



Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn
CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE

ST FRANCIS XAVIER PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lake Cargelligo, NSW

2013 Annual Report



SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

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PRINCIPAL

MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Principal's Message

As we come to the end of another successful school year we use this Annual Report to share our accomplishments with both our school and the wider community. Our mission at St Francis Xavier School is to nurture the child in a Catholic Community where Christ is our focus and where children are actively involved in learning. During 2013 we have continued to work on improvements in Literacy and Numeracy and using technology as an educational tool. 'Dare to Lead' provided a 'Snapshot' of our community and also provided Professional Development for all staff so we continue to build stronger relationships within the wider Aboriginal community. Our students have also enjoyed many successes this year

School Council Message

Our Council has had a successful year fundraising and providing our students with many cultural and educational experiences through the benefit of this fundraising. The Council has worked alongside the principal to help the school achieve its many goals. We have a small committee but they continue to be a strong supportive group that want what is best for the school community. Highlights have been another successful School Fete / Car Boot Sale, many catering opportunities and knowledge that all students have benefited from the hard work of the committee.

SCHOOL FEATURES

St Francis Xavier School is a Catholic Primary School located in Lake Cargelligo. The school caters for students in Kindergarten - Year 6, and has a current enrolment of 41 students.

Students attending this school come from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities consisting of 49% male and 51% female students; 70% indigenous students; and 73% Language Background other than English (LBOTE).

The school employs 12 staff comprising 6 teachers and 6 non-teaching staff, the latter being employed in a variety of capacities including clerical support, learning support, cleaner and grounds maintenance.

St Francis Xavier School is set in the rural area of central-western NSW, and families come from the surrounding area. St Francis Xavier School was founded by the Sisters of St Joseph in February 1929. The school continues to be committed to follow in the footsteps of the Sisters of St Joseph through partnership with the parish and community, with all families including our Aboriginal families.

The school prides itself on being a special part of the family of God, making all families feel welcome and appreciating the continued support of families at the school in running educational activities, fundraising and creating an atmosphere of care and concern for all.

St Francis Xavier School is a small rural school. However, with the use of extensive technology and modern teaching programs, students participate in a creative and engaging curriculum that caters for individual differences. This year has seen the school, staff and students, learn to use iPads as an educational tool.

St Francis Xavier School has again celebrated many special events this year. These have included Sacramental celebrations, feast days, Holy Week and Easter, 'Reconciliation

Week', NAIDOC week, ANZAC day, Catholic Schools Week, Bookweek, National Tree Planting Day and Clean Up Australia Day. We were also involved in the local 'Back to Lake' weekend, decorating our school bus and joining in the street parade and having our choir sing at the community concert.

St Francis Xavier School has again this year been able to offer two special programs; Reading Recovery and Numeracy Intervention Program. Individual children are identified early and receive Reading Recovery (RR) and Numeracy Improvement (NIP) in order to optimise their acquisition of the basic skills in Literacy and Numeracy.

The school participated successfully in many local events including the 'Blue Water's Art Exhibition' and the Lake Cargelligo Show. Success was also achieved in a range of other activities including public speaking at the Western Region competition and the CWA Public Speaking competition. Individual students, our verse speaking choir and singing choir received many awards and trophies at two local Eisteddfods this year as well. Our singing choir also received an Encouragement award at the Choir Festival in Canberra. A significant number of our students were involved in cultural events, at the school or in the community. As an Archdiocesan school students have had the opportunity to participate beyond the local community in swimming, cross-country and athletics events. Five of our students went on to compete at the Archdiocesan level in Athletics and then onto the state level. We were extremely proud of their achievements. Our students also participated successfully in various AFL, netball and touch football events held the region

The school's website can be found at www.sfxlake.nsw.edu.au

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

St Francis Xavier School follows the Archdiocesan Religious Education Curriculum, *Treasures New and Old*.

St Francis Xavier's School is a Catholic community which endeavors to live the message of hope experienced in the Resurrection. 'For God and Australia', our school provides a 'Catholic Education' with a real-life and inclusive approach to Religious Education and Spiritual Formation.

Religious Education is important and valued in our school community because it gives the opportunity for all to develop and strengthen their relationship with God and all people. Each school day is begun by praying together and each Friday we join together with the school community in the parish mass which celebrates the week's achievements. Once a term we celebrate Mass at the preschool in the local Aboriginal community, Murrin Bridge. In 2013 students celebrated the sacraments of First Eucharist and Reconciliation. We also celebrated the Baptism of six of our students in one of our School Liturgies. This was a very special celebration for our school and parish family. We also celebrated special feast days, including St Francis Xavier, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Advent and Christmas together. During 2013 the program 'Making Jesus Real' was introduced. This program has helped the students learn to look after each other more and show more respect. Each day is a reminder of how we can learn to live a better life following Jesus. We have Manners Monday, Take a Risk Tuesday, Well Done Wednesday, Thanking Thursday and Fabulous Friday

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT - NAPLAN

Students in **Years 3 and 5** sat the *National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy* (NAPLAN) in May this year. NAPLAN assessment results provide valuable information about student achievements in Literacy and Numeracy. An analysis of these results assists school planning and is used to support teaching and learning programs.

Our results show the areas which we as a school community need to continue to work towards, as well as celebrating the success of individual students. We were delighted with the positive growth for most of our Year 5 Aboriginal students.

Though careful analysis of the results from NAPLAN we will continue to work to improve all students results in literacy and numeracy. We will continue to focus on strategies for problem solving as well as a variety of testing techniques so as to assist the students to become more confident with the format and style of the NAPLAN testing.

SCHOOL POLICIES

Enrolment Policy

In enrolling students we are directed by the Archdiocesan Enrolment Policy which can be found on the Annual Report page of the school's website or on the Catholic Education Office website at <http://www.ceocg.catholic.edu.au/parents/Pages/GeneralPolicies.aspx>

St Francis Xavier School offers a full Orientation program for all perspective enrolments. The Orientation program begins in early Term 4 and goes over a seven week period. This allows the students to gain confidence in their new environment. 2013 Kinder Orientation was seven full days and was extremely successful for all our new Kindergarten students. Kinder Orientation concluded this year on our St Francis Xavier Feast Day with the students graduating at a whole school assembly.

Attendance Policy

St Francis Xavier School's Attendance Policy is aligned to the Canberra Goulburn Catholic Education Office Policy "Attendance at Schools (NSW)" Jan 2013.

Class teachers record daily absences in a class roll according to guidelines at the commencement of each school day. Parents are encouraged to provide a written explanation of a student's absence.

If a written explanation is not forthcoming within two weeks of the student's return to school, the class teacher issues a formal reminder.

The Principal will contact parents or guardians if records indicate a non-compliance with Compulsory School Attendance Legislation. The Principal and school staff will endeavour to assist families who may be experiencing difficulty with complying with regulations.

Pastoral Care Policy

Behaviour management at St Francis Xavier School is embedded in the Pastoral Care Policy. It is based on a principle of rights and responsibilities so that students understand that the two go hand-in-hand. Each classroom has a list of rules set in positive terms developed by both the teacher and the students.

The aim of the policy is to build skills and attitudes that promote well maintained and respectful relationships with individuals and with the wider community.

Corporal punishment is expressly prohibited in this school. In addition we do not sanction the administering of corporal punishment by non-school persons to enforce discipline at our school.

The full text of the school's Pastoral Care and Welfare Policy is available on the school website or from the Front Office.

Complaints and Grievances Resolution Policy

The school policy is based on procedural fairness and recognises that parents and caregivers must have access to processes that allow them to resolve concerns in a supportive and conciliatory environment. Any concerns raised are responded to promptly and fairly and confidentiality is always maintained. A full text of the school policy is available on the school website or from the Front Office.

PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

St Francis Xavier School will continue to devote significant energy to raising standards of literacy and numeracy in a way that meets the needs of every student in our school, whatever their academic ability. We will continue to offer Reading Recovery and the Numeracy Intervention Program in 2014 to assist students optimise their acquisition of the basic skills in Literacy and Numeracy.

St Francis Xavier School received Country Area Program Funding (CAP) in 2013 and will receive Outer Regional School Support in 2014. This funding is used to minimise some of the disadvantages that occur as a result of the location of our school. We are most grateful to the Australian Government for this funding. In 2013 CAP funding assisted our staff in preparing the school for the changes in the new NSW Board of Studies Curriculum, ensuring all staff are ready to implement any changes successfully and without disruption to student learning. CAP funding has assisted our school in keeping up with changes and innovation in technology, assisting in Professional Development for staff in the educational use of iPads and providing our students with the opportunity to learn more about using iPads as a learning tool from other students in regionally close schools.

During 2014 St Francis Xavier will utilise this Outer Regional School Funding to continue to work towards improvement of Literacy and Numeracy outcomes for all students, with a focus on improving Writing, Spelling and Grammar. The staff will also continue with the work commenced in 2013 in implementing the Australian Curriculum. We will also continue to implement a technology-based pedagogy and content together to enable powerful learning for all students.

The past two years has seen the beginnings of our School Environmental Education Plan and the development of a Native Bush Tucker, Fruit and Vegetable garden, reduction of waste material through composting and our worm farm. During 2014 this plan will continue to develop with further funding being made available through the successful 'Food Garden in Schools Program' application. Within this plan we will also focus on healthy sustainable living, with many hands on activities highlighting lifelong skills and lessons.

Above all, as a Catholic school, we will endeavour, in unison with parents, a child's first educators, to nurture a spirit of personal and social spirituality, in line with the stated aims of Catholic education.

Finally we will continue to work with our Stage 3 students in Peer Support, 'Making Jesus Real' and other leadership programs and continue to ensure our Pastoral Care and Behavioural Management policies and programs address the needs of our school community.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Professional Learning

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

The school held six whole staff days in 2013. The content of these days was as follows:

- Administration day for policies and practises, with a session focusing on Numeracy lesson components.
- Spirituality Day focusing on Aboriginal Spirituality and the 'Making Jesus Real' Program
- Aboriginal Education focusing on Personalised Learning Plans, building Community Relationships and working towards an ideal schooling experience for all Indigenous students. This day was facilitated by 'Dare to Lead' consultant Brian Giles Browne.
- Australian Curriculum System Day (for all schools in the Western Region)
- NSW English Syllabus - focusing on Spelling and Grammar.

Teachers also participated in four twilight meetings. These sessions were for staff to gain knowledge in Behaviour Management (Systematic Screening for Behaviour Disorders), Skillstreaming (Social Skills program), THINKFEST, the Jolly Phonics program and work on the new NSW English Syllabus.

Other school Professional Development included:

- New staff received training in First Steps Reading and Accreditation A in Religious Education.
- All Staff were involved in professional development to further their Professional Competencies in Reading, Information Technology; use of iPads and the operating system LIFE and improving teaching and learning of Numeracy.
- Individual staff were involved in Reading Recovery, Cultural Immersion program, Early Career training days, Making Jesus Real, Using Data and Evidence to Support Leadership and Live Life Well.

Teacher Qualifications

All teachers are qualified as required by the relevant State and Territory bodies.

TEACHER ATTENDANCE AND RETENTION

The average teacher attendance rate during 2013 was 98.5%.

The teacher retention rate from 2012 to 2013 was 50%.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

The average student attendance for the school during 2013 was 88.7%.

School attendance rates disaggregated by Year group are shown in the following table.

Attendance rates by Year group

Kindergarten	75%
Year 1	92.5%
Year 2	91%
Year 3	96%
Year 4	95.5%
Year 5	92%
Year 6	79%

PARENT, TEACHER AND STUDENT SATISFACTION

St Francis Xavier School is an inclusive school where everyone has many gifts and talents to share. It is this generosity of spirit and the supportive nature of the school community that makes St Francis Xavier such a special place for students, parents and staff.

Parents have expressed an appreciation of the extra work, commitment and dedication staff have given to the school; in the learning activities and in the extra-curricular activities planned to target the interests and talents of the students. Parents have enjoyed seeing the students succeeding in sporting activities, at the local art competitions and at Eisteddfods. The highlight of the year was the successful end of year performance, which showed the talents of every student, through singing, dramatic performances, choreographing or dancing.

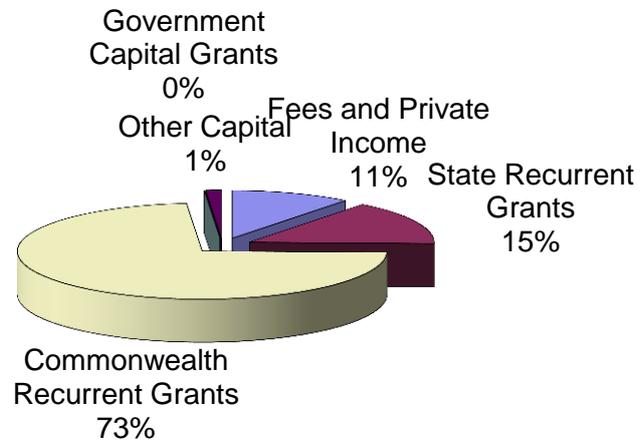
Students have expressed the opinion that their school, St Francis Xavier, is a wonderful community where they feel a sense of pride. Students feel that there were many opportunities to be involved in exciting learning opportunities and enjoy representing the school. Students feel the teachers care for them and are willing to help them.

Staff enjoy working together for the benefit of the students and the school community and feel their voice is important. Many opportunities are provided for further professional development and staff appreciate the efforts made to accommodate them at these opportunities.

The work ethic at St Francis Xavier School is infectious. The staff and parents are generous, supportive and driven and together believe in the school and are dedicated to achieving the best they can for the students.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

St Francis Xavier Lake Cargelligo - Income



St Francis Xavier Lake Cargelligo - Expenditure

