ANNUAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY REPORT

Year: 2013
School Name: Sacred Heart Catholic School
School Type: K - 6
Suburb/Town: Geeveston
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Principal: Mr Luch Brighella

School Profile
Sacred Heart Catholic School is a Co-Educational School (K-6) with an enrolment of 182 students that has provided a quality education for students in the Huon Valley Region for 75 years. The School is situated on 10 acres about 3km outside the township of Geeveston. Today, a dedicated and professional staff team carry on the spirit and traditions of our founders, The Sisters of Saint Joseph. The School has an excellent educational reputation in the local and wider community. The school has a comprehensive Aboriginal Education program, which has been adopted by many other Catholic primary schools, and participates fully in numerous community events and activities. The school is a collaborative environment where staff and students work together in teams where learning takes place in small interpersonal groupings. The school offers a range of specialist programs in Spanish, visual art, physical education, library, outdoor education, learning support, school counselling and music. Information communication and technology is a particular strength of the school with ICT fully integrated across all learning areas. There are many opportunities for parents to work in partnership with the school, thereby strengthening the bonds of communication.

Catholic Life and Mission
Liturgy
All staff and students have the opportunity to participate in Mass several times a year. The school year always commences with a Beginning of Year Mass where a commitment is made by the whole community to the year ahead asking God to be with us. Classes also come together each week for a Weekly Prayer gathering. This prayer often focuses on our Religious Education unit of the readings from the Sunday Mass. Each team at SHCS prepares a Parish Mass once a month at St Joseph’s Church.

During December the Grade 6 class joins all other Grade 6 classes in Southern Catholic schools at St Mary’s Cathedral for Mass. This celebration is in the presence of Archbishop Doyle, Archbishop of Tasmania, who celebrated this Mass for the final time before retiring. This occasion is a time to celebrate the primary years that these students have spent in Catholic schools. All students are moving on from their primary years and to a new stage of their lives, in moving on to Secondary
schools. The Sacred Heart Grade 6 also have a family gathering where they remember primary years and are presented with a memento of their years at Sacred Heart. This occasion is a time of joy and sadness, and much looked forward to by the whole school community. During the School Thanksgiving Mass the students receive a certificate of recognition of their time at Sacred Heart and receive a blessing for a wonderful life.

In June 2013 the whole school community gathered to celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart with the parish community. This is an important Feast Day for the community, which sees the school community remember and celebrate the Founding Order of the School, The Sisters of St Joseph. In August 2013 the school continued to strengthen the relationship with the Sisters by celebrating The Feast Day of St Mary MacKillop with St James Catholic College from Cygnet. The school also continued a Junior Joeys program for students in Grade 4-6. This group of dedicated students meet regularly to ensure the vision of our Founding Order continues to be lived out daily. The Junior Joeys visited Huon Eldercare and Dover Multi-purpose Centre, on a number of occasions to interact with the residents and to participate in Mass. We also had a visit from the Sister Jill Dance who was keen to share the Josephite story.

In 2013, Sacred Heart celebrated its 75th Anniversary with a special Mass attended by past and present students, along with members of the local and wider community. This was a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the significant work of the Sisters of St Joseph and to also celebrate the rich traditions and charism of the Sisters.

Mrs Eva Dunn our School/Parish Pastoral Associate continued to build and strengthen the relationship between the school and the Huon Valley Parish. Eva's role had a positive impact on the school environment and she initiated many new programs and structures across all areas of the curriculum, particularly, Religious Education. Eva worked with our School Counsellor, Mrs Robyn Evans and Teacher Assistant, Mrs Leanne Hall to run weekly Rainbows sessions. The Rainbows program is designed to assist students that have experienced some form of loss.

School in Life of Parish Diocese.

In 2013 a number of children received the sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist in the Parish. This follows the new structure for the Sacramental Programs instituted by Archbishop Doyle in 2006 for Tasmania. The students were prepared at Sacred Heart, by Fr Greg and staff from Sacred Heart and St James. This was a special time for both the school community and the wider Huon Valley parish Community.

In Term 1 the children of Sacred Heart entered whole-heartedly into Project Compassion. Children collected coins during Lent. Some classes had interesting ways to raise money, which would be used by Caritas for a better life for children in other parts of the world. The money raised was collected and a cheque presented to Mr O'Halloran from Caritas Australia.

Grade Learning Teams continued to plan and lead monthly Parish Masses in St Joseph's Church. These special occasions were well attended by Parish members and parents in the school community. It was very re-assuring to see children involved with special parts in these Masses.

Spirituality program

In 2013 the school offered a number of formal and informal opportunities for the
staff and students to develop and enrich their own spirituality. Individual staff attended Spirituality workshops offered by the Catholic Education Office and staff from both Sacred Heart and St Therese's Moonah came together for a Josephite Spirituality day that was held at the Josephite History Centre in New Town. Staff gathers weekly for prayer and reflection and attend Mass regularly. Four staff members were fortunate enough to either travel to Sydney to participate in the Josephite Colloquium at Mary MacKillop Place or attend the Tasmanian Josephite Colloquium.

There were numerous opportunities throughout the year for the children and their families to attend whole school and small group gatherings that aimed to strengthen their spirituality. Our Pastoral Associate, Mrs Eva Dunn facilitated numerous workshops and activities for our community members and worked in class with our teachers to support the Religious Education Programs.

Peter Mitchell's Making Jesus Real (MJR) program was once again a highlight of the programs being offered to our Grade 5/6 Team. This spirituality program for children challenges them to reflect upon the GOD Moments of their daily lives and to live daily the Gospel message.

Religious Education program.

Good News for Living is the Tasmanian Religious Education program followed by schools in Tasmania. During 2013 staff continued to share knowledge and planning in preparation of units of work for their classes using some staff meeting time to have periods of co-planning. Father Greg Barker, our Parish Priest continued to be a strong, guiding presence within our school community, especially through Eucharistic celebrations and the Sacramental Program. Fr Greg was also very keen to work with teachers on the preparation of Masses and also ran Religious Education professional learning sessions for staff.

Staff continued to work towards Accreditation to teach Religious Education and others on their Masters of Educational Leadership. Two beginning teachers were also part of a formal mentoring and coaching program that was supported by the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office.

Community Participation and Christian Outreach.

In 2013 Sacred Heart Catholic School contributed to various community and outreach programs.

The school supported Project Compassion, Archbishop's Doyle's Samaritan Fund, the ABC Giving Tree and numerous other local charities. Our Junior Joeys also visited Huon Eldercare Complex in Franklin on a number of occasions. The school held a number of stalls at community events. These included a presence at the Geeveston Community Fun Day, the Billycart Derby, Focus on Franklin, Huon Show & Geeveston Festival. In 2013 Sacred Heart also participated in a number of activities with our friends and colleagues at Geeveston, Franklin and Dover schools. We held a number of gatherings at each site including two performances. One of the performances was Bravehearts, which teaches children about protective behaviours.

Sacred Heart also sponsored a group of Indigenous students and staff from the Tiwi Islands, Northern Territory, on a visit to Tasmania. This strengthened the connection between the two schools that has been in place in recent years.

2013 saw the introduction of a Breakfast Club providing warm Milo and toast every
morning. Banjos Bakery who supplied bread each day and the Bendigo Bank who provided a $3000 donation supported this program. Staff, students and parents worked well together to run this program.

Parent Participation.
The parents of the school participate in many ways including parent tutoring in class, at sporting events, by attending camps and excursions and also by their involvement with a very active Parents & Friends group. Parents also assisted with MultiLit, the Breakfast Club and our new Veggie Garden Project. Without the hard work of the parent group the playgrounds and our surroundings would not be so pleasant. These parent groups also are a way of alleviating some of the distance and isolation, which can be part of rural communities.

In 2013 the Parents and Friends Association at Sacred Heart Catholic School continued to actively support our teaching and learning programs and fundraise significant funds to support the school budget. The members have met monthly throughout the school year to plan and organise a number of very significant events. These events have highlighted the strong sense of community that is evident at Sacred Heart Catholic School. In 2013 the Parents & Friends association contributed thousands of dollars to assist students and the staff with additional resources for the school generally and more specifically, within the classroom. The P&F contributed to resources for our new spelling program, sports equipment, electronic devices and home readers. Our P&F also supported our Grade 6 students on their first trip to Melbourne. The group also ensured that the school was represented at the annual Huon Show and other community events. I would like to thank the President, Mrs Narelle Gane and her enthusiastic group for their valuable contribution to the life of our school community.

The School Board, led by Mr Tony Bradley continued to be a very supportive and proactive group in our community. The Board met monthly to assist with the planning and finances of the school. In 2013 the School Board continued to oversee the financial running of the school and also our Government Bus Contracts. The Board has worked tirelessly to ensure that all families in the Huon Valley have an opportunity to send their children to SHCS. The Board was very determined that school fees and other costs were kept to an absolute minimum. The School Board were very proactive in supporting families with fee assistance and regularly communicated this with the parent community.

Our Learning Community
Learning and Teaching
Our learning and teaching program continued to be reviewed and developed during 2013. A major focus in 2013 is to continue with the implementation of the Australian Curriculum in the areas of Mathematics, English, Science and History. Staff attended numerous external and internal professional learning sessions and had assistance from the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office.

In 2013 Sacred Heart continued the ACTION MATHS program, which is funded through the Federal Government. This comprehensive program aims to strengthen the numeracy skills of the students through building the capacity of our teaching staff. Every student in the school has a numeracy interview with their teacher that clearly outlines their strengths and weaknesses. This valuable data is then used to collaboratively plan engaging learning experiences for students.

Another major focus was for the continued implementation of the School-Wide Positive Support Program (PBS). This
program is aimed at improving the social and emotional skills of the students by rewarding positive behaviour. PBS was formally launched at the start of the 2013 school year.

The staff also continued to plan and resource the spelling program, 'Letters & Sounds' that commenced at the beginning of 2011. This phonics-based program, which was fully resourced by our P&F group was successfully implemented from Kindergarten to Grade 3.

A specialist program continued to be offered so that not only were award conditions met for staff but students had the opportunity for PE, Music, LOTE and Library taken by specialist teachers who could develop skills to a greater level. Students participated in a variety of outside school activities, which added greatly to developing a whole person. Chess competitions were held regularly and the more able chess players represented the school in local competition. Greater contact is made outside the Huon Valley for students able to participate in Athletic, Swimming and Cross Country Carnivals when the school joins other southern Catholic schools in competition. 2013 saw the third year of our curriculum based dance program - DANCEFEVER. The program was an outstanding success with students from K-6 enjoying the lessons and the Grade 3-6 students participating the Inter-School Challenge.

Targeted programs

In 2013, 12 students were funded for learning disabilities and 4 students received assistance under the Aboriginal Education Program. The literacy and numeracy funding grant also enabled many other children to extra tuition in small groups, in class and also individually if required. The Country Areas Program assisted with the Dance Program. The Country Areas program also allows a Teacher Aide with ICT skills to work with Early Years children to introduce and also skill them to a level of independence in ICT. Sacred Heart was also a trial school for using ipads with students with disabilities. This trial proved to be very successful and definitely assisted with the students' learning.

Aboriginal Grants allow for all students who have aboriginal heritage to develop to their full potential or gain greater achievement. A unit of work has been developed across the school, which is developmental in knowledge building and also in awareness of the Tasmanian Aboriginal population and its distinctive culture. Each year around the time of NAIDOC Week this unit is taught. An assembly of activity is presented to parents.

Through the Aboriginal Educational Funding our Grade 6 students received a grant to continue to develop our Reconciliation Garden that was built by our Grade 6 leavers in 2008. The garden continues to be a quiet and reflective area in our school environment. We also received funding to host our friends from Tiwi Islands. This was an outstanding success for both schools involved. A very successful Aboriginal Family Camp was held on Murrayfield, Bruny Island.

A Federally Funded Project to lift the Literacy and Numeracy outcomes of Aboriginal students was conducted throughout 2013 and provided teachers with an opportunity to attend regular professional learning to further support their Literacy and Numeracy program. An Aboriginal cultural program was established to support the Literacy and Numeracy Program.
Literacy and Numeracy

Sacred Heart’s literacy & numeracy results in 2013 highlighted the extensive work and professional learning that had been facilitated over the previous years. The results have been thoroughly unpacked and have been an extremely useful tool for informing our teaching and learning programs.

School Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) value: 980 (average ICSEA value = 1000)

NAPLAN Results 2013

Grade 3
READING - 409 (na 419) WRITING - 421 (na 416) SPELLING - 402 (na 411) GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION - 408 (na 428) NUMERACY - 357 (na 397)

Grade 5
READING - 483 (na 502) WRITING - 477 (na 478) SPELLING - 480 (na 484) GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION - 482 (na 501) NUMERACY - 462 (na 486)

(na = National Average)

A rigorous testing program occurs in November, which is analysed by class teachers and the Support teacher to assist with targets for the next year and also allows teachers to provide a differentiated program for all students. The staff analysis forms part of the discussion and planning for professional development activities for staff.

Two written reports with A-E ratings were sent home to parents throughout the year and two compulsory parent/teachers were held.

Pastoral Care

The promotion of a family atmosphere is supported in all we do. In 2013 our school fully implemented our School-Wide Positive Behaviour Program (PBS). A number of staff were trained in the program during 2012 and led the process at school level. Considerable amount of time, energy and resources were used to ensure this important initiative was fully launched at the beginning of the 2013 school year. PBS has a focus on promoting and rewarding positive behaviour and explicitly teaching desired behaviours. A very exciting program that assists all students and staff!

Students in grade 6 follow the 'Making Jesus Real' program, which assists them as they begin the transition to secondary school and also entering teenage years. Students spend time each week both as a class group also writing a private journal about how they are journeying through this time. This program is based on children learning and taking responsibility for their lives now and into the future. It is based on all the values we hold as necessary for our community to work.

Sacred Heart continued to work closely with a number of outside agencies to support children and their families. Mrs Robyn Evans our school counsellor worked with vulnerable students and their families and offered a range of support, including 'Get Lost Mr Scary' & Cool Kids'. Both programs support and guide children that experience anxiety. We had a number of children involved with the Eddie Rice Camps. Mrs Eva Dunn continued to facilitate the Rainbows Program for those students that experienced any form of loss.

The School offered a Playgroup session for families on a Monday morning that was a great social gathering. Many families in the area took up the opportunity to use this service.

Strategic Planning

Sacred Heart Catholic School has engaged its key stakeholders over a number of years in a process of analysis and
evaluation to assist with the School Improvement Process and strategically plan for the future needs of the school. The process has been school-based, learning centred and future orientated.

The School Improvement Process is driven by the desire to enhance student learning by engaging and involving the community in critical reflection. In 2013 the School Leadership Team gathered feedback from the school, Parish and wider community and completed the process of establishing our next 5-year, School Improvement Plan. The School Leadership Team led this process, which saw the School Improvement Plan finalised and implemented with the support of the School Board. This plan has stated the direction of the school for the next five years and will assist with planning and ensure we continue to be faithful to our founding order, the Archbishop's Charter and other key documents.

**Enrolment and Staffing**

The enrolment for 2013 was consistent at 185 (Kindergarten - 26, P-6 159). There was a staff of 15 full and part time teaching staff with 7 teacher assistants, a utility officer and 3 office staff. All staff have the required qualifications to be registered with the Tasmanian Teacher Registration Board. Five staff members have postgraduate qualifications (1 Masters of Educational Leadership & 2 Graduate Certificates in Religious Education & 2 Graduate Certificates in Mathematics). All but two of our Grade 6 leavers continued their education in the Catholic Education System with the other two students attending the local Government school.

Sacred Heart Catholic School complies to the guidelines and procedures outlined in the Tasmanian Catholic Education Commission’s Enrolment for Catholic Schools Policy and Sacred Heart Catholic School's Attendance Policy.

**SCHOOL FACTS** (taken from MySchool website)

School Sector: Non-government
School Type: Primary
Year Range: Kindergarten - 6
Total Enrolments: 159 (P-6) + 26 (K)
Boys: 82 (P-6)
Girls: 77 (P-6)
Full Time Equivalent enrolments: 159
Indigenous students: 13%
Location: Provincial
Student Attendance Rate: 93%
Teaching Staff: 14
Full-Time equivalent teaching staff: 10.2
Teaching Staff Attendance: 96% (taken from centralised database)
Non-Teaching staff: 10
Full-Time equivalent non-teaching staff: 4.2

**Community Involvement**

As a school we try to participate in as many community events as is possible. The music students participated in a community concert, which involves all schools in the Huon Valley - public and independent. The school also participated in other events such as the Huon Agricultural Show and ANZAC and Remembrance Day services. Connection with the Parish is through Sacramental preparation and attendance at weekday masses.

**Summary Financial Information**

**Financial Statement**

A copy of the school Financial Statement will be forwarded to you from the Finance and Administrative Services CEO.
About this Report

In preparing this report, information has been gathered from evaluations conducted during the year. Information about the school's practices and student learning outcomes have also been analysed and from this goals for the school's future development have been determined.

This Report was prepared by:

Luch Brighella
Principal

Signed