

Annual School Report
2011 School Year

St Patrick's Primary School Macksville



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About this report

St Patrick's Primary School, Macksville is registered by the Board of Studies (NSW) and managed by the Lismore Catholic Education Office (CEO), as the 'approved authority' for the Registration System formed under Section 39 of the NSW Education Act 1990.

The *Annual Report to the Parish School Community* for this year provides the parish school community with fair, reliable and objective information about school performance measures and policies, as determined by the Minister for Education.

The *Report* also outlines to the parish school community information about initiatives and developments of major interest and importance to the parish school community during the year and the achievements arising from the implementation of the school's Strategic Management Plan and Annual Plan.

The *Report* demonstrates accountability to the Federal and State Government regulatory bodies, the parish and school community and the Catholic Education Office. This *Report* has been approved by the CEO which monitors school processes to ensure compliance with all NSW Board of Studies requirements for Registration.

This *Report* complements and is supplementary to school newsletters, year books and other regular communications. The *Report* will be available on the school's website by 30 June 2012 following its submission to the Board of Studies.

The contents of this *Report* are able to be discussed at various parent forums and all information is public.

Further information about the school or this *Report* may be obtained by contacting the school on 02 6568 1397 or by visiting the website at www.macvplism.catholic.edu.au.

Principal's Message

The primary purpose of St Patrick's Catholic Primary School is to support the members of the parish community in providing a faith formation for their children. The school fosters a commitment to the individual person and provides opportunities for academic, cultural and sporting achievement. St Patrick's offers students a Catholic education based on the teaching of Jesus and the Church and within the context of a strong faith community.

Our parish school continued to provide many opportunities for the faith and spiritual growth of the students as well as opportunities to excel in academic, cultural and sporting areas. All of these areas combined to ensure that our school's mission was lived out daily in the life of the school.

The students' achievements and accomplishments were showcased throughout 2011. Student work was proudly displayed in classrooms, on school noticeboards, in the school office and on class webpages. School achievement was highlighted and celebrated at many school assemblies. Our focus was to continue to build on the reputation that St Patrick's has earned as an exemplary school. The following list provides an indication of the school's academic achievements:

- Many of our students participated in the UNSW English and Maths Assessments. A small percentage of students received a credit or distinction certificate for achieving high results.
- Many children were involved in the Enrichment Program with a highlight being the work with Lego Robotics and design.
- One child from each class in Years 1 to 6 was awarded an academic excellence certificate at the Annual Awards Presentation ceremony. These children displayed overall excellence in all or most Key Learning Areas of the curriculum.
- Twelve students from Years 4 and 5 were chosen for the QuickSmart numeracy intervention program. Collectively, the results for all students were outstanding, with all children displaying significant growth in numeracy.

There were many opportunities throughout the year for our school to be represented at community and cultural events. The following list provides an indication of the school's cultural program and community involvement:

- Our Kindergarten students visited Autumn Lodge Retirement Village and the Senior Citizens in Macksville at Easter and for Christmas.
- Our school choir and Drum Corps were invited to perform at the Carols by Candlelight events in Nambucca Heads and Macksville. The choir and Drum Corps also performed at the 2011 Nambucca Valley Relay for Life.
- All students participated in NAIDOC Week celebrations.
- All children participated in the Dance Fever program over a ten week period. At the end of the program children in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 performed a Showcase for parents, grandparents and others in the school community. Years 3 to 6 participated in a Dance Challenge in Coffs Harbour against six other local Catholic schools.

Students performed well at various sporting events during the year. The following list provides some examples of sporting highlights:

- St Patrick's swimming and athletics carnivals were held during the year. From these carnivals, many children were chosen to represent the school at zone, diocesan and state carnivals.
- Netball: Students from Year 6 competed at the Zone Netball trials in Port Macquarie. The school team then qualified to compete against the other three zones in the Diocesan Championships.
- Football: One of our students was chosen to participate in the State Catholic Schools Rugby League trials.
- Cross Country: Several children represented the school at zone and diocesan level. One student represented the school at the Polding Cross Country Carnival.

There were many people who assisted in the school's quest for excellence. In particular special thanks are extended to the parent body and the school staff for all their generous efforts. St Patrick's is indeed blessed to have such dedicated and enthusiastic people.

Vin Butler
Principal

A Parent Message

Thank you to the Executive members of the Parents and Friends Association (P&F) for their commitment and hard work during 2011. All these women take on many and varied tasks to enable the P&F to remain operational and successful. They put in countless hours to help raise funds for our school to benefit the children, as well as providing a voice on the issues that affect our school.

The Fete Committee is generously supported by many hard working men and women, who give so much, be it their time, special talent or the extremely generous donations that are made each year. I cannot over emphasise the tremendous amount of work, time and organisation that goes into making the Fete the successful event that it is each year.

The money raised by the Parents and Friends Association is used by the school to purchase much needed resources to provide the best possible learning environment for our children.

I would also like to thank our Principal, Vin Butler, and Assistant Principal, Julie Ryan for all their help and continued support of the Parents and Friends. Vin and Julie attend all our meetings and are always willing to listen to our ideas.

This year we welcomed Father Michael into our community. Father Michael has already had a very positive impact on our parish and I am sure that his partnership with our school will be a very happy experience for everyone.

Carroll Townley
President
St Patrick's Parents and Friends Association

This Catholic School

St Patrick's School is located in the town/city of Macksville and is part of the Nambucca Valley Catholic Parish which serves the communities of Nambucca Heads, Macksville, Bowraville and Taylors Arm. School families are drawn from the towns and communities of Nambucca Heads, Macksville, Valla Beach, Scotts Head, Stuarts Point, Eungai, Bowraville and Taylors Arm.

Last year the school celebrated 95 years of Catholic education.

The Parish Priest Fr. Michael Alcock is involved in the life of the school.

St Patrick's School is a Parish School with strong links to the parish family. The school aims to involve the children and their families in the life of the parish through such activities such as:

- participation in a school-based Sacramental program which includes Parish involvement;
- invitations to parents and parishioners to join in the various school Mass celebrations;
- involvement in special events throughout the year;
- involvement in children's liturgy at each Mass on Saturday night in Nambucca Heads and Sunday morning in Macksville;
- support for parish social occasions and other celebrations.

The parish school uses the mandated Diocesan Religious Education curriculum and the resource text "To Know, Worship & Love". Catholic life and culture permeates school life with 2.5 hours of religious education taught formally each week. The implementation of the Diocesan Daily Prayer guidelines supports the school's prayer life. The purposes of this parish school are centred on *Catholic Education in the Diocese of Lismore, the Foundational Beliefs and Practices – The Essential Framework*. This Framework underpins all policy, planning, roles and processes within the parish school. Our aim is to increasingly integrate this statement into all aspects of parish school life. Religious Education is always given priority in our school and classroom curriculum and planning.

The parish school Mission Statement highlights the nature and calling of the school.

St Patrick's School caters for children from Kindergarten to Year 6. The following table indicates the student characteristics:

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL 2010	TOTAL 2009
Male	27	24	30	15	20	21	20	157	146
Female	22	24	27	29	19	27	11	159	155
Indigenous <i>count included in first two rows</i>	2	2	4	3	1	0	0	12	
LBOTE (Language background other than English) <i>count included in first two rows</i>			1	1				2	

There are currently 317 students enrolled in 13 classes.

School Curriculum

The school provides a comprehensive educational program based on and taught in accordance with the Board of Studies syllabuses for Primary Education. The Key Learning Areas (KLAs) are English, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Human Society and its Environment, Creative Arts and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education.

The school continues to work towards developing 21st century pedagogy. This pedagogy underpins learning across the school, Kindergarten to Year 6. Our school has an enrichment program which is conducted one day a week. The program focuses on the areas of literacy, numeracy, science and creative arts. Targeted children were selected for each area, based on assessment results and other class-based criteria. All students participated in the Bluearth physical education program. The program is designed to improve children's fine and gross motor skills. The program has been a great success with almost 100% participation each week.

This year, the school implemented the Bounce Back program into the Health and Physical Education curriculum. Bounce Back is a program that teaches children resilience and perseverance. Each year level has a different focus. The school conducted parent information sessions in the area of reading. Several sessions were held to give parents some training to assist them when listening to children read or helping the teacher in the literacy block.

Student Performance in National Testing Programs

The school participated in the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) with students in Years 3 and 5 tested. In Year 3, 44 students presented for the tests while in Year 5 there were 48 students.

In Literacy there were four elements tested. These were reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation. In Numeracy, students were tested in number, patterns and algebra, measurement, data, and space and geometry.

In both Year 3 and Year5 there were six achievement bands with Band 6 being the highest level of attainment in Year3 and Band 8 the highest in Year5.

The Commonwealth Government has set minimum acceptable standards for reading, writing and numeracy at particular ages. In Year 3, students who achieved Band 3 or higher have achieved above the minimum standard. In Year 5 those students who achieved at Band 5 and higher have achieved above the minimum standard set by government.

At St Patrick's Primary School, school and student performance is closely monitored. These tests are one means of gathering data on individual student and school achievement. School staff have participated in Catholic Education Office-led information sessions on NAPLAN and SMART Data Analysis workshops.

The following data indicates the percentage of St Patrick's Primary School students in each band compared to the State percentage.

Year 3 NAPLAN Results in Literacy and Numeracy

Year 3 NAPLAN Results in Literacy and Numeracy	Percentage of students in bands 1 to 6											
	BAND											
	6		5		4		3		2		1	
	State	School	State	School	State	School	State	School	State	School	State	School
Reading	29	35	18	5	21	30	18	17	10	10	4	3
Writing	18	10	43	38	21	30	12	17	4	3	2	3
Spelling	25	12	26	28	21	35	18	12	7	8	4	5
Grammar and Punctuation	28	22	22	28	24	22	15	17	7	10	5	0
Number, Patterns and Algebra	18	10	22	20	27	24	20	32	12	12	3	2
Measurement, Data, Space and Geometry	18	7	20	22	23	27	28	37	9	5	3	5
Numeracy	23	17	14	15	27	17	18	22	13	24	2	5

Year 5 NAPLAN results in Literacy and Numeracy

Year 5 NAPLAN Results in Literacy and Numeracy	Percentage of students in bands 3 to 8											
	BAND											
	8		7		6		5		4		3	
	State	School	State	School	State	School	State	School	State	School	State	School
Reading	16	15	19	23	21	15	26	34	11	11	7	2
Writing	9	9	17	28	31	23	31	32	7	9	5	0
Spelling	14	11	22	15	27	32	24	34	9	6	5	2
Grammar and Punctuation	16	17	25	28	23	21	21	26	9	2	6	6
Number, Patterns and Algebra	15	13	14	13	29	38	28	32	10	4	4	0
Measurement, Data, Space and Geometry	15	19	16	9	30	28	24	36	12	9	4	0
Numeracy	15	11	18	19	28	38	19	21	14	11	6	0

As can be seen from the table the percentage of students in the top three bands in literacy are pleasing compared with State figures. A number of initiatives have impacted on these results including the implementation of a range of teaching strategies to improve student understanding of literacy and numeracy. Literacy and numeracy have been a focus for enrichment classes. Children who experienced difficulties in numeracy in Years 4 and 5 were given the opportunity to participate in the QuickSmart intervention program. NAPLAN results will be further analysed to inform and guide the direction for future improvements particularly in the areas of Numeracy and Spelling. The high percentage of students achieving minimum standards, compared to State figures, is testament to the focus on curriculum differentiation strategies developed and implemented over the last few years.

Teacher Standards and Professional Learning

Teacher Qualifications / Staff Profile		Number of Teachers
1.	Those having formal qualifications from a recognised higher education institution or equivalent.	19
2.	Those having graduate qualifications but not a formal teaching qualification from a recognised higher education institution or equivalent.	1
3.	Those not having qualifications described in 1 or 2 above but having relevant successful teaching experience or appropriate relevant knowledge.	0
4.	Teachers with recognised qualifications to teach Religious Education.	12
5.	Number of staff identifying as indigenous employed at the school.	4
6.	Total number of non-teaching staff employed in the school.	17

All teachers have been involved in professional development activities during the year. These activities are designed to develop the skills and understandings of staff so as to improve student outcomes. Professional development can take many forms including whole- staff development days, subject specific in-services, meetings and conferences.

Whole-staff development day professional learning activities in 2011 were:

Staff Development Days	Term	Presenter
Restorative Practices	1	Leadership Team
Staff Retreat	2	Leadership Team
Inquiry Learning	2	Kath Murdoch
Australia Curriculum	4	Various

Additionally staff attended either singly or in groups a range of professional development opportunities including:

- Leadership Development- John Hattie
- Inquiry Learning - in-house action research project
- Covey Leadership course
- Best Start Training
- Literacy - vocabulary and reading days for all year levels;
- Stage 3 Numeracy focus - Charles Lovitt

- Web 2.0 tools in the classroom
- NAPLAN workshops

The professional learning expenditure has been calculated at \$3465.13 per staff member. This figure has been calculated by CEO and reflects expenditure on casual release days and professional development activities in particular categories.

Teacher Attendance and Retention

The average teacher attendance figure is 95.85%. This figure is provided to the school by the CEO.

There were no significant staffing changes last year.

Student Attendance

School attendance is always high. The Class Roll is marked every day and rolls are checked each term. Unexplained absences are followed up promptly by classroom teachers. Parents are requested to provide a note to the teacher immediately the child returns to school. The principal is made aware of sustained student absences or absences reflecting a pattern. In these situations the principal or delegated staff member contacts the parent/guardian. Parents are encouraged to arrange medical and other necessary appointments outside school hours. Prolonged periods of absence occur from time-to-time for various reasons. In these cases students and their parents meet with the Principal to discuss their leave request.

The average student attendance rate for the school during 2011 was 94%. School attendance rates disaggregated by Year group are shown in the following table.

Attendance rates by Year group	Kindergarten	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
	92	94	92	95	94	95	94

School Policies

School policies are reviewed regularly. In 2011 the following policies were reviewed, updated or newly created:

- Privacy Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Student Leadership Policy
- Uniform Policy

- Visitor and Volunteer Policy
- Excursion Policy
- Infectious Diseases Policy
- Vision and Mission Statement

Enrolment Policy

Every new enrolment at St Patrick's Primary School, Macksville requires parents to attend an enrolment interview. The interview provides an opportunity to learn more about the educational experience provided by the school, specific school procedural policies and current school expectations.

Preference for enrolment is given to children of baptised Catholics. It is a condition of enrolment that all children will participate in class religion lessons and activities, as well as prayer celebrations and school and class Masses.

Children who turn five by 30 June are eligible to apply for enrolment in Kindergarten. Enrolments for Kindergarten children are called for in the year before commencement. Other enrolments are accepted throughout the year if there are vacancies in the classes concerned.

A copy of the enrolment policy is located in the school office or it can be accessed on the school's website. The School Enrolment Policy explains the Parish enrolment guidelines.

Student Welfare Policy, Pastoral Care Policy

Jesus Christ and his teachings are the basis of all we do at St Patrick's School. Christ's teachings therefore should relate to how our staff develop student self-discipline.

We believe in a holistic approach to individual development. Such an approach aims to develop the intellectual, physical, emotional, social, aesthetic, moral and spiritual dimensions of a child.

We aim to bring this about in our school by promoting self-worth and by encouraging each individual to answer to one's self for one's own actions.

All people attending St Patrick's school have the right to be treated:

- o justly
- o respectfully
- o fairly

Discipline Policy

The principles of restorative justice are embedded in the school's Behaviour Management Policy. These principles include acknowledging the inevitability of conflict and hurt in relationships, working towards healing by repairing relationships, and learning and growing from experience. The policy is regularly communicated to all members of the school community. Students, staff and parents have a clear understanding of the expectations articulated through this policy and are supportive of the need to provide a safe and caring learning environment. The policy acknowledges teacher and student rights and responsibilities and is based on the Gospel teachings of love for self and others.

Complaints and Grievance Policy

At St Patrick's School we are committed to providing a pleasant work environment for all employees and students. We acknowledge, however, that employees, parents and students can sometimes feel aggrieved about something that is happening at St Patrick's School, which appears to be discriminatory or to constitute harassment.

An employee, parent or student can make a complaint about any decision, behaviour, act or omission (whether by the Principal, members of the Executive or other staff/students) that he/she feels is discriminatory or constitutes harassment. There are procedures at school to assist in grievance matters. All policies are available for parents through the school office or by downloading them from our website.

School Determined Improvement Targets

Each year the school develops an Annual Plan drawn from the five year Strategic Plan. 2011 was a very rewarding year. Listed below are a number of goals and priorities that the school focused on during the year. The parish school's main goals and priorities were to:

- increase student performance in all Key Learning Areas;
- evaluate current assessment and reporting practices and implement 'best practice' strategies;
- develop a whole-school plan for literacy and numeracy in accordance with the Australian Curriculum;
- provide culturally diverse experiences for all children;
- continue to encourage staff to pursue professional development;
- ensure staff are cognisant of the document 'Foundational Beliefs and Practices-the essential framework'; and have an understanding of how to apply this in the classroom;
- continue to enhance opportunities for faith and spiritual formation of staff, students and families;
- develop consistent and equitable guidelines and expectations of all staff;
- further develop the relationship between St Patrick's Primary School and pre-schools in the Nambucca Valley;
- maintain a positive presence within our local community.
-

Initiatives Promoting Respect and Responsibility

The school ensures that at every available formal and informal opportunity the values of respect and responsibility are promoted. The school models and teaches students about respect and responsibility in a number of ways:

- During 2011 students were involved in a range of outreach activities, including visits to the local nursing home where students spent time entertaining and speaking with the elderly residents. Students and staff contribute generously to

social justice appeals, including St Vincent de Paul and Caritas. Outstanding citizenship was recognised at the Annual Awards Presentation with awards from the Lions Club and the Mayor of the Nambucca Shire Council.

- The values of respect and responsibility lie at the heart of Catholic schools, and underpin all policies and procedures. Students, teachers and parents are regularly reminded of the school's commitment to these and other school values. In 2011, the school held parent and teacher forums to address these and other values identified by the school community. Respect and responsibility are fundamental to the school's restorative justice program.

Parent, Student and Teacher Satisfaction

The school uses a variety of methods to gauge parental, student and teacher satisfaction with school operations. The school understands the importance of regularly reviewing approval and satisfaction levels. Last year the following formal and informal opportunities allowed the school to test reaction to decisions, policy and school procedures:

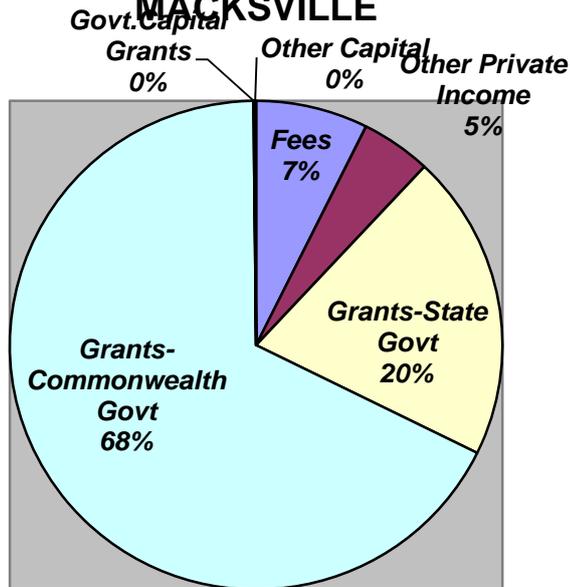
- Parents are always given input into School Board and Parents and Friends meeting agendas, allowing them to raise concerns or seek clarification.
- Student Council processes involve student leaders visiting their allocated classes and consulting students about school and class needs. Information is relayed back to the Council for action.
- As part of the National Partnerships Low SES funded project, staff, students and parents were surveyed as part of the Diagnostic Inventory of School Alignment, which was conducted by the University of Southern Queensland. The data indicated that the school was highly successful with a very high level of agreement from all three groups surveyed.
- The challenges that the school faces included the need for organising sufficient planning time for teachers and developing a culture of shared power.

Financial Information

Catholic schools are accountable for all monies received. Each year, the Lismore Catholic Education Office submits to the Commonwealth Government a financial statement on behalf of the parish primary schools and secondary colleges. This statement details the income and expenditure of each school. In addition, the financial accounts for each school and for the Catholic Education Office are audited annually.

The following graphs represent the income and expenditure for the year ending 31 December 2011 as aggregated from the annual report to the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and reported to the Commonwealth Government for 2011. Additional financial information is available on the MYSchool website.

**2011 INCOME - St Patrick's Primary School -
MACKSVILLE**



**2011 EXPENSE - St Patrick's Primary School -
MACKSVILLE**

