2012 Annual School Report
St. Patrick’s Primary School Cessnock

155 Wollombi Road
Cessnock  N.S.W 2325
Website: http://www.cessnock.catholic.edu.au
Messages from Key School Bodies

Principal

2012 was filled with great excitement as the new School Building Project was finally completed. We now had a new Library, Multi-Purpose Room, Storerooms, extra Office Areas, two new classrooms and an Outdoor Learning Area (COLA) that housed a new Basketball Court. The main playground was given a new asphalt surface which was long overdue. All of this lifted the spirits of the school community and brought a renewed sense of enthusiasm and energy to the school environment.

In June the opening of the BER Project finally came to fruition and the new Bishop of the Maitland/Newcastle Diocese was able to attend and do the honours of officially opening the venues. This created such a buzz of excitement.

The National Partnership Programme began in 2012. The school was granted a large sum of money to undertake a variety of Professional Development Initiatives to enhance the Teaching and Learning outcomes in the areas of Numeracy and Literacy. St. Patrick’s draws its enrolments from a low socio-economic area. It is through this Commonwealth funding that the school was able to provide much needed resources and Professional Development opportunities throughout the school in 2012. As a result of this Project a Teacher Educator was appointed and assigned to our school to facilitate the National Partnerships Programme.

Thankfully the P&F Association continued their support and fundraising for the school. They were able to provide air-conditioning units to all the new buildings. The Staff and students were very grateful for this. Sadly throughout the year the canteen volunteers dwindled to a number where the decision was made to cut back on the days that the canteen was open. The school community soon adapted to this and realised that many parents have work commitments that prevent them from helping out on a regular basis. Hopefully this will improve in 2013.

2012 was a year of long awaited changes, changes that have made such a difference to the school environment. These changes have allowed the school to flourish, and move from strength to strength. There of course have been challenges along the way but our school community was built on the foundations of Respect and Compassion and it is these values that allow us to meet the everyday challenges and work through them in a positive and productive way. We are grateful for the guidance and support that our local Parish Priest Fr. Tony Potts has provided during 2012 to the school community.

P & F

Every year the P&F Association watches the school community grow and evolve in so many different ways. There are always a group of hard working parents assisting around the school to make lots of things happen. Many of these parents and friends are associated directly or indirectly with the P & F Association. These dedicated people have busy lives and also work but seem to find the time to help out and contribute in some way at St. Patrick’s.

St. Patrick’s have a lot of people who volunteer to help serve in the School Tuckshop. This is one of the major sources of fundraising for the P & F, however sadly in 2012 the Tuckshop had to close down two days a week due to a dwindling number of helpers.

The Mother’s Day and Father’s Day Stalls were once again extremely successful and very popular with the children. A great amount of time and effort by volunteers and our fundraising coordinators made these events possible.

Other popular events and fund raisers in 2012 were the Cinema Night, Cupcake Day, Entertainment Books and various BBQ’s put on by the P & F to build relationships between the families especially those who were new to the school.

In 2012 the P & F joined up with Coles to collect the ‘Cole’s Sport Vouchers’ and also with Woolworths for the ‘Earn & Learn Programme’. These promotions allowed the P & F to purchase many needed resources for the school. This included sport’s equipment, library, art & educational supplies for classrooms.

The P & F also purchased musical equipment, I-pads, air-conditioning for the new library, chess boards, and diaries for Stage 3. It is quite evident that with the valued support of St. Patrick’s P & F Association and all of its wonderful helpers St. Patrick’s is certainly a better place. In total the P & F donated close to $40 000 to help with the overall resourcing of the school.
Student Leadership Team

As a Leadership Team we have noticed that 2012 was a much more settled year all round. After all the chaos with the Building Works in the previous year it was great to see the School back together again. In fact nicer than it’s ever been! Straight up we were all thrown into organising School Assemblies that happen every Friday. These are big Assemblies and take a lot of planning. The Principal told us that the Staff are there just to assist and it is really up to us! We were a bit nervous at first but then we actually looked forward to Fridays to run the Assembly.

We also had to represent the school on many occasions throughout the year. Some events were the Anzac Day March, Education Week Breakfast, Mission Masses, Leadership Days, BER Opening, Easter Plays and various Liturgies and Masses where the Leadership Team were called upon with very short notice to be involved in.

Nurturing our little buddies from Kindergarten was also a great privilege. We enjoyed meeting them, guiding them and farewelling them with a DVD & Party at the end of the year.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Staff, students and community of St. Patrick’s for being so supportive and encouraging. We have learnt so much about the qualities of Leadership.

Religious Dimension and Culture of School Life

Catholic Identity

The Catholic Identity of St. Patrick’s Cessnock has its foundations in its long association with the Sisters of St. Joseph commencing in 1887 with the formation of the first Catholic School in the area. This association and working relationship has continued to the present day with one of the current staff members, a sister of St. Joseph still working actively in the school. The commitment to living the Gospel and the dedication shown by the sisters throughout our long history are very evident in the Catholic Identity of the School today.

St. Patrick’s also displays an acknowledgment and respect for the original owners of the land, the ‘Wonarua’ people, who are remembered weekly in our school assembly. Their Aboriginal heritage is embraced daily by the raising of the Aboriginal flag and also through the Aboriginal perspective taught in class lessons.

As a Catholic school community the day commences with a shared staff prayer before morning bell. This is followed by the school prayer, led by the leadership team, at the morning assembly. Throughout the school environment our Catholic Identity is visually evident in both the artworks, crucifixes in every room and the sacred spaces set up in the classrooms and office areas. More importantly, it is evident in the treatment of each person with respect to their uniqueness and the gifts they share. As a faith community we also celebrate through class and school liturgies where parents and community members are often invited to attend. The students are also encouraged to participate with the wider faith community by attending weekend Parish Masses.

In our quest for ‘justice for all’ the students donate at lunch times to the ‘mission well’ which is our ongoing donation to Caritas and the Catholic Missions. Students and staff also hold fundraising activities throughout the year for selected Charities. To increase growing awareness of the poverty and injustices of the world on an individual level, each class plans a special mission fundraiser.

St. Patrick’s celebrates quite a few significant Feast Days such as: St. Patrick (School Patron Saint), St. Joseph (Parish Patron Saint), St. Mary MacKillop (Patron Saint Australia), St. Martin de Porres (Patron Saint of a Josephite Sister at St. Patrick’s), The Annunciation and finally the Feast of the Sacred Heart.

St. Patrick’s strives to live the Gospel by providing a happy, welcoming environment where each person is valued and nurtured. There is an open door policy providing communication between parents, students and staff.

The School as part of Parish and Diocesan Life

There was quite a buzz around St. Patrick’s in 2012 with the declaration of ‘The Year of Grace’. The Staff felt that this was a real chance to stop and take the time to focus inwardly. Under the guidance of the Principal, REC and Pastoral Care Worker the Staff were led on occasions through some spiritual moments that allowed Staff to reflect and pray in a manner that was different to their normal style of praying. This seemed to be very refreshing for many Staff. Sr. Louise Gannon visited one Tuesday afternoon to facilitate a wonderful prayer service centred on the theme of ‘The Year of Grace’. The staff also attended with colleagues a ‘Cluster Spiritual Day’ in Maitland with the focus being ‘The Year of Grace’.
Throughout the year our Pastoral Care Worker continually changed the Sacred Spaces around the school to fit in with ‘The Year of Grace’. The Staff were also provided with correspondence for their rooms outlining information about ‘The Year of Grace’. Parents were given a copy of ‘The Year of Grace’ prayer to have at home.

A Focal Point was arranged by the Pastoral Care Worker for all School/Class Masses with the Year of Grace as the theme.

It was such an exciting year with our first visitation by our new Bishop. Bishop William Wright blessed our school at the Official BER Opening on 29th June 2012. Bishop Bill spoke to the large gathering of dignitaries, special guests and the whole school community. St. Patrick’s was very fortunate as the Bishop came to visit the students again on Friday 24th August 2012 as part of his ‘Pastoral’ visit to the Vineyard Region. Bishop Bill also met with Parishioners and was the Main Celebrant that weekend at the Sacramental Mass for ‘Eucharist/Confirmation in the Cessnock Parish.

It is always difficult trying to blend Parish and School communities together, especially when many of our parents and students are not actively part of the Parish of St. Joseph’s at Cessnock. However, we believe that we try to do this quite well. This is made easier in the fact that we still have a Sister of St. Joseph’s working in our school on a daily basis. Sister keeps the channels of communication open between our Parish Priest, Principal, REC and Pastoral Care Worker. The School and Parish community continued to work harmoniously throughout 2012. The School Principal, REC, Assistant Principal, Music Co-ordinator and Parish Priest met to discuss issues and provide opportunities for School and Parish involvement together as a community. Seven members of the staff are actively involved in the Parish Sacramental Team and Children’s Liturgy and provide an excellent link between School and Parish. This is also supported by the teaching of the Religious Education Programme taught in each classroom. The students are also encouraged to be active as altar servers and participate in a variety of roles at the School/Parish Masses. These Parish/School masses are scheduled for each term and a different Stage is in charge of the organisation. Parishioners are invited to all school events and liturgical celebrations on a regular basis via the Parish Bulletin, School newsletter and on the School’s intranet and website.

Our Principal/Assistant Principal regularly attended Pastoral Meetings with the Parish Priest, local Catholic Principals in the Vineyard Region and representatives from the Kurri Kurri, Abermain and Cessnock Parishes to help organise and co-ordinate upcoming events.

The REC and Principal met regularly in 2012 with the Parish Priest to organise School and Parish liturgies. There was also regular electronic communication with the Parish secretary providing information on school events for the weekly Parish Bulletin. Students in the school are actively involved in the Junior St. Joseph DePaul. The school provides support for the local St. Vincent DePaul, the sisters of St. Joseph, the Catholic Missions, Caritas and a variety of Charities. St. Patrick’s students are very aware that their commitment is to the School, Parish and the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. St. Patrick’s Staff and students attended any events that were hosted by the Diocese in 2012.

During 2012 the School community met every morning in the School Quadrangle to pray together. This prayer time was led by the Student Leadership Team. The Staff also gathered early before school each day to pray together in the sanctuary of the Staffroom at 8.45am. Teachers are on a prayer roster to lead the Staff in reflection on a daily basis. This continued regularly throughout 2012 and was seen as a very beneficial spiritual and team building exercise.

**Teaching of Religion**

The teaching of Religion receives high priority at St. Patrick’s in terms of time and resources. All classes K-6 have Religion at 11.00am-11.30am Monday-Thursday and on Fridays for half an hour at varying times during the day, due to fitting in with the Sport’s time-table. The school follows the Diocesan K-12 Religion Syllabus and the students are provided with a variety of learning styles to develop their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Christian Traditions. In keeping with our vision statement, ‘to provide education within the context of the Catholic faith,’ religion is not only taught as a single subject but is incorporated across all Key Learning Areas. As a Staff we continue to support the Parish Sacramental Team by teaching the Sacramental units of work at the same time that the students are enrolled and completing the Parish Sacramental Programme.

During 2012 a couple of teachers continued to complete units of work for their Degree in Religious Education. Our REC completed extra study in Religion in order to obtain a Graduate Certificate in Religion. She graduated in May this year 2012.

The REC provided updates on current topics and resources available for the teaching of religion.

Through our class programmes, liturgies and daily prayer we aim to nurture a love and understanding of Christian values that will be part of the daily life of our students.
**Retreats and Faith Development Programs**

During 2012 St. Patrick’s Spiritual Day took on a different format. The Staff attended a ‘Cluster Spiritual Day’ with quite a few other schools in the ‘All Saints Cluster’. The theme was on ‘Prayer’ but was closely linked to the ‘Year of Grace’.

On-going opportunities were provided for the staff in Faith Development by our local Parish Priest, Sisters of St. Joseph, CSO RE Consultant and the School REC. Many Staff attended Our Lady of Lourdes Tarro School to be involved in spiritual afternoons called ‘Divine Conversations’. This was a great opportunity to network with other teachers regarding their Faith experiences.

A variety of religious magazines are always available in the Staffroom for perusal and use for Faith Studies by Staff, Parents and Parishioners if they wish.

Our REC took 30 students to Blackbutt Reserve to undertake a ‘Mission Walk’. This was a very reflective day for all involved.

**Values (including Social Justice Initiatives)**

The students of St. Patrick’s are encouraged to live the Gospel values through the respect they show to each other and this was supported by the continuation in 2012 of the “Positive Behaviour’s Programme” where each child was challenged to follow the school ‘Pride Guide’ and live the values taught. The Pride Guide reads: Be Respectful, Be an Active Learner, Be Safe. At the weekly school assemblies we continued to develop responsibility and Christian values through class awards and the ‘You Can Do It’ Programme. A special Anti- Bullying programme was also taught in each class regularly to address issues that may arise in this area.

The students were also given ample opportunities to help the poor through daily and class contributions to our mission fund. This money is then given to ‘Caritas Australia & Catholic Missions’. The students also did some fundraising for ‘Penola House’ through our Annual Christmas Appeal. Many hampers were also distributed to families within the school who were in need. Our Minnie Vinnie’s Day raised $1 000 for the school to help out the less fortunate students within the school. Social and human problems were highlighted during 2012 by supporting selected charities. In 2012 we focussed and raised money for the following charities: St. Vincent De Paul, Cancer Research, Deaf foundation, Penola House (Sudanese Refugees) and Cerebral Palsy. A guest speaker from the Cerebral Palsy Foundation came to talk to the students in order to give them an awareness of what it is like to walk in the shoes of a person who lives with Cerebral Palsy.

**Policies**

**Enrolment Policy**

St Patrick’s Primary School Cessnock follows the guidelines provided by the Catholic Schools Office Policy Enrolment (Amended 2008). The Policy has been devised to accommodate, as far as is possible, the needs of families seeking a Catholic education. In situations where enrolments have to be restricted because of limitations on capacity, preference may need to be given to children of Catholic families, as defined in the Policy. Implementation of the Policy is via our local school Enrolment Committee which has discretionary authority in keeping with Diocesan guidelines. Copies of the Policy are available from the school, or from the Catholic Schools Office website. Parents concerned about school fees should ensure they make contact with the school. Diocesan provisions (including standard discounts for those with a Health Card) exist to help in this area, and the Principal can also exercise discretion where genuine need exists.

St. Patrick’s has an enrolment period that starts at the beginning of Catholic School’s Week. All siblings of students in 2012 were given an enrolment form to take home and we advertised the Enrolment Period in the School and Parish news bulletins. At the front of the school was hung a huge enrolment sign to attract prospective students. An Enrolment notice was also placed on the electronic notice board at the front of the school. Enrolment forms were asked to be collected from the school office.

Our Learning Support Teacher also visited the local Pre-Schools in 2012 to promote the school, leaving behind flyers for the various notice boards with details of our school. The enrolment process was then followed up by interviews with all prospective families. We then moved into our transition phase, where there were a series of play groups scheduled at the school and an Orientation Day. The whole Enrolment Process seemed to run very smoothly as we had plenty of space available due to the completion finally of the BER Building Works.
**Student Welfare**

St. Patrick’s continued to follow the ‘You Can Do It Programme’ as well the ‘Positive Behaviour’s Programme’. These programmes support the Welfare and Pastoral Care Programmes within the school.

**A brief outline of St. Patrick’s policies in relation to Student Welfare is as follows:**

- To develop in the children the concept of rights and responsibilities, for themselves and others.
- To acknowledge the individuality and differences of all people and promote appropriate attitudes and behaviours towards others.
- To encourage positive behaviours and relationships between all groups of the school community.
- To develop disciplinary policies and strategies which support and encourage self regulatory behaviours.
- To create an atmosphere of welcome and hospitality for both those within the school community and members of other groups.
- To provide support and practical programmes and strategies for those with special needs.
- To consider the financial situation of all families in the planning of incursions, excursions and other school expenses.

There has been no change made to this policy during 2012. Full text of the policies can be accessed by the school community via the school intranet. Hard copies are available in the office and school foyer.

**Discipline**

**A brief outline of St Patrick’s Policies in relation to Discipline for 2012 is as follows:**

- At no stage is Corporal Punishment of any form administered in the School.
- At St. Patrick’s we believe that the consequences of behaviour should be clear, consistent, relevant and immediate.
- Students must be encouraged to take responsibility for their actions by making restitution whenever/wherever appropriate.
- Teachers engage in a dialogue with the student regarding their behaviour and try to implement strategies to help the child in order to avoid a repeat of this type of behaviour.
- Where possible teachers will administer a consequence that most suits the behaviour.
- Professional judgement must be used in determining the consequences. Repeated offences by the same students may result in Reflection Room time or Community Service.

**The following procedures are to be adhered to:**

- Teachers are responsible for ensuring the safety of students in the classroom and on the playground.
- Teachers must be proactive in their response to dealing with situations as the need arises.
- The school’s Hands-Off Policy is organised to support the child to protect himself/herself from physical violence.
- **Procedural Fairness Procedures** are followed at all times as outlined in the CSO’s Pastoral Care Policy (2003) in regards any complaints made regarding disciplinary measures at St. Patrick’s.

Procedural Fairness is generally recognised as having two essential elements:

1. **The right to be heard which includes:**
   - The right to know why the action is happening
   - The right to know the way in which the issues will be determined
   - The right to know the allegations in the matter and any other information that will be taken into account
   - The right of the person against whom the allegations have been made to respond to the allegations
   - The right to an appeal.

2. **The right of a person to an impartial decision that includes:**
   - The right to impartiality in the investigation and decision making phases
   - The right to an absence of bias in the decision maker.

This Policy has been revised in 2012.

Full text of the policies can be accessed by the school community via the school intranet. Hard copies are available in the office foyer for perusal.
Complaints and Grievances

St Patrick’s School always endeavours to maintain a harmonious and welcoming environment that is free from intimidation, harassment and conflict. Concerns and complaints will be dealt with on a case by case basis by the School Executive. These concerns can be with regard to a student, staff, parent and or an operational matter. In all cases procedural fairness will be a high priority. St. Patrick’s School seeks to resolve grievances fairly, justly, efficiently and promptly in accordance with relevant legislation.

Procedural Fairness is an obligation placed upon organisations and persons making decisions affecting the rights and welfare of others to engage in decision-making with due diligence, transparency and without bias. Procedural fairness affords certain rights to persons including the right to know of matters alleged, the right to respond and the right to appeal decisions made.

Procedural Fairness Procedures are followed at all times as outlined in the CSO’s Complaints Management Policy (2006)

This Policy has been revised in 2012.

Full text of the policies can be accessed by the school community via the school intranet. Hard copies are available in the office foyer for perusal.

Student Achievements

Academic Achievements

St. Patrick’s continued to set high standards in the academic field in 2012. The staff continued to implement programming techniques with specific learning sequences and integrated technologies, such as use of Smart board related activities to enhance teaching and learning. This allowed for engaged learning.

The students were regularly encouraged to enter the various School Competitions in Maths, Science, English, Spelling, Writing and Computer skills. Many of our children achieved distinctions and credits in one or more of these tests. Many children were also encouraged to participate and enter in a range of writing, poetry, maths, art and drawing competitions that were offered to the school throughout the year. These included the Newcastle Permanent Maths Competition (NPBS) Mathematics Olympiad Challenge and the Newcastle Herald Competition. During 2012 a team of Stage 3 students entered ‘The Mayoral Challenge’ in Cessnock run by the Cessnock Council and competed against many other local schools in an Academic Tournament. It was a great experience for our students.

St. Patrick’s had its own Public Speaking Competition, which was held in Term 3. All students from Early Stage 1 to Stage 3 competed in this event. This competition was extremely beneficial in developing and enhancing the oral speaking skills of the students. Quite a few students also competed at the ‘Cluster Public Speaking Competition’ in Maitland with great success. These students then proceeded to compete at a Diocesan level in Newcastle. Many students participated in the All Saint’s Cluster Gifted and Enrichment Days organised by the various schools in the region. The Staff commented that this was a great programme to develop the skills of the students who present with an interest, gift or talent in a certain subject.

During 2012 St. Patrick’s School was part of the ‘National Partnership’s Programme’ for low SES Schools. The Federal Government provided funding for the school to undertake Professional Development Programmes that would enhance the quality of teaching and learning in the areas of Numeracy and Literacy. During 2012 St. Patrick’s chose to concentrate on the area of Numeracy. This involved being part of the TOWN Programme. Throughout the year the Staff noticed a visible improvement in student outcomes as a result of the professional development and increased resources that were made available from the ‘National Partnership’s initiatives.’
Performance in National Testing

**NAPLAN Program 2012 - Year 3**
**Percentage in Skill Band**

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<th>Band 6 and Above</th>
<th>St Patricks Primary School Cessnock</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
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**Cultural Achievements**

St. Patrick’s School is very lucky to have some very talented staff members who were able in 2012 to continue some of the rich cultural traditions of previous years.

The children participated in a wide range of activities and events at school level and also within the local and wider community. Many students entered individually in bible reading and public speaking categories in the Abermain Eisteddfod and also in class/small groups for verse speaking, percussion band, folk group and choir sections. The school performed at an exceptionally high level in all categories with many awards being won. St. Patrick’s also offered guitar lessons in 2012 free of charge before school on a Wednesday. Another Staff member also offered piano lessons after school to some students.

St. Patrick’s children regularly participated with great pride in cultural activities within the community such as Clean-up Australia Day, Annual Anzac Day March and the Mayor’s Breakfast in Education Week.

The St. Patrick’s community is very proud of their Aboriginal heritage. Important celebrations were held during Naidoc Week and Harmony Week. Sorry Day was also celebrated and remembered with a liturgy. The children were often called upon to participate by singing, dancing, moving and showcasing art work and literature centred on an Aboriginal theme. Many of our cultural liturgies contained the use of Aboriginal music and artefacts.

In 2012 the school Aboriginal garden was added to and tended to by our students with Aboriginal heritage. The garden exhibits many native Aboriginal plants, artefacts and paintings with the highlight still being the large and beautiful Cross symbolically painted by an Aboriginal Artist. Many of the students visit this garden to pray and reflect when they feel the need.

The Easter Choral Festival, Chess Club Competitions, Annual Christmas Pageant, School Dance Concert, choir and percussion band performances allowed further opportunities to develop and promote the children’s talents.
One of our teachers was instrumental in organising and co-ordinating the All Saint’s Cluster Showcase and the Dio Sounds showcase for the Diocese. St. Patrick’s School performed at both of these events in the choir, percussion band and folk group sections with resounding results.

Grandparent’s Day was once again a huge cultural event during Catholic School’s Week in 2012. It was a very memorable day for the children, staff and grandparents.

**Sporting Achievements**

Throughout 2012, St Patrick’s students have taken the opportunity to participate in a multitude of sports offered at school, community and representative levels. The children were as always very enthusiastic and took great pride in improving their skills, fitness and ability to work as team members. The main highlights on the Sporting Calendar in 2012 included the Annual School Athletics and Swimming Carnivals in which the majority of the school participated in with great enthusiasm. St. Patrick’s had students continue through to Regional, Diocesan and Polding level in both Athletics and Swimming.

Emphasis was placed on teaching children to lead healthy, active lives at St Patrick’s. This was encouraged with regular exercise breaks timetabled during lessons to promote fitness. School incursions were also scheduled where outside sporting bodies came in to promote sport in the local area.

Excellent representation at all levels of sport was evident in 2012. Throughout the year St Patrick’s had large teams of children attend Regional & Diocesan swimming and athletics carnivals with a smaller group of talented sportspeople continuing on to higher representation. There were very talented students who made it through to Polding Level in soccer and rugby league.

Other sports that St Patrick’s children were represented at Diocesan level included: rugby league, soccer, basketball, and cross country.

Success in team sports was also evident in 2012. Junior and senior boys and girl’s netball teams competed in Netball Gala days in Cessnock, Maitland and Newcastle. Our junior boys’ team was the most successful this year. Lots of training and effort went into the preparation and participation in sport at St Patrick’s during 2012. Great results and achievements are terrific, but seeing the children at St Patrick’s participate with great skill, enthusiasm and pride is of course the greatest reward.

**Other Highlights for 2012**

- Annual School Walkathon
- BER School Opening
- Pastoral visit by Bishop William Wright
- Visit from Federal Member Mr Joel Fitzgibbon
- School Concert
- Grandparent’s Day
- Catholic School’s Week celebrations
- Book Week Parade
- School Discos
- School Excursions and Incursions
- Orientation Days & Playgroups
- Visit from Richard Cootes regarding Mission Work & Fundraising
- Life Education Van
Staff Qualifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications and Experience</th>
<th>Number of Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Teachers with teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR).</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Teachers with qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by NOOSR but lacking formal teaching qualifications</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. (a) Teachers not having qualifications as described in I or II above but having relevant successful teaching experience or appropriate knowledge relevant to the teaching context</td>
<td>(a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. (b) Of these which are New Scheme Teachers.</td>
<td>(b)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Professional Learning Undertaken

It is common practice at St. Patrick's to engage in quite a lot of Professional Development and this continued during 2012. This development was in the form of whole day Inservices and afternoon Inservicing on a Tuesday. The whole day Inservices included a wonderful day in reflection on ‘Prayer’. This was done on a Cluster level and gave the Staff a chance to network with other colleagues in the Region. The Staff also participated in another full day inservice on ICLT provided by a member of the CSO Teaching and Learning Team. The Staff also attended an up-date Inservice on Cyberbullying. Many of our afternoon Inservices related of course around curriculum topics such as: ICLT Forums & Smart board up-dates, Naplan Analysis, WH&S Training & workshops and Literacy courses on comprehension and grammar techniques run by the CSO Teaching and Learning Staff. Other topics covered included; Asthma Training, Diabetes Training, CPR & Emergency Care. All of these afternoons proved very productive and quite valuable to the staff in a professional capacity. The Principal was very supportive of any extra Professional Development and encouraged staff to seek further Professional Inservicing through our Professional Development Funding Plan. This plan allocates an additional day per staff member to organise their own Professional Development in an area that meets their professional needs. The majority of our PD was centred around the TOWN (Taking off with Numeracy) Programme. This involved many Video Conferencing gatherings to network with other schools.

The Executive undertook quite a lot of extra Professional Development in the forms of: an Inservice run by John Hattie at the CSO, an Inservice about the new Attendance Policy being launched, a trip to Sydney to attend an Inservice on ‘Strengthening Parent Partnerships’ (organised through the ‘National Partnership Programme’) as well as a number of Cluster Executive meetings relating to Leadership Modules run by the CSO. Executive Staff at St. Patrick’s also attended many Assembly Days throughout the year.

Teacher Attendance

The average teacher attendance rate for this school is 95%.

Teacher Retention

The teacher retention rate from 2011 to 2012 was 100%.

One of our job-share teachers secured a job closer to home in Newcastle. This was the only change.
Enrolments

**Actual Enrolments 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholastic Year</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
<th>Attendance Rate %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>358</strong></td>
<td><strong>92%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Student Attendance**

The average student attendance rate for students at this school during 2012 was 92%.

**School Priorities**

**Achievement of School Priorities**

Thanks to the funding from the National Partnership a lot of our priorities were achieved. Especially in the area of Mathematics quite a substantial amount of progress was made. Our NAPLAN Results in both Literacy and Numeracy had improved slightly overall from 2011.

All priorities set out in 2012 including an increased focus on Persuasive Text, consolidation of Grammar & Punctuation, improving open communication between parent body and wider community and to increase the parental involvement in the school were achieved. However, possibly the priority of increasing parental involvement wasn’t quite achieved to the level that we had expected.

**Facilities**

- 14 classrooms, 1 CAPA room, Multi-Purpose Room plus a Reading Room
- Staffroom, Library which is quite extensive and a computer Lab housing 30 computers
- Administration block (with Secretary's Office, School Storeroom, RFF room, Disabled Toilet, Sickbay, Principal and Executive Offices and an Interview Room.
- Canteen facilities, PE storeroom, Cleaner's shed & a Student Toilet Block.

A Staff Car Park that accommodated 26 car spaces is also part of the school grounds.

The quadrangle area now has a Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA) erected. This made the quadrangle rain proof.

The playground is divided into two areas; Primary and Infants. The Infant's Playground continued to be beautified with various artworks and gardens being added and maintained. All equipment is covered with sunshades. The Infant’s playground also has a small basketball and netball court.

The playground has a full size netball court, volleyball court, 9 handball courts and a large playground area that has fitness & play equipment for the students to use during lunch and PE lessons.

The school is equipped with 2 large water tanks.

The maintenance of all these facilities is the responsibility of the school as directed by the Principal. Throughout 2012 a general handyman was employed to do minor maintenance.
The P & F Association helped out financially on a few occasions throughout 2012 on minor projects and provided much needed classroom resources.

Church & Parish facilities are 20 mins away from school which is difficult.

**Community Satisfaction**

Community satisfaction was on a real high as 2012 saw the BER Building Project completed and all resources and facilities up and running. The Staff have enjoyed the year with limited interruptions.

Our overall NAPLAN results improved slightly on the year before. In saying this new areas have been targeted for 2013 for improvement. During 2012 St. Patrick’s started implementing programmes associated with the National Partnership (NP) Funding that was provided by the Federal Government. This allowed many new resources to be purchased especially in the area of Mathematics. The School Community was very excited about this new programme and have been quite supportive of the NP Project.

The NP Project has also allowed the School to provide various Parent Workshops and educational advice on a regular basis to the Parent Community.

Once again the P&F Body worked hard to raise a considerable amount of money to put towards the purchasing of air conditioning for the new buildings and other needed resources. The Canteen however was not able to open for five days a week in 2012 on a regular basis due to the lack of volunteers.

**Financial Information**

The following graphs represent the income and expenditure for St Patrick’s Primary School, Cessnock for the school year ending 31 January 2013 as aggregated from the annual returns to the Australian Government's Department of Education, Science and Training.
Concluding Statement

During 2012 the Staff finally had a chance to enjoy their teaching with limited interruptions and relish all the new resources and facilities. The most beneficial addition has been the COLA as all events were able to go ahead in 2012, as the threat of rain was no longer a problem.

Many major events and liturgies continued to be held with the highlight being the BER Opening in June.

The climax for the year was the School Concert. It was absolutely fantastic and a great community builder. The Staff performed an item and danced enthusiastically to the song 'Joeleen (re-mix)'. This certainly was a lot of fun and a good morale booster!

The Executive would like to thank the Staff for their continued commitment, dedication and professionalism in 2012. We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to all our students and their families for supporting and making St. Patrick’s the fabulous school that it is.

Report Access and Publication

This report is available to members of the school and wider communities. Copies will be supplied to the Catholic Schools Office, The Board of Studies, The Parents and Friends Association, the Parish Priest and to all parents.

Copies of this school's Annual School Report are available to the general public. Persons wishing to access a copy of the report should contact:

Miss Penny Tully
Principal
St. Patrick’s Primary School
155 Wollombi Road
Cessnock  N.S.W  2325
(02) 4990-3152
For further information relating to the Diocesan Policy please refer to: http://mn.catholic.edu.au