Annual School Report 2014

St Paul’s Catholic Primary School

Cnr Trower Rd & Francis St, Nightcliff. 0810, N.T.

Phone 08 8985 1911
Website: http://www.stpaulsnt.catholic.edu.au
Email: admin.stpauls@nt.catholic.edu.au
Facebook: St Paul’s Catholic Primary School Nightcliff NT
VISION STATEMENT

We believe in strong and authentic relationships. The Gospel values of acceptance, honesty, integrity and respect are at the core of our being.

We value the uniqueness of all people and their right to learn. We celebrate the diversity of talents and experiences each individual brings to our faith community.

We believe St. Paul’s is an innovative, challenging, supportive and contemporary learning environment. We encourage all in our community to reach their full potential, and acknowledge and celebrate their efforts and achievements.
Mission Statement

We are a Catholic educational community dedicated to affirming respectful relationships between staff, students, parish and families.

We strive to demonstrate and incorporate the gospel values in all areas of our teaching and learning.

We will reflect the Catholic identity of the school community through religious celebrations and activities.

We will embrace change and be open to new ideas and technologies that enable us to continue to develop dynamic and innovative practices that promote self-reflection.

We will strive to create a school environment where our students can have fun and develop a lifelong engagement with their learning, while developing a strong sense of hope in their future.

We will participate in multicultural activities and take pride in the cultural diversity of all members of our school community.

We contribute to our community through our unique talents and experiences. We acknowledge and encourage independent learning through an inclusive curriculum.
Brief History of the School

St Paul’s Catholic School opened as an Infant School in February 1967 with two classrooms that were used as a Mass centre on Sundays. It was started by the Sisters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Sister Virgil and Sister Gabriel. By the time Cyclone Tracy arrived in Darwin, St Paul’s had grown to a school of 415 students. Many families had contributed much of their time and energy into developing St Paul’s and within a short space of time Tracy destroyed much of the parish and school.

The new library and two-storey building were extensively damaged and the future of the school was unknown.

Occupied by the army, what was left of St Paul’s was used by the community for housing and relief. It was not until February 1976 that St Paul’s was reopened with a new Principal, 15 new staff members and 315 students.

Throughout the late seventies and the eighties St Paul’s grew into a large urban primary school of over 500 students.

As the Nightcliff area changed, St Paul’s became smaller in the nineties and led by a lay Principal for the first time.

In recent years, St Paul’s have refurbished the school to provide modern facilities for the students and staff. Our school has a rich history in Catholic education in the Territory and we have a wonderful reputation within the community.
St Paul's Catholic Primary School is a school that prides itself on the relationship it has with its community. The school strives to educate students so that they are ready to reach their highest potential. We aim for excellence in all that we do.

Our school motto is "In Faith and Love, Strong in Unity, Rich in Diversity," which reflects the many cultures that come together in our school. We celebrate our Catholic Faith which is based on Gospel values of Jesus and the traditions of the church.

Teachers work in partnerships with our parents to provide the best education for each student. Parents are valued. The school is working towards reducing the gap between home and school so that parents and teachers are in the best possible position to support a child's learning.

St Paul's embraces all areas of the curriculum with emphasis on Literacy and Numeracy, the Arts, History, Science and Sport. Indonesian is taught throughout the school. The school uses learning technologies that reflect the contemporary world our students live in.
National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (Naplan) Results

This year saw the school once again get one of the Northern Territory's highest results in the Naplan Testing. Although Naplan is only a snap shot of how the school is performing, we are still very proud of the results. We are particularly proud of the 'valued added' result, which is where we measure the results of the students who do the tests in both year 3 and year 5 at our school. This looks at how much our students have improved in two years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Expected Results</th>
<th>St Paul's Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
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<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar and Punctuation</td>
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<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Australian Average Year 3</th>
<th>St Paul's Average Year 3</th>
<th>Australian Average Year 5</th>
<th>St Paul's Average Year 5</th>
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<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
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<td>410</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>496</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persuasive Writing</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>468</td>
<td>464</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punctuation and Grammar</td>
<td>426</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>485</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What our community says about our school

From the 2014 Parent Satisfaction Surveys.

“....Amazing staff who are willing to listen and respond to parents concerns.....”

“The school provides a positive behaviour environment. Staffs are always friendly and show an interest in all individuals.

“During my attendance at the school I have observed all staff members very actively engaged in the day to day activities of the school. I am also impressed by the degree of active engagement of the principal, who I have witnessed to be always available and accessible during the morning school drop off period. Such active engagement in the day to day running of the school is impressive. The school appears to be very well managed. My questions are always appropriately responded to in a prompt and thorough manner. My After School Care accounts are always accurate and sent out promptly. I receive a weekly newsletter which keeps me informed of school activities. My child is actively engaged in daily school activities. The After School Care service is well run and offers interesting and varied programs for the children. Overall, I think the school is very well managed in all service areas.”

“After two years with the school, we can see our kid is happy to go to school every day and has certainly learned a lot. The school has good big family atmosphere.”

“Think the school overall is excellent. And moving in the right direction. Think efforts have been made to make everything more inclusive and open which is excellent. Think the link between school and parish is excellent and should continue. Think building works need to be pushed forward (as much as possible) ... Think the catering for kids individual needs (within the confines of school parameters) is excellent.... Onward and upward!”

“St. Paul’s is a very family oriented school that cares for the well-being of their students. Students can feel safe and cared for.”

“Keep up the good work. Both the female and male teachers bring out the best in my child.”
Some of the highlights for 2014.

Annual School Concert at the Darwin Entertainment Centre.

Caritas K’s – Charity Ride by the school raising $4000 for Caritas. Around 100 students riding under Police Escort along the Nightcliff Foreshore.

Annual Swimming and Athletics Carnival.

Sacramental Program

Social Justice Group making Muffins for the Homeless.

All Classrooms Freshly Painted.

Easter Hat Parade

Father’s Day Breakfast.

Feasts and Liturgies.

Michael Mangan Concert.

Carol’s Night Celebrations in the Church.

More Ipads in the School.

Australian Maths Competition.

Minecraft Camps

Instrumental Students Concert.

Kidsmatter

Construction of the Cooking Garden.

New Student Leadership Program.

Flash Mob Dance Events.

Excursions

Sporting Cluster Events

Movie night

5/6 Camp

Visits from Todd Woodbridge, the Parramatta Eels and the South Australian Cricket Team.
Catholic Identity

Parents are the first and foremost educators of their children in faith. It is parents who first teach their children to know and love God, and to exhibit Christian values in their lives.

Catholic schools, in partnership with the faith community, work to affirm and strengthen the spiritual life of the family.

In choosing a Catholic school, parents choose an education for their children in that the message of Jesus Christ is available and young people are educated for participation in today’s Church and world communities.

The goals of religious education in a Catholic school are to:

- Foster a Christian environment which permeates all aspects of school life;
- Bear witness to the love of God for all people;
- Draw on students’ life experiences, thus providing a meaningful context for faith development;
- Provide opportunities for the spiritual growth and development of each member of the school community;
- Work in partnership with parents and the parish community.

The Religious Education program at St Paul’s consists of:

Faith formative experiences such as prayer and participation in liturgy, and formal classroom lessons.

The curriculum is based on contemporary teachings of the Catholic Church and has a Sacramental focus at all levels. These units will be based on the South Australian Religious Education curriculum framework, Journeys in Faith. The Sexuality unit, “Made in the Image of God,” is also taught throughout the school.

Children celebrate Mass at school a number of times throughout the year, both in whole school gatherings and in class Masses. Parents are always welcome to join in the celebrations.
Celebrations and Sacraments:

St Paul's Parish has a family based Sacramental program. This means that parents wishing their children to celebrate either First Reconciliation Confirmation or First Eucharist will also be involved in the preparation program. Parents are also responsible for ascertaining the readiness of their child to celebrate a Sacrament. This may be done in consultation with the Parish Priest or the School. Usually these Sacraments are celebrated after seven years of age.

At St. Paul’s, children prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Year 3. The Sacrament of First Eucharist is prepared for and celebrated from Year 3, and children from Year 5 onwards.

In 2014 some of the events that supported our Catholic Identity.

- Celebration of the Sacraments of Confirmation, Eucharist and Reconciliation
- Liturgies and Masses for
  - Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday
  - Commissioning Mass for those involved in Education.
  - Mother’s and Father’s day
  - Pentecost and the Feast of the Assumption
  - St Peter and St Paul
  - Mark MacKillop
  - Michael Mangan performed at the school.
  - Remembrance Day and Anzac day
  - Mission Day
  - Advent and the End of the School Year
- All staff attended a day with Father Richard Leonard “What makes a Catholic School Catholic?”
- 2014 the school had a strong focus on Social justice. St Paul’s supports Caritas and St Vincent De Paul as our main two charities. The school Participated in:
  - Project Compassion – raising $1800
  - Caritas K’s – raising over $4000
  - Mission day - $1000
Teaching and Learning

Teaching and Learning Initiatives

Some of the highlights for Learning and Teaching for the year include.

- Kidsmatter. (A program that looks at the philosophy of Social and Emotional Learning.) Components three introduced to staff
- Workshops on
  o Identifying students who are Gifted and Talented.
  o Using i-pads to improve student learning.
  o Teaching Reading.
  o Moderating Student Work.
  o Staff analysing Naplan Results.
  o The school participated in the Bridges program for 2014, which is a teacher exchange program for Indonesia. The school hosted two teachers from Indonesia for two weeks.
  o Two classes had a Skype Exchange Lesson with a school in New Zealand.
  o Three Staff participated in the Aspiring Leaders project.
  o Two Staff participated in the Primary Assessment Project

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

In 2014 the school continued its strong involvement in Health and Physical Education. Our senior students were involved in many Sporting Cluster Events, that is, when they complete against other schools and regions. The school competed in Soccer, Australian Rules Football, Netball, Basketball, Hockey, Athletics and Rugby.

Several students represented Darwin in Northern Territory Championships and four students represented the Northern Territory in Swimming, Australian Rules Football and Cricket.

The school was visited by Development officers from Baseball, Netball, Australian Rules Football and Cricket
Well Being

The school continued to develop the Kidsmatter program across the school. A Kidsmatter Team continued with the inclusion of two parent representatives. The team received training which was then passed onto other teaching staff.

A partnership continues with the Australian Army that saw soldiers come into our junior classrooms helping with reading and other classroom activities.

A buddy program operates throughout the school and our leadership program, Student Representative Council (SRC) also continued.

School counselling was available from our Catholic Care Counsellor and we had regular visits from our School Based Constable.

This year we saw the Rainbows Program being implemented in the school. Rainbows is a support program for children suffering from grief and trauma. It is a twelve week course that supports the students to work through an event in their lives that caused grief and trauma.

In 2014, the school took part in the Better Buddies from the Alannah and Madeline Foundation. The school introduced the Social and Emotional Learning Program, You Can Do It and expanded the Student Leadership program.

The school also built a Cooking Garden area with the help of the Parents and Friends Association and Bunnings.
Music

2014 was a big year for music at St Paul’s.

- Our Instrumental program continues to be popular with around 80 students receiving private music lessons.
- A Musical Showcase in front of the whole school with around 100 parents attending. This was streamed live on the internet for the first time to allow those parents who were unable to attend to still see the performance.
- Weekly music lessons for all students continued.
- Our School Choir and band performed on several occasions, including the Nightcliff Seabreeze Festival and the Darwin Show.
- Several students completed National Grading testing for their Instruments.
- The school took part in the National “Music Count Us In,” day. The school sent a group of students to “Rock The Caz,” at Casuarina Shopping Centre as part of this day.
- Our Annual School Concert took place at the Darwin Entertainment Centre. Around 1000 people attended our performance of “A Night at the Movies” with very positive feedback from those who attended. DVD’s were sold of the concert with over 120 purchased.
- Finally, the school finished with a Carol’s Night which took place in St Paul’s Catholic Church. This event was well attended and was a great way to finish off the School Year.
**Indonesian**

We provide our students with LOTE (Languages Other Than English) experiences through our Indonesian classes. Students continued to be introduced to the language and learn about Indonesia.

In 2014, our Indonesian classes were increased from 40 minutes to 60 minutes. The school also hosted two visiting Teachers from Indonesia.

**Information Technology**

The school has excellent ICT facilities with two computer labs and other portable devices available to be used in the classrooms. Staff received Professional Development in using ICT to improve student outcomes. In 2015 the school will be moving BYOD which will allow students to bring in their own devices to use in classrooms.

The school uses a wide range of Social Medias to connect to parents

- Facebook
- Twitter.
- Youtube Channel
- Blog,
- USTREAM
- SKYPE

These can be accessed through the school Website.

Student Learning continues to be supported by ICT with the school using Mathletics, Reading Eggs, Studyladder and apps such as Book Creator.

**Northern Territory Public Speaking Competition**

We provide our students with many exciting opportunities to develop their confidence at public speaking. We have regular morning assemblies coordinated by our students and the benefits are evident in many areas of our curriculum. In 2014 our students participated in the Northern Territory Public Speaking Competition.

**Australian Maths Competition.**

In 2014, St Paul’s entered the Australian Maths Competition for the first time. 33 students completed the test with 1 High Distinction, 3 Distinctions and 10 Credits being an excellent result for the school.
Capital Improvements
Over the 2014 school January holidays all classrooms were given a fresh coat of paint. Our classrooms are now much brighter and feeling fresher.

Development of the new Music Room begins early 2015.

School Profile

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Data 2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary Total</td>
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<td>265</td>
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<tr>
<th>Enrol Attendance %</th>
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<th>Collection 2</th>
<th>Collection 3</th>
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<td>247</td>
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<tr>
<td>92%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>94%</td>
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<td>94%</td>
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<tr>
<th>Enrol Attendance %</th>
<th>Collection 7</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>267</td>
<td>251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94%</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Managing Non-Attendance:
St Paul's Catholic Primary School is committed to maximising the achievement of all pupils and there is a clear link between good attendance and educational achievement. We experience a high attendance rate by our students and we believe this is largely due to the supportive school environment. Our school records all attendance-related incoming messages from parents and we notify the class teacher. Our attendance registers are monitored in the front office daily and parents are contacted if there were no satisfactory reasons received to explain a student's absence.
### Attendance – August Census 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Tran</th>
<th>Yr 1</th>
<th>Yr 2</th>
<th>Yr 3</th>
<th>Yr 4</th>
<th>Yr 5</th>
<th>Yr 6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female</td>
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<td>37</td>
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### Staff Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>HC</th>
<th>FTE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative and Clerical (including assistants)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building Operations Maintenance and Other Staff</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Specialist Support</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Staff (including librarians)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>14.7</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>23.20</td>
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**Post Graduate**  
1

**Bachelor Degree**  
16

**Other**  
0
Early Learning Centre
Our Early Learning Centre is a long day care service for children aged 3-5 years.

St Paul’s Early Learning Centre was assessed under the National Quality Framework. The service was awarded of “Meeting National Quality Standards” National Quality Standards in the Seven Quality Areas. The Early Centre was rated “Exceeding” in the areas of “Relationships with Children” These are excellent results for the service.

The Seven Quality areas are

- Quality Area 1 Educational Programs and Practice.
- Quality Area 2 Children’s Health and Safety.
- Quality Area 3 Physical Environment.
- Quality Area 4 Staffing arrangements
- Quality Area 5 Relationships with Children
- Quality Area 6 Collaborative Partnerships with families and Communities.
- Quality Area 7 Leadership and Service Management.

The ELC features:

- An Educational Program using the Early Years Learning Framework;
- Modern facilities and safe environment;
- Access to school resources;
- Integration program in preparation for Transition;
- Buddy Program with School Students;
- Trained and caring staff;
- Full-time enrolment or part-time if available.
- Pre-school Program Four days per week. (9 am to 12 noon)

Fees

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Care</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
<th>Price as of 2014</th>
<th>Meals Provided</th>
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<tr>
<td>Full Time</td>
<td>7:30am—5:30pm</td>
<td>$350.00</td>
<td>Morning Tea, Lunch &amp; afternoon Tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day Care</td>
<td>7:30am—5:30pm</td>
<td>$80.00</td>
<td>Morning Tea, Lunch &amp; afternoon Tea</td>
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</table>

Students at the ELC are eligible for the government child-care subsidy.

Applications for enrolment are available from St. Paul’s School Office, Francis St, Nightcliff (8985 1911) or from the Centre, Cummins St, Nightcliff (89854678)

Out of School Hours Care (OSHC)
OSHC and Vacation Care deliver a quality caring environment. We ensure variety and fun
when planning our programs. Afternoon tea is supplied daily at OSHC and all food is supplied during Vacation Care.

CCB is available through Centrelink ~ this then reduces your fees based on income.

OSHC runs for the 40 school weeks excluding public holidays. Vacation Care operates 10 weeks per year only closing for the Christmas and New Year weeks.

If you would like to access our December/January program please contact us. Applications for enrolment are available from St. Paul’s School Office, Francis St, Nightcliff (8985 1911) or from the Centre, Cummins St, Nightcliff (89854678)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Out of School Hours Care</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operation Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual Fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanent Part-Time per Day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Late Fees</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vacation Care</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operation Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual Fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Part-Time per Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Fees</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parent Involvement

Parents at School
At St. Paul’s Catholic Primary School we value the support of parents across the range of school life. This includes management, maintenance and fund raising through the School Board and Parents & Friends Association. The fund raising that takes place in the school is vital for providing the necessary resources for student learning.

Parents are also invited to assist by supporting teachers in the classroom on a regular or casual basis. Helping with excursions, sports (coaches, managers, transport) and sporting events run by the school.

In 2014 Two Parent Representatives joined our Kidsmatter Team to give parent voice in the direction of the School in Social and Emotional Learning.

In 2014, the school explored the concept of using Social Media to connect with families to improve student learning. The school has a very active Facebook Page, Twitter feed, YouTube Channel and Blog. All these are able to be accessed through the school Website. The school has also used a School Skype Channel and began trialling live streaming important events such as award ceremonies and musical events.

Parent Satisfaction
There are a number of ways we collect evidence of the satisfaction of the parents at St Paul’s Catholic Primary School including these below:

- Surveys through the School Improvement and Renewal Framework (SIRF) tool
- Parents are encouraged to meet the teachers at an open night at the beginning of the year
- Parent participation in our school functions is very high
- Emails sent to the school with feedback
- High attendance rate of our students
- In 2014
  - 50 parents completed our online Parent Survey in Term 4.
  - School Board Completed Surveys on future direction of the school.

Parent Satisfaction Survey Results include:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall I am satisfied with the Catholic Identity of the school</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Catholic identity of the school is evident through physical displays and through the general conduct of the school - e.g. prayer, Catholic rituals, RE teaching and relationships between staff, students and other members of the school community.</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I know the vision and values of the school.</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The school provides opportunities for the spiritual and faith development of my child.</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My child is expected to take responsibility for his/her behaviour and learning.</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent and carer enquiries are responded to appropriately by the school.</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevant learning opportunities are provided for my child.</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The achievements of students are appropriately celebrated at this school.</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall I am satisfied with this school.</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parents are always welcome at any activities organised by the school, and we encourage you to be involved in school events whenever possible.

**School Board**

The School Board is an advisory and support group which assists the Principal, staff and Parish Priest to ensure the smooth running of the school.

All parents have the opportunity to participate in policy development and planning by joining the School Board for a set term. Members are elected annually. Information on participation on the Board can be obtained through the Principal.

**Parents and Friends Association**

All families are encouraged to belong to the Parents & Friends Association. An elected executive committee works with the school to organise fundraising, development of resources and plans for the future of the school. The P & F are represented on the School Board.

In 2014, Parents and Friends Contributed to:

- $10 000 Installing Lights and Electricity to the School Basketball court.
- $1500 towards the purchase of Reading Sets for the Senior Program.
- $770 towards Sign Writing Celebrating the History of the OLSH Nuns in the school.
- $800 towards Year 6 Graduation.
The Parents and Friends organised the following events in 2014.
- Welcome Night and Disco
- School Disco.
- Mother’s Day Stall.
- Father’s Day Breakfast
- Christmas Raffle
- BBQ’s at Sporting events, Election day and Carols Night.
- Movie Night.

**Outcome of School Assessment**

We have continued to use the SIRF document as a tool to support and guide schools in meeting the demands of providing a quality education to the students in our care. This year the executive team from the Catholic Education Office visited our schools to have targeted conversations about our strategic priorities with a strong focus on teaching and learning.

**Endorsements**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Anthony Hockey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chairperson of the School Board</td>
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<td>Director of Catholic Education</td>
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<td>Michael Avery</td>
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The Parents and Friends organised the following events in 2014.
- Welcome Night and Disco
- School Disco.
- Mother’s Day Stall.
- Father’s Day Breakfast
- Christmas Raffle
- BBQ’s at Sporting events, Election day and Carols Night.
- Movie Night.

Outcome of School Assessment
We have continued to use the SIRF document as a tool to support and guide schools in meeting the demands of providing a quality education to the students in our care. This year the executive team from the Catholic Education Office visited our schools to have targeted conversations about our strategic priorities with a strong focus on teaching and learning.

Endorsements

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
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<td>1/7/15</td>
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<td>Anthony Hockey</td>
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<tr>
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