ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT 2011

Vision Statement
Sacred Heart School
strives towards
being a welcoming supportive community
nurturing the Catholic Faith and
encouraging personal excellence
in a stimulating and supportive learning environment
through partnerships involving
staff
children
parish, parents, friends and other organisations

Principal’s Message
In 2011 Sacred Heart School continued to work on providing excellent education outcomes for its student body, strong facilities for the students, staff, families and community to use and a continued focus on developing further our Pastoral Care and Wellbeing. A particular highlight to the school year was our continued commitment to Social Justice demonstrated through extraordinary fundraising efforts including support of our past Parish Priest parish in Uganda.

The Student Leadership group composing our School Captains, Student representative Councillors and other Year 6 have made a significant contribution to the school with their Peer Support programme in Term 3 focusing on Anti-Bullying, student magazine and lunch time activities such as table tennis and basketball.

In Term 1 we received a Commonwealth Bank Kickstart prize of $8000 which we passed on to St Francis Xavier School at Daly River to help buy valuable resources for their school damaged in two floods caused by Cyclone Carlos. The students thought it was important that our school help a school with greater need than our own. We presented the cheque to Daly River and celebrated with a giant cake from the Commonwealth Bank. Daly river gave us beautiful indigenous painting for our library.
In 2011, the staff had a focus on mathematics trialling aspects of the Australian Curriculum in this area. Staff took part in a 20 hour in-service on First Steps Mathematics, which increased our skills in tracking students and giving them meaningful assessments. Students in year four continued to access an intervention programme called Quicksmart which has improved their numeracy skills.

As part of the school’s literacy work the Exodus Foundation continued to operate a centre in the school that provides intensive support to indigenous student’s literacy. It has been a welcome gift and addition to our school.

During the year Senator Trish Crossin officially open our library extension which was funded under the ‘Building the Education Revolution’ (BER) program. This new inbuilt area that has been added onto classrooms together with new air-conditioning, new furniture and blinds have made a great improvement to school facilities.

**School Profile**

Sacred Heart Primary School is in the suburb of Woodroffe, Palmerston, 20 kilometres east of Darwin. The school serves the City of Palmerston and the adjacent rural area. Average 2011 school enrolment: 228 students. Approximately sixty-five percent of our enrolments identify as Catholics. Sixteen percent of our families are connected to the defence forces and twenty-one percent identify as Indigenous. Five percent of the student population are English as Second Language (ESL) learners.

**Student enrolments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yr level</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>32</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>228</td>
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</table>

Indigenous students: 21.5%

Students with Special Needs: 3.5%

Average Attendance: 91.3%

Management of non-attendance: short periods of non-attendance are followed up by the classroom teacher. Longer periods are followed up by a member of the school leadership team, usually the deputy principal, with assistance from the school liaison officer.
Staffing Information

Staff Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>FTE*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teachers</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support staff</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>23</td>
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*FTE: Full time equivalent

Teacher Qualifications

All teachers have a minimum of four years training and are registered with the NT Teacher Registration Board.

Summary of teacher qualifications:

- Post graduate qualifications: 2 (11%)
- Bachelor degree of equivalent: 17 (100%)
- Other qualifications: 5 (27%)

Note: Percentages do not add to 100% as some teachers have several qualifications

Professional Development

During 2011 teaching and support staff participated in a range of Professional Development programs including:

- First Steps Mathematics and Count Me In Too (Mathematics)
- Australian Curriculum: English, Mathematics, Science and History
- Personalised Leadership Development Program
- Jolly Phonics - Teaching phonics in Early Childhood classes.
- MULTILIT Reading Tutor Program and Best Practice in Language Teaching
- Boys in Education
- Quicksmart Maths program-numeracy for students Years 4-6
- Autism Spectrum Disorder: workshops and online training.
- Peer Support Training
- Child protection and mandatory reporting training
- Mentoring Teachers Forum
- School wide Positive Behaviour Support
- Hazard identification training
- OHS and Warden Emergency Management Procedures
- Religious Education
- Certificate 4 in Education Support
Religious Education
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School prides itself on being first and foremost a Catholic school. During 2011 we have again continued to use the NT Religious Education curriculum, Journey in Faith. Teachers are confident in teaching the units which are now available from the CEO Sharepoint page. In 2009/2010 we trialled a scope and sequence for teaching the key ideas over a two year cycle; this is still being used and has been found to be an effective way to cover all of the key ideas and Made in the Image of God (MITIOG).

Students have been involved in raising funds for Caritas Australia during Lent and for Catholic Missions through our school Mission Fair in October. The students made a tremendous effort in raising money for these causes as well as becoming more familiar with the experiences of people assisted by Caritas and Catholic Missions. Christmas items for hampers which were given to St Vincent de Paul for distribution throughout the Palmerston area.

Liturgy and prayer have once again been an integral part of life at Sacred Heart School. Each Monday morning, the whole school gathers for a prayer assembly based on the Sunday gospel or a relevant theme such as Missions. These prayers were led by the Year 6 student leaders. The school also gathers to pray every Tuesday and Friday morning at assembly. These prayers are organised by classroom teachers on a rostered basis and students are encouraged to participate fully. On a classroom level, all classes pray daily in a variety of ways.

The school has gathered each term in varying configurations for Eucharists and liturgies and each time these have been happy, prayerful celebrations. Under the guidance of our Parish Priest, Father Tom English, children celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Years 3-6 prior to their class or grade Eucharist. Our Early Learning Centre also joined us for most whole school Eucharists.

School Eucharists in 2011 included: Beginning of the year Mass, Ash Wednesday, Mary Help of Christians Feast Day, Sacred Heart Feast Day, All Saints Mass, End of year Mass and Graduation Mass. Liturgies in 2011 included an Easter Story Liturgy, Anzac Liturgy, Sorry Day Liturgy, Remembrance Day Liturgy and a liturgy to support grieving families. We also gathered together for Christmas with Carols by Torchlight where each class presented an aspect of the Christmas Nativity Story.
The school has assisted Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in preparing students for Sacraments through the use of school facilities for preparation sessions, as well as the involvement of the APRE in the Parish Sacramental Team.

The school has also supported Parish celebrations such as the Feast Day Celebrations through advertising and encouragement at school and in the newsletter. During 2011 the school community farewelled Father Joseph Dallu, who had assisted in the Parish for several years.

The school has continued to promote opportunities for faith development in the diocese, for example, e-conferences held at CEO, and the promotion of various faith and spirituality development websites listed occasionally in the school newsletter.

A further highlight regarding the Catholic Identity of our school has been the inclusion of religious celebrations and social justice events on the updated school website.

During 2011 staff attended a range of professional development opportunities to stay current in religious education. These opportunities formed part of the requirement for Accreditation A which involves all teaching staff attending a minimum of six hours of approved professional development. Programs included the Catholic Story Workshop, Catholic Teaching and Learning Day, and ‘The Beauty and the Grandeur of Daily Life’ with Fr Elio Capra, and twilight professional development sessions with John Burland and Andrew Chinn.

At a school level we have completed staff meetings on Making Jesus Real (MJR) after a staff member attended the MJR Conference in Hobart.

Accreditation B requires that teachers of religious education have completed approved university study in religious education. The majority of our staff members have already gained Accreditation B, with several of our staff members undertaking continuing university study in religious education during 2011 and beyond. Some staff members are continuing to study religion at Masters level.

The Arts

Catholic Schools’ Public Speaking Competition

As part of Catholic Education Week, students from Year 5 and 6 entered the Public Speaking Competition. Holy Spirit Catholic School was the host for this event and all who were involved found it a worthwhile experience. Mariya Lavendar entered the year 5 section and spoke about “My Personal Hero”. Liam Mulvahil entered the Year 6 section and spoke about “My Journey”. Both students spoke most eloquently on their topics and were great ambassadors for our school. The students from years 5 and 6 also took part in an afternoon of sporting activities which they enjoyed immensely.
Physical Education and Sport

Students participated in weekly physical education lessons, which focused on movement, ball skills, fitness and participation.

Students from Transition to Year 2 continued to take part in a swimming program at the Palmerston Pool focusing on swimming and survival techniques. This took place late term 3.

Sacred Heart students from Years 4 to 6 took part in many PARCS events. This year they took on the form of a Tri Day incorporating many sports on the one day. This is intended to increase participation rather than just meeting the purpose selecting students to represent the PARCS Cluster. Sacred Heart had a high level of participation at these days.

Many students throughout the year were selected to represent PARCS. The sports included touch football, AFL, rugby league, netball, soccer, athletics and tennis. Sacred Heart was well represented in the managing and coaching of these teams through the voluntary work of many teachers, school staff and parents.

Teaching and Learning: Student Outcomes

NAPLAN RESULTS 2011
The results are comparable to similar schools in the urban area.

Year 3 NAPLAN

![NAPLAN Results Chart]

- **Numeracy**: Above, At, Below, Withdrawn, Absent
- **Writing**, **Reading**, **Spelling**, **Grammar**

- 0% to 100%abar graph showing the distribution of results for each language and numeracy category.
School planning

The school uses the School Improvement and Renewal Framework as a guide to self-assessment and improvement planning. During 2011 we took a close look at Pastoral Care and Wellbeing processes in the school. The evidence that we gathered affirmed that many elements of the Pastoral Care and Wellbeing ‘net’ have contributed to good outcomes for students at the school. These elements include acknowledgements and awards, explicit teaching of expected behaviours through School Wide Positive Behaviour Program (SWPBP), Tribes, student referrals and other strategies outlined in policy.

The second area of review was Finances, Resources and Facilities. Evidence was collected from the staff and School Board who rated the school’s management of these areas highly. It was recommended that in the future the school explore the area of Environmental Stewardship.

Parent Involvement

Parents and carers took on many roles in our school and are encouraged to participate through our reporting system. They helped in classrooms, at the canteen, in the library, with sporting teams, on excursions, running the bookclub, fundraising and through their many donations to the school.

The Parents and Friends (P&F) raised a small working group in 2011 and took on with enthusiasm their responsibilities of fundraising and social activities. Families volunteered to help at events including barbecues, Mother’s and Father’s Day Stalls. The P&F raised over $12,000 which was given to the school to buy new interactive whiteboards resources, readers and mathematics equipment.
The School Board concentrated in 2010/2011 on supervising the Federal Government funded ‘Building the Education Revolution’ projects including major building working under the “P21” banner.

The Board also reviewed the canteen policy, especially looking at making sure the canteen was following healthy eating guidelines. The Board continued to monitor the school budget.

The Board and the community is pleased that lobbying for a Catholic High School has resulted in the announcement that a Catholic High School will open in the Palmerston suburb of Johnston in 2012.

Financial Summary

Our finances have been managed well to ensure a smooth year, thanks to the efforts of our Finance Officer. Various checks are in place to oversee the school’s finances, including a monthly report to the School Board and the CEO, an independent audit by KPMG, and start of year and end of year meetings with the CEO Finance Staff. The building programme planning under the BER programmes has been an important undertaking in this area.

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<th>Sacred Heart Primary School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recurrent income 2011</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Government recurrent funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State/Territory Government recurrent funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other sources</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
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Endorsements

Mrs Kathy Neely, Principal  
date

School Board Chair  
date

Michael Avery, Director Catholic Education