



Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn
CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE

ST FRANCIS XAVIER PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lake Cargelligo, NSW

2014 Annual Report



SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

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This report was prepared by:

Mrs Jacinta Elwin

PRINCIPAL

MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Principal's Message

2014 has been a great year at St Francis Xavier Primary School. There have been many learning achievements and improvements made by the students throughout the year and together we have shared many community celebrations. Our main focus this year have been to improve writing across the school, to incorporate real life learning in all Key Learning Areas (KLA's) through the use of garden and kitchen lessons and to further integrate the 'Making Jesus Real' (MJR) program to continue to build positive relationships with all members of the school community. Through many staff training opportunities, continuous support from the Catholic Education Office consultants and a very strong Stage 3 leadership group we have worked together collaboratively to accomplish many successes.

School Council Message

Our dedicated Council members have had a very productive year. We hope that the discussions at meetings regarding policy development, school enhancement and promotion have assisted our leader in making difficult decisions. The Council supports our principal wholeheartedly and will continue to assist her in achieving her many goals.

The fundraising team have continued to work hard funding educational experiences.

Highlights have been another successful School Fete/Car Boot Sale, home cooking Fridays and many catering opportunities and knowledge that all students have benefited from the hard work of the committee.

Student Representative's Message

We were both relieved and very proud when our names were the called at the end of year Mass last year. Being school leaders have been one of our greatest achievements in our lives so far. We have attended St Francis Xavier School since kindergarten and now as we complete primary schooling we couldn't be more proud of our year.

During the year we have represented our school in many events including ANZAC Day celebrations and sporting events. We have had the opportunity of attending excursions, NAIDOC Mass and school Mass every Friday.

The school has supported us in many things. We have both made sporting teams in athletics and football and the school has been there every step of the way. There is never a dull moment at St Francis Xavier, if you're having a bad day there is always someone who will give you a smile and cheer you up because St Francis Xavier is a safe and loving school.

This year the school has had one of the best leadership groups the school has had in a long time. (Tom Phillips and Maddison Bell)

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 36 students.

Students attending this school come from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities consisting of 20 male and 16 female students; 26 indigenous students; and 26 with a Language Background other than English (LBOTE).

The school employs 11 staff comprising 5 teachers and 6 non-teaching staff, the latter being employed in a variety of capacities including clerical support, learning support, cleaner and grounds maintenance. Four staff members identify as Indigenous.

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 have a strong partnership with the parish and community 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 Primary 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.

We have again celebrated many special events this year. These have included Sacramental celebrations; First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation (celebrated by Archbishop Christopher Prowse), feast days, Holy Week and Easter, Catholic Schools Week, 'Close the Gap Day', 'Reconciliation Week', NAIDOC week, ANZAC day, Bookweek, National Tree Planting Day and Clean Up Australia Day.

St Francis Xavier Primary 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. Students and staff also entertained locals at the Biennial Ollie Townsend Memorial Concert.

Success was achieved in public speaking at the Western Region Public Speaking competition and the CWA Public Speaking competition. Individual students, our verse speaking choir and singing choir received many awards and trophies at the Forbes and Leeton Eisteddfods again this year. Students and staff were recognised during NAIDOC Week awards, both in the local shire awards and the Canberra Goulburn Archdiocesan awards.

As an Archdiocesan school students have had the opportunity to participate beyond the local community in swimming, cross-country and athletics events. Our students also participated successfully in various AFL, netball and touch football events held the region. The school was an AASC school, providing opportunities for our students to participate in the free after school sporting program. This year we ran sessions in basketball, cricket, football, softball, bowling, and squash.

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 Primary School is a Catholic community which endeavours to live the message of hope experienced in the Resurrection. The Catholic ethos of St Francis Xavier's Primary School is intrinsic to the teaching and learning which has at its heart, the school's Vision;

"Lake alive with Dreamtime knowledge, Waves of learning, Sail into the Future"

Our school community has an abundant wealth of knowledge and tradition from the Sisters of St Joseph, who founded our school in 1929, the parish community which has always had and continues to have strong connections with the school, and the Aboriginal community made up from the Wiradjuri, the Nyaampa and the Barkanji nations. With this knowledge, experience, expertise and continuing efforts to provide quality learning opportunities for our students we aim to work towards improving outcomes for future generations, providing our students with the desire to be life-long learners and achieve their unique potential.

Within the context of our Catholic community, it is the mission of members of our school community to... *"work in an environment of mutual respect for cultures and backgrounds and celebrating the Gospel principles in order to achieve quality education for all."*

The opportunity to foster the gospel values of love, compassion, reconciliation, transformation, justice and hope is intrinsic to the teaching/learning situation through literature and personal and life experience. Such values underpin the work of the teacher in the Catholic school and are addressed both implicitly and explicitly in teaching and learning.

We have a strong sense of community where each member is respected and each person's contribution is valued. We are always aiming to develop stronger links between the school and families, and the staff work together to provide the best possible educational outcomes for the children in our school community.

Each school day is begun by praying together and each Friday we join together for the parish Mass which celebrates the week's achievements. Once a term we celebrate our Mass at the preschool in the local Aboriginal community, Murrin Bridge.

In 2014 students celebrated the sacraments of Confirmation, First Eucharist and Reconciliation. Two of our staff were confirmed this year with twenty one students from the local area. We also celebrated special feast days, including St Francis Xavier, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Advent and Christmas together.

The 'Making Jesus Real' (MJR) program continued to be implemented during 2014. We have noticed that this program has continued to help students learn to look after each other and show each other respect. Each day is a reminder of how we can learn to live a better life following Jesus.

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.

School and National Mean Scale Scores

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	419	402	412	426	402
School	448	419	431	469	510

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	501	468	498	504	487
School	473	435	508	457	484

Proportion of students at or above the National Minimum Standard

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	94%	94%	93%	94%	95%
School	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	93%	90%	93%	93%	93%
School	83%	83%	100%	83%	100%

Proportion of students in each Achievement Band

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 6	33%	0%	0%	67%	67%
Band 5	33%	33%	67%	0%	0%
Band 4	17%	67%	33%	17%	17%
Band 3	17%	0%	0%	17%	17%
Band 2	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Band 1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 8	0%	0%	0%	17%	17%
Band 7	17%	0%	50%	0%	0%

Band 6	50%	17%	17%	17%	0%
Band 5	17%	33%	33%	17%	33%
Band 4	0%	33%	0%	33%	50%
Band 3	17%	17%	0%	17%	0%

The above tables show how well our Year 3 students performed in all areas of NAPLAN this year and how our Year 5 students have performed successfully in most areas showing positive growth in most areas of NAPLAN.

Through careful analysis of NAPLAN results of previous years and focusing on strategies for problem solving, as well as a variety of testing techniques, all students who sat NAPLAN in 2014 showed a positive attitude to sitting the tests and an increase in confidence in being able to achieve success. We will continue to analyse the results and work towards assisting students in all areas of need.

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 Primary School offers a full Kindergarten Transition program for all perspective enrolments. The Transition program begins in early Term 4 and goes over a 7 week period. This allows the students to gain confidence in their new environment. 2014 Kindergarten Orientation was 7 full days and was extremely successful for all our new Kindergarten students. Kindergarten Transition concluded this year 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 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 and Welfare 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. In 2014 the Pastoral care Policy included the 'Making Jesus Real' (MJR) program. MJR is a way of life that allows students to see Jesus working in their everyday lives. Students learn about having a positive attitude and that their actions, attitudes and behaviours have an impact on their relationships. MJR provides students and staff with a common language that allows evaluation of thoughts and behaviours and provides strategies for alternative actions.

We have also incorporated the MJR program into Classroom Management through the 'Bucket Fillers' resources and ideas. Each student has their own bucket and they receive stars for positive behaviours and positive attitudes. These can be awarded by staff and the students, encouraging each member of our school community to be aware of the 'God moments' in each of us.

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 2015 to assist students optimise their acquisition of the basic skills in Literacy and Numeracy.

St Francis Xavier School received Outer Regional School Support funding in 2014. This funding was 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 2014 Outer Regional School Support funding was used to improve student outcomes through enhanced curriculum access and opportunities, particularly in literacy and numeracy, and to make available support for other key learning areas through cultural and educational excursions and providing specialists to the school community. New iPads were also purchased to enable further integration of technology across the curriculum.

As a school community our COSA+ (Collaborating on Student Achievement) project researched "*What tools and motivational strategies we need to provide the children with to overcome the barriers to sustain writing?*" This was the focus of many staff meetings and professional learning throughout the year. Professional learning and collegial mentoring also

assisted staff in working towards improving the teaching of writing and writing outcomes for all students.

2014 saw a successful Registration for St Francis Xavier School.

Commendations made by the panel included:-

- The welcoming, family-like atmosphere that permeates the school.
- Staff members who present as a hard-working, collegial group dedicated to their roles in assisting students across a wide variety of learning opportunities.
- The significant focus on greater understanding of Aboriginal culture and ways of learning, increasing the confidence and self-esteem of each student to engage fully with their learning.
- The implementation of the program Making Jesus Real (MJR) program and the positive impact this is having on the culture within the school. This is evident in the leadership of the Stage 3 students and the way in which students relate to each other
- Increased student engagement and success in learning as a result of the consistent and positive approach to behaviour management.
- Our continued focus on healthy sustainable living, with many 'hands on' activities highlighting lifelong skills and lessons was further supported in 2014 through joining the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden (SAKG) program and Professional Training opportunities in this program.

During 2015 St Francis Xavier will utilise Outer Regional School Funding to continue to work towards improvement of Literacy and Numeracy outcomes for all students, particularly related to the COSA+ research focus of Writing. The staff will also work to implement the new NSW History Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum and continue to further implement the new NSW Science Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum.

We will continue to focus on improving nutrition and healthy sustainable living; through working with the SAKG program and establishing connections within all areas of the curriculum.

Another area of focus for 2015 will be assessment and reporting; with staff reviewing agreed practices, consistently analysing student assessment data, the establishment of a data wall and implementation of a greater range of strategies to assess, monitor and record student achievement against clearly defined assessment criteria such as rubrics.

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.

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 2014. The content of these days was as follows:

- Term 1 - Making Jesus Real and Writing First Steps
- Term 2 - Understanding By Design (with the schools in the Western Region)
- Term 3 - Working Collaboratively to revise and formulate the Core Teaching and Learning Document
- Term 4 - Teaching Writing with Adjunct Associate Professor Kaye Lowe

Teachers also participated in many staff meetings in preparation for Registration, reviewing and updating School Policies and Procedures documentation. Other staff meetings provided staff further knowledge in Skillstreaming (Social Skills program), teaching Writing, Spelling and Grammar and further work on the new NSW English Syllabus documentation.

Other school Professional Learning included:

- Staff involvement in professional learning to further their Professional Competencies in Writing, Religious Education, Information Technology and use of iPads.
- Individual staff developing their professional goals. These included Reading Recovery, Numeracy Invention Program, Working Like a Mathematician, Early Career training days, Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program, 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 2014 was 93%.

The teacher retention rate from 2013 to 2014 was 66%.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

The average student attendance for the school during 2014 was 93%.

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

Attendance rates by Year group

Kindergarten	96%
Year 1	85%
Year 2	93%
Year 3	92%
Year 4	99%
Year 5	94%
Year 6	91%

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.

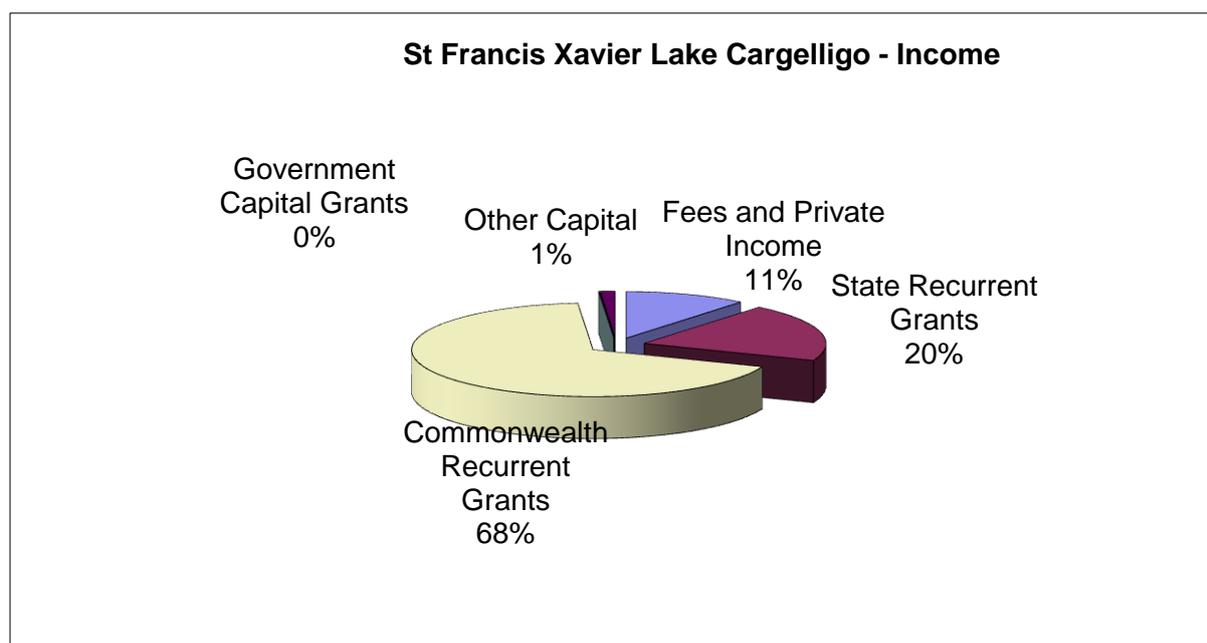
Parents believe St Francis Xavier School is a very family friendly school where the older students look out for and care for the younger students. They appreciate the effort to include all students in school activities, including sport days, sports carnivals and excursions. Parents appreciate the extra 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 succeed in learning, social skills, sporting activities, at the local art competitions and at Eisteddfods.

Students love attending school at St Francis Xavier. The school community is a place where they feel a sense of pride and gain many lifelong skills. Students feel that there were many opportunities to be involved in exciting learning opportunities and enjoy representing the school. Students know the teachers expect them to all care for each other and to be willing to help each other.

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 - Expenditure

