Annual Report

St Michael’s Primary School, Coolamon

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The School
This report is an indication of the Year 2015 at St Michael's Primary School, Coolamon. St Michael's is a rural school with a population of 113 students situated 40km north of Wagga Wagga. St Michael's provides quality education to Catholic and non-Catholic children from Coolamon and surrounding districts.
St Michael's is a learning community operating under our Vision and in the belief that students need a focused, purposeful, challenging and supportive teaching environment for learning to take place.

Catholic Identity
St Michael's is a Catholic Primary School whose values are centred on Christ and living Gospel values according to Church teaching. Students at St Michael's learn about living the Catholic faith while respecting the faith traditions of others.
St Michael's follows the Diocesan “Sharing our Story” syllabus in Religious Education lessons which are conducted daily. This year students have participated in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Each of these ceremonies was a holy and spiritual event which students participated in with great reverence and sincerity.
Similarly the numerous School Masses that were celebrated throughout the year saw the highest levels of respect demonstrated by our students who participated with enthusiasm. Our Advent and Easter Liturgies were reverent and moving ceremonies.
Throughout the year the School participated in various fund raising endeavours for the Missions and other charities such as St Vincent de Paul. These included multi-days as well as Masses where food and other goods were donated by the school community. Additionally we participated in fund raisers such as Project Compassion which also raised student awareness of the welfare of less fortunate people and groups around the world.

The school is an integral part of the Parish as the Parish is an essential part of the School.
We have a very good relationship with our Parish Priest, Fr Doug George, who is very supportive of the school and its initiatives.

A Message from key School Bodies
The School Council is an integral part of how the school operates and helps in various decision making processes. The annual budget is considered and allows input from the parent body on what it considers an important focus. Over the last ten years this has seen new assets and their maintenance as a priority and I think this result is obvious in the current condition of our facilities. In addition the new needs of Technology, whilst challenging are now at the forefront of what we provide our children so that they can learn in the most effective way. Money and energy will need to be directed towards this if we as a school are to remain a relevant educator. Also the School Council has an input into the selection of staff by having someone sit on the interview panel when appropriate.
On a personal note I will be finishing up in my role as Chairman of the School Council, as my children have all moved on to higher education. I have enjoyed the role immensely and received great support from all those on the committee as well as staff. After all it really is a team effort and I thank everyone who has helped make this a great school. At the end of the day, we do all this work to support our kids and their teachers in trying to make them the best they can be. So please get involved as you only ever really get out of life what you put in, and what can be more important than our own children.
Tony Donoghue
Chair – St Michael's School Council

P&F
This body is Chaired by Bruce Holden and meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. This is an important part of the school that not only helps with fundraising but also endeavours to develop a social and caring community. The P&F have continued with the fundraising that is required for the school to remain in a financial position. With a large number of varied fundraising ideas the P&F has been successful both in terms of attendance as well as financially. Such fundraising events have included bulb sales, pie drives and street raffles. The job of the P&F is made easier with the willingness of our close knit school community to support the school.
Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing

Students in Year 3 and Year 5 at St Michael’s Primary School participated in National Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) Testing in 2015. Our overall results in Literacy and Numeracy for Year 3 and 5 met or exceeded National Minimum Standards and were on par with National and Diocesan Averages. As a result of examining trend data and growth patterns provided through this NAPLAN testing, St Michael’s will be placing an emphasis on professional development in the area of sentence structure in writing. St Michael’s will also implemented the new National Maths Syllabus in 2015. Linked to this implementation of First Steps Maths resources in order to maintain and improve levels of student growth in these areas. The strand of Number in Maths was also identified as an area of continued emphasis.

Professional Learning

During 2015 staff at St Michael’s engaged in a range of Professional Learning experiences. All staff were in Professional Learning Experiences around understanding and implementing the new Mathematics syllabus for the National Curriculum. Staff were introduced to Professional Development run by Anita Chin Mathematics Consultancy around differentiating Number and Algebra Concepts for students using the new Mathematics Syllabus. This Professional Development will be continued and extended during 2016. St Michael’s teaching staff also embarked in Professional Development using an Inquiry Spiral developed by Professor Helen Timperley and Dr Linda Bendikson. This Professional development was around improving teaching practices and learning outcomes for Sentence Structure in writing. This Professional Development will also be continued and extended in 2016.

St Michael’s also conducted Professional Learning through the Catholic School’s Office’s “Faith, Story, Witness” initiative. Through this Professional Development staff were given the opportunity to reflect on the impact of their own faith, as well as the faith history within the school, on the education of our students.

Teaching Staff

The NSW government requires that this report detail the number of teachers in each of the following categories:

A) have teaching qualifications from a recognised higher education institution within Australia
B) have qualifications from a recognised higher education institution within Australia but no formal teacher education qualifications
C) have relevant successful teaching experience and appropriate knowledge but no formal teacher qualifications.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Workforce Composition

There were 4 full-time teachers employed at St Michael’s in 2015. Of these teachers 2 were female and 2 were male. Additionally 5 part-time female teachers were employed. Four of these part-time positions were 0.5 FTE and the remaining position was 0.8 FTE. A female clerical assistant was employed for 30 hours a week also.

Student Attendance

Student attendance rates for each Year level and the whole school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Attendance %</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinder</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student Non-Attendance

Class rolls are taken daily at St Michael’s. It is expected that the school be notified of any absences, partial absences, early pick up or lateness. An unexplained absence of more than 5 days is followed up by the School Principal. Within each fortnight parents are asked to explain any unexplained absences recorded by the class teacher in the class roll. All absence notes are kept by the teacher and archived by the secretary at the end of each school year. All roles are kept up to date.
electronically through the roll marking system provided by the Catholic Schools Office of Wagga Wagga.

**Enrolment Policy**
The accepted practice for enrolment at St Michael's School is to give preference to children of Catholic parents who wish to enroll their child at the school. This practice does not exclude the children of any parents being enrolled at the school. The accepted practice is to enroll children who turn five (5) years of age by June 1st. Children whose birth date is between June 1st and July 31st may be enrolled after discussion with the Principal and counseling concerning the difficulties that may be experienced by such children. The possibility of the child being asked to repeat a grade should also be explained at this time. If the parents wish to enroll their child they are asked to sign a form indicating the steps that have been followed.

Children with special needs, e.g. deaf, partially sighted, or with other handicaps, may be enrolled, but only following careful discussion between parents, Principal and the Special Services consultant of the Diocese of Wagga. Enrolment will depend on the meeting of all aspects of the Diocesan Policy for enrolment of these children.

The Public Health (Amendment) Act 1992 requires that the school obtain from parents enrolling children in our school an IMMUNISATION CERTIFICATE. This Certificate will document the Vaccine-preventable diseases that the child has been immunised against. Any child whose parents do not provide a certificate will be deemed as being unimmunised and must be excluded from school should an outbreak of any of the vaccine-preventable diseases, for which they are not immunised, occur.

The full text of the Enrolment policy can be accessed at the front desk of the school or via the school website.

**Characteristics of the Student Body**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Indig’</th>
<th>LOTE*</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Language background Other Than English

**Structure of Classes**
St Michael's had a K/1/2 contemporary learning area, a Year 3, a Year 4/5 and a Year 6 class in 2015.

**School Policies**

**Discipline**
The School Discipline Policy at St Michael's Primary School aims to provide a safe, caring and supportive learning and teaching environment. The policy helps students to demonstrate responsible behavior and a sense of self worth as well as respect and consideration for the feelings, rights and property of others. It also aims to maximize opportunities for teaching and learning.

**Corporal Punishment will not be used at St Michael's Primary School Coolamon.**

**Student Welfare**
St Michael’s has developed numerous policies relating to student welfare. These include Pastoral Care and Behaviour, Child Protection, Student Safety, Supervision and Sun Safe Policies. St Michael's School community believes that effective Student Welfare Policies are essential if we are to truly reflect the ideals expressed in the School’s vision and be able to achieve the educational aims of the school.

**Complaints and Grievances**
The school has adopted an approach to resolving complaints and grievances that is based on procedural fairness. It recognizes that parents/caregivers and students must have access to processes that allow them to resolve concerns in a supportive and conciliatory way.

Parents/students with a complaint are encouraged in the first instance to contact their class teacher. If the need then arises contact with the Principal and the Catholic Schools Office may be appropriate.

Our school follows the Catholic Schools Office Complaints and Grievances Policy which can be found on the CSO Website.

**Changes to School Policies**
The Enrolment, Discipline, Student Welfare, Anti-Bullying and Complaints and Grievances policies are unchanged from the previous year. Their full text can be accessed at school in the front office or via our website.

Additionally Catholic Schools Office Policies can be found on the CSO Website.

**Improvement Targets**
During 2015 teachers implemented and used the new Mathematics Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum for the first time after
undergoing Professional Development in its use during the previous year. During the year teachers were able to demonstrate increasing confidence and ability to use this syllabus as they became more familiar with it.

Professional Development for staff in 2015 was concerned with preparing them for the introduction of the new Australian History Curriculum which will be adopted in 2015. Additionally the school, in response to analysis of data provided through NAPLAN testing, carried out professional development around the teaching of Sentence Structure and its application to writing and reading.

Staff from St Michael’s were also involved in attending Numeracy and Literacy collegiality groups with staff from other schools across the diocese, allowing for sharing of best teaching practice and also to gain feedback and advice around best teaching in Maths and English.

The school once again participated in the Best Start Program which allowed for the collection of comprehensive data about our Kindergarten students so as to allow us to best meet their learning needs from day 1.

2015 also saw the school engage in the Live Life Well program to promote student health and well-being. Involvement in this program meant that the school received a grant of approximately $2000 to install an outdoor kitchen to assist in promotion of healthy eating.

Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility

In 2015 St Michael’s continued to embed Restorative Practice within the policies and practices of the school. These practices seek to develop good relationships and restore a sense of community.

St Michael’s also endorses the Diocesan facilitated “Making Jesus Real” program which teaches students concepts and skills around respect for self as well as each other and the need to be responsible community members.

St Michael’s also continued its longstanding tradition of strongly supporting the local community with heavy involvement in the ANZAC Day March, visiting the local aged care facility to perform songs and interact with senior citizens, participating in the annual RSL Essay Writing Competition and participating in the annual CWA Poster Competition involving the study of another country and culture.

Community Satisfaction

The following information has been provided to the school. It has been a valuable gauge for determining the level of satisfaction the community has with our school.

Parents

My child (son or daughter) is usually happy at St Michael’s Primary School.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>72%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There were 7 respondents with 5 strongly agreeing, 1 agreeing and 1 strongly disagreeing with the statement.

Students

I am usually happy at St Michael’s Primary School.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>51%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There were 77 respondents with 39 strongly agreeing, 26 agreeing, 9 disagreeing and 3 strongly disagreeing with the statement.

Staff

I am usually happy at St Michael’s Primary School.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

There were 6 respondents with 3 strongly agreeing, 2 agreeing and 1 disagreeing with the statement.
Financial Statement Summary

**School Income**

- Fees & Private Income: 0%
- State Recurrent Grants: 11%
- Commonwealth Recurrent Grants: 21%
- Government Capital Grants: 68%
- Other Capital Income: 0%

**School Expenses**

- Salaries, Allowances & Related Expenses: 40%
- Non Salary Expenses: 48%
- Other Capital Expenditure: 12%
About This Report

This report was written with the purpose of reflecting upon and reporting on the 2015 school year. It informs the community of where the school is headed in future years as well as highlights and achievements within the school community. Whilst I, as Principal, have prepared and written the report, this has been done in consultation with the school community. I would like to thank this community (students, families, parish and staff) for the continued support of St Michael’s School.

Yours Sincerely

Brendan Flanagan
(Principal)