum • Update School Pastoral Care and Discipline Policies

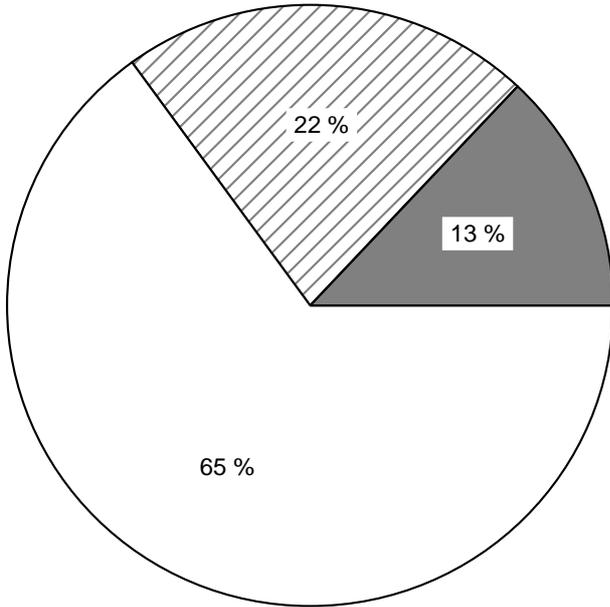
Major Achievements from the 2013 Annual Plan

In 2013 we had two new teaching staff member Staff members who went through the induction process and one who had to become familiar with the RE program. A Staff Development Day was held as a result of the Catholic Identity Survey that was held in 2012. The day focussed on the Schools Catholic Identity and Staff formation in prayer. All staff attended at least one retreat day throughout 2013. The 2013 School Captains attended the Diocesan Catholic Schools Week Mass in the Cathedral and the Spirit of Catholic Education Awards in Armidale. The MiniLit program was implemented into the school with 21 students from Year 1 to Year 4, following assessment, accessing the program throughout 2013. Significant increases in reading benchmarks were achieved by most of these students. The MiniLit program will continue in 2014 for Year 1 students and three Year 2 students who need to access the program. Teachers undertook English Modules on the new NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum created by

the Learning Services team at the Armidale CSO. Teachers also undertook inservicing and a Staff Development Day to prepare for implementation of the new English Syllabus in 2014. Staff investigated and purchased a new Resilience Program that will be implemented in 2014. As the school had grown quickly over the last three years a need had been identified based on the interactions of the students to introduce a new program. Team Leadership for School Improvement modules were undertaken by staff during selected staff meetings. Staff began to familiarise themselves with the ATSIL National Professional Standards for Teachers and Leaders, this will continue in 2014 with the use of the Self-assessment Tool and Goal setting. Parents were encouraged to participate in school activities and a number of parents helped in the classrooms, in sporting activities, School Carnivals and Diocesan Carnivals. The school participated in a number of local events including the Show, Anzac Day March, Carols By Candlelight and singing at the local hospital. Teachers engaged with the CSO 'Community of Learners' Website and utilised the English modules to familiarise themselves with the new English Syllabus. Resourcing was an important area for 2013 as an extra class group was formed which resulted in the purchase of extra resources to be utilised in that room. The P&F generously provided the funding to equip the new classroom with an Interactive Whiteboard. New Science resources were purchased for all classes that will link with the NSW Science Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum. Electronic Roll Marking was implemented with some staff being inserviced on the process and with onsite peer training occurring as a follow up procedure. WH&S Policies were written, reviewed, updated and adopted including Building Safety Management Policy, Chemical Management Policy, Student Medication Policy, Security of Buildings Policy, Overnight Excursion Policy and Procedures and Traffic Management Policy. Other Policies that were written, reviewed, updated and adopted were the Child Protection Policy, Supervision Policy, Staff Induction Policy, Police Liaison Officer Policy, Internet Usage Policy, Additional Needs Policy, Pastoral Care Policy, Drug Policy and Communications Policy.

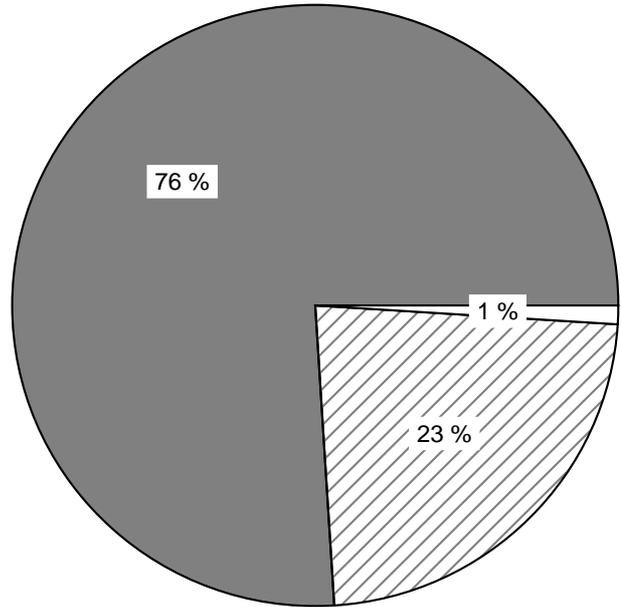
Financial Statement

Income



- fees and private income
- ▨ state recurrent grants
- commonwealth recurrent grants
- government capital grants
- ▨ other capital income

Expenditure



- salaries, allowances and related expenses
- ▨ non-salary expenses
- capital expenditure

The information in this report has been verified and the priorities endorsed by the Director of Catholic Schools and the school consultant.