Annual School Community Report - 2011

“Staying Connected”

Report Compiled by  Mark Workman, Principal
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Feb 2012
ANNUAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY REPORT

Year: 2011
School Name: St Anthony’s Catholic School
School Type: K – 6
Suburb/Town: Riverside

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Riverside 7250

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Principal: Mr Mark Workman
St. Anthony’s Catholic School

School Profile

St. Anthony’s Catholic School Riverside, a co-educational single-stream Catholic School (K - 6), serves the people of the Franciscan Parish of the West Tamar region 4km north of Launceston in the Tamar Valley.

A small, welcoming school with a positive atmosphere, demonstrated in its encouragement and affirmation of each child. The School Motto “Christ Our Life” speaks to us of living every day in the footsteps of Christ, joined to him in community, in prayer and in the actions of daily life.

Established in 1959, St Anthony’s Catholic School is proud of its spiritual connections with the Franciscan Friars, the Presentation Sisters and the Poor Clare Sisters. In 2002, St Anthony’s relocated to a new green field site overlooking the Tamar River. The new school was built with compact and integrated classrooms clustered around a courtyard with covered ways and shade sails. Extensive playing fields stretch beyond the courtyard providing ample opportunity for both formal and informal games. The present Principal, Mr Mark Workman was appointed in 2007 and St Anthony’s celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2008.

In 2009, a $1.8m Federal Government grant was used to build a music/arts centre, new classroom, extensions and refurbishment of all existing classrooms, plexi-paved basketball, netball, hard court play surface and an all weather proof protective roofing over the two adventure playgrounds.

The school services families residing in the areas of Riverside, Legana, Trevallyn, with some students as Beaconsfield and Longford.

The majority of students are of Anglo-Saxon background, from middle class families ranging from professional workers, farmers and industry workers. There is a small population of indigenous and non-English speaking background students, from Africa (Sudanese), India and China.

A childcare centre operates from 6.00 – 8.00 am and 3.00 – 6.00 pm. It is wholly run by Centacare, a separate arm of the Roman Catholic Church.

History

St Anthony’s School was established in 1959 at 473 West Tamar Road with 24 pupils. In 1954 Riverside Primary School was opened and Cormiston School closed, so St Anthony’s was able to obtain the building, which also served as a Mass centre for St. Francis’ parish during this time.

The Presentation Sisters were in charge of the school from its inauguration with Sr. Clare the first Principal. Many of the first students are still involved with St. Anthony’s school.

In 1961 the Poor Clare Sisters arrived and in 1962 a new school block was completed. When the Poor Clare Sisters withdrew (due to lack of Sisters) in 1971, the Presentation Sisters agreed to return.
They continued in charge of the school until 1982 when Mrs Therese von Samorzewski was appointed as the first lay Principal. The school is proud of the connections it has with the Franciscan Friars, the Presentation Sisters and the Poor Clare Sisters.

Previous Principals

Mrs Therese von Samorzewski 1982-1995
Mr Tony Claessens 1996-1999
Mrs Carmel Baumgartner 2000-2006
Mr Mark Workman 2007 -

St Anthony’s initiated the concept of introducing Kindergarten in the Catholic School system in Tasmania. As a pilot scheme, St Anthony’s and St Thomas More’s commenced their kindergartens in 1983, Mrs Elizabeth Heckscher being St Anthony’s first kindergarten teacher.

As the school population increased, new buildings were added, stage 1 in 1987 and stage 2 in 1989. In time, however, lack of space and localised land-slip became problems and recreational activities were hindered by the steepness of the site.

The new school, the building of which began in 2001, is located on the northern side of Riverside High School and is superbly located on a gently eastern sloping, grassy meadow overlooking the Tamar River, providing spacious and flat areas of ground for the children’s play and sporting activities. The children have a great feeling of freedom and space to run and play.

On Monday 29th October 2001, at 10.00 am, our school community, together with invited guests, gathered on the new green-field site to bless the land for our new school buildings. Invited guests included Indigenous elders Alma Stackhouse and Delia Summers who spoke as “Welcome to Country”, the Director of Catholic Education, Mr Paul Stevens and the Archbishop of Hobart, the Most Rev. Adrian Doyle, who blessed the land and, together with the school Principal, Mrs Carmel Baumgartner, turned the first sod of soil in preparation for the foundations.

The staff and students prepared a special ceremony for the occasion. The students made and flew peace kites. The children were excited to run free in the wide expanse of green under a huge dome of blue that lifted their spirits.

The relocation of the whole school facilities occurred in the September 2002 school holidays and St. Anthony’s opened its wonderful new facility at 382a West Tamar Road on September 24th 2002, at the beginning of Term 3.

The building of the new school was made possible by grants from the Commonwealth Government, the State Government and by loans from the Catholic Development Fund as well as from fund raising by the school community.

The new buildings, designed by Andrew Floyd of Philp Lighton Architects were erected by Stubbs Construction Pty Ltd. Careful consideration was given to the layout ensuring the separation of vehicle and student circulation, with an access road, car park and lay-by zones providing easy and safe access to all.

On the first day, September 24th 2002, our 200 students participated enthusiastically in ceremonies to celebrate our new school. These included a “Raising the Flags”
ceremony, a Mass of celebration in our new hall and afternoon fun activities – “Celebrating the Space”.

The official opening was held on 18th October 2002 with Senator John Watson representing the Federal Minister for Education, Science and Training. The Archbishop of Hobart, the Most Rev. Adrian Doyle, blessed the new buildings as the whole community rejoiced. The expressions of the spirit of the school within the ceremony were a highlight: the transfer of the statue of St. Anthony, by two of the original students of St. Anthony’s from the old site to the new in a 1950’s Holden, a symbol of the era in which St. Anthony’s School was founded; the liturgical dance of welcome following the recognition of the site by Aboriginal elders; the presentation of a cross (designed and made by Leo van Tienen from the wood of a boat in the former school yard) made by the Principal, Mrs Carmel Baumgartner to kinder student, Joshua Facchin, (the cross then passed from child to child); the presentation of a granit Tau cross, representing the involvement of the Franciscan Friars by Religious Education Coordinator, Mrs Catherine Dunn and a time capsule to be opened in 43 years time, signifying the current age of the school; and finally the release of a peace dove by Mr Roy Mason, a past parent of the school, combined with dancing by Caitlin Turner and Nicole Dobber.

St Anthony’s School is a state of the art primary education facility with a community committed to the whole development of its children based on a developing spirituality in the traditions of the Franciscans, the Poor Clares and the Presentation orders.

St Anthony’s has predominantly been a single stream school with a double stream grouping entering in 2005. As such, the school provides a close-knit family environment for the education of children. Our new school incorporates a compact and integrated classroom design with buildings clustered around a courtyard, which enhances the community feel of the school. The courtyard has linking covered ways and shade sails for extended learning and play opportunities.

Sporting and physical education classes have been enhanced by level, grassy and extensive playing fields which stretch beyond the courtyard.

This design has greatly enhanced the sense of community and enabled a more effective use of resources. Classrooms are grouped in banks of two around the courtyard to maximise flexibility for teaching and supervision while retaining a small-scale development.

Each classroom has extensive areas of windows and high ceilings to maximise natural light and ventilation together with a creative use of colour to enhance rooms that will be vibrant, warm and welcoming. The state of the art data cabling provides for an efficient use of information technology.

The school currently has 9 classrooms including a separate kinder and preparatory area. It has a separate kinder playground, school playground consisting of netball/basketball court, 2 ovals for football, soccer and cricket, Ausplay playground and large undercover sandpit, an administration bock, library block, an art/music block and a multi-purpose hall. The introduction of a computer lap-top lab commenced for all classes in 2008 with further renovations to the library.

5
Further to this, in 2008 commenced Out of School Hours Care program. Programs offered include; before and after school, vacation and pupil free school day care. The programs are held in the school hall with students utilizing the school grounds for outdoor recreational activities.

2008 marked the 50th anniversary of St Anthony’s School. Many activities and celebrations for both students, staff and parents were enjoyed the most memorable the Dinner held at the Riverside Golf Club accommodated over one hundred past and present school guests including Catholic Education Office employees.

In August the school farewelled Patricia Mason who had served the school as Office Manager for 24 years, totalling 35 years association with the school.

In March we farewelled Fr. Bryan Lester who transferred to Queensland and was replaced by Fr. Allan Hartcher.

2009 saw the installation of a second playground for senior students at a cost of $21,000 and the upgrade of the ovals for $70,000, ably assisted by a systemic school grant.

Early March the Federal Government accepted the building plans as part of the Governments Recession Stimulus Package for Schools. 2009 also marked the 800 year of the Franciscan Order established in 1209.

2010
The biggest gain for the students was the completion of the $1.8 million building project funded by the BER (Building Education Revolution) Federal Government stimulus package. The project saw an Arts/Language Centre, including an amphitheatre, built to the existing hall, all creating a stimulating learning environment for the Music, Arts and LOTE Programs. The hall extension provided much needed additional space for larger gatherings such as assemblies and community functions.

With the inclusion of a kitchen facility, cooking activities can now be incorporated into the curriculum. Classrooms were extended by 7 sqm with an additional outdoor learning area, creating flexibility to learning arrangements.

The roof over the adventure playground provides all year round weather protection and the flexi-paved basketball/netball court increases recreational choice for the students.

The stage in the hall has been re-designed for multi-use – now providing a “Sacred Space” for prayer, reflection and liturgy. The stained glass window a major feature. Archbishop Adrian Doyle, accompanied by M.P. Jodie Campbell, officially opened and blessed the buildings on the 13th July.

At the same time, the school launched its School Improvement Plan 2009 – 2013. Archbishop Adrian mandated the school as an authentic Catholic school.
Parish-School relationships remained strong with Fr. Allan Hartcher offering weekly class Masses in the school hall and an increase in the students’ involvement in weekend Parish Liturgies. The Vision and Mission Statement of the Archdiocese of Hobart was launched in a special Parish Liturgy on Sunday 4th July, held in the newly renovated school hall. This was the very first Parish Mass held at the school! Numerous school liturgical celebrations were held throughout the year with feast day celebrations of Anthony, Clare and Francis, Fathers, Mothers and Grandparents day and the Canonization of St. Mary Mackillop, Australia’s first saint, were most memorable.

**2011**
The school theme was titled, “staying connected” with a strong emphasis placed on strengthening the unity that exists in our school community, the relationship between Parish-School-Family and the sense of belonging and identity.

The completion and opening of the Sacred Space featuring a glorious two framed stained glass window of St Francis amongst the beauty of God’s creation occurred in March. At the same time the official naming of the new Arts/Language Centre “The Assisi Centre” after patron saints Francis and Clare of Assisi was complete with signage and motto “Walking in the footsteps of Christ”.

Once again we have been most fortunate to have Fr. Allan lead the students and school community in prayer and liturgy throughout the year, with most school/class liturgies held in the Assisi Centre. In August the whole of the West Tamar Parish gathered at St Anthony’s to celebrate Eucharist and lunch. A terrific occasion where all of the parishioners could join as one! The launch of the Archbishops latest document, “Family-School-Parish Relationship” was held with an acknowledgement of all activities the parish and school have achieved together. One most memorable celebration for the year was Father’s Day. An enormous number of fathers and grandfathers gathered for the ‘tribute to fathers’ liturgy followed by BBQ and games with the students during lunchtime. This was the second largest attended liturgical celebration of the year, remarkably outnumbering mothers day and matching attendance for grandparents day.

The bi-annual P & F School Fair took place on Sunday 13th November. An outstanding community event with a remarkable profit of over $15,000 that will be of great support to supporting additional educational resources for the students. Such financial self-help in times of an economic recession and Government funding cuts to the Catholic sector is a credit to the committed and united school community.
A Timeline

1959 - In February, St Anthony’s School started in the old Cormiston State School. By the end of 1959, 30 students attended the school and were taught by the Presentation Sisters, Sister Clare as principal.

1961 - The Poor Clare Sisters, the Franciscan teaching, order took over the school.

1961 - St Anthony’s Parents & Friends Association was formed, first president, Mr John Green.

1962 - A new school building was built to accommodate Grades 3 to 6.

1970 - Grades 5 and 6 discontinued, students went into Launceston City Schools.

1971 - Poor Clare Sisters left and Presentation Sisters returned. There were then in excess of 80 students in Grades Prep to 4. New principal Sr. Vincent.

1970’s - School Board of Management was formed. Mr Teddy Symons first Board Chairperson.

1982 - First lay principal appointed, Mrs Therese von Samorzewski.

1983 - St Anthony’s Kindergarten was started with Mrs Elizabeth Heckscher as the teacher.

1985 - Owing to growing numbers Grades 5 and 6 were reinstated at the school.

1987 - 1st stage of a new building program was completed.

1989 - 2nd stage completed.

1998 - 3rd stage completed.

1996 - Mr Tony Claessens appointed principal.

2000 - Mrs Carmel Baumgartner appointed principal.

2001 - Decision made to relocate St. Anthony’s School.

2002 - The new St. Anthony’s School blessed and opened on the new site at 382a West Tamar Road, Riverside.

2007 - Mr Mark Workman appointed principal.

- Library renovations to include ICT facilities.
- Air-conditioning installed in the Administration Block.

2008 - 50th anniversary of St Anthony’s School.

- Lap-Top Computer Lab introduced.
- Mrs Patricia Mason retires after 24 years service to school office.
- Fr Bryan Lester replaced by Fr Allan Hartcher.

2009 - Installation of 2nd playground and upgrade of school oval.

- Air-conditioning installed in the Hall.
- $1.5 million Building Improvement Project to the Hall, existing classroom and new Language/Arts Centre.
- $100,000 all weather proof playground roof construction.
- 800 years of the Franciscan Order (1209).
2010
- New buildings opened 13th July by Archbishop Adrian and local M.P. Jodie Campbell.
- Additional works included; Outdoor learning areas for each paired classroom block; Sacred Space; Amphitheatre; Plexi-paved basketball, netball, down-ball courts, car park extension, refurbished school foyer.
- Canonisation of Australia’s first Saint Mary Mackillop.
- Launch of the Archbishops Charter for Catholic Schools in Tasmania.

2011
- Naming of the new Language/Arts Centre, The Assisi Centre
- Completion and opening of the Sacred Space featuring the stained glass window of St Francis and God’s creation.
- Launch of the Archbishop’s document ‘Family-School-Parish Relationships’ at West Tamar Parish Mass at St Anthony’s August 28th.
- P & F School Fair Nov 13th records over $15,000 profit.
Vision

At St. Anthony’s School we provide a high quality Catholic education in faith, essential knowledge and skills. We strive to promote excellence and the formation of the whole person, to prepare students as life-long learners fostering a successful journey through life.

Mission

St Anthony’s Catholic School is steadfastly linked to Franciscan spirituality, which is ‘To Walk in the Footsteps of Christ’. Drawing on the tradition of Saints Francis, Anthony and Clare, and in partnership with the West Tamar Catholic Parish, the school community:

• promotes a welcoming, supportive Catholic community of faith that gives a real sense of belonging to all
• is committed to the living out of Gospel values: peace, compassion, respect, acceptance, forgiveness
• nurtures the Catholic faith through liturgy, prayer, Religious Education and our pastoral care
• develops each child spiritually, intellectually, socially, physically and emotionally
• builds supportive relationships between parents, students and staff
• provides a well-resourced, safe learning environment in modern first class facilities
• fosters a positive, friendly and encouraging learning environment where children experience success, build confidence and develop a love of learning
• maintains professional, dedicated, hardworking staff
• offers an inclusive well balanced, challenging and engaging teaching/learning curriculum.
St Anthony’s Catholic School

**Governance**

The St. Anthony’s Catholic School Board assists the Principal in the management of the school. The Board is one way in which members of the community are involved in the School’s planning and accountability. Included in the stewardship that the Board exercises, is the responsibility for the overall wellbeing of the school. The St Anthony’s catholic School Board co-operates with, and supports the Principal, in maintaining the School as an institute of Catholic Education, contributes to the planning and management of maintenance and building programs, and oversees the finances of the School and the careful use of funds, according to the provisions of the Constitution and the directions of the TCEO. The Board plays a major role in assisting, where possible, on matters regarded as major initiatives and changes to the school, participates in the planning, research, development, implementation and evaluation of the School Improvement Plan and the School's Strategic Plan.

The St Anthony’s Catholic School Board consists of elected members of the school and local community with the Parish Priest, Fr. Allan Hartcher OFM and the school Principal, Mr Mark Workman, as ex-officio members.

In April 2011 the AGM was held and Executive Members were elected. Chairperson Lynette Broomby (retired) was replaced by Mrs Annabel Shegog. The 2011 Board consisted of:

- **Chair:** Mrs Annabel Shegog
- **Deputy Chair:** Mr Doug Blackaby
- **Secretary:** Mrs Denise Bott
- **Treasurer:** Mrs Mignon Bott
- **Ordinary Members:** Mrs Jacinta Simeoni, Mr Geoff Foley (newly appointed), Mr Pino Tedeschi (newly appointed), Mr Paul Cunningham (newly appointed)
- **Ex-officio:** Mr Mark Workman (Principal)
  Fr. Allan Hartcher (Parish Priest)

The Board meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm.

**Catholic Life and Mission 2011**

Our school values are modelled on Franciscan Spirituality. We strive to teach and promote these beliefs throughout our school community in the following areas.

**Liturgical Prayer and Life**

We foster our Liturgical Prayer and Life through:

- Class Masses with our Parish Priest at school
- Class Reconciliation with our Parish Priest at school
- Whole school Mass celebrations both at school and our parish church (Beginning of School Year Mass, St. Anthony’s Day, Ash Wednesday, Catholic Education Week and Thanksgiving Mass)
- Whole school liturgies to celebrate the lives of St. Francis, St. Anthony and St. Clare, St Mary MacKillop, Advent, Easter, Feast of Assumption, ANZAC Day, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day and Grandparents Day.
- Catholic Education Week celebrations
The School in the Life of the Parish and Diocese

Participation in the Parish through the Sacramental Program has provided students with an awareness of a worshipping community beyond school. Sacramental preparation is ‘Family centred, Parish Based and School Supported’. The Sacramental program helped to encourage the link between three Catholic communities – Family, Parish and School. In 2011 the school together with the parish invited students who had participated in the Sacramental Program on a full day excursion. Students were taken to the different Churches that make up the West Tamar Parish, as well as to the Beaconsfield Mine. This was a huge success and demonstrated the strong link between the school and parish.

The presence of a priest at our school based class Masses, has helped students become aware of the role of our clergy. The student community welcomes Father Allen to our school, and the students enjoy interacting with him. As Father Allan has been working with the students and staff for four years now, a good rapport has been established and maintained.

On the first Tuesday evening of each month, the Parish Council monthly meeting is held. The Assistant to the Principal – Religious Education (AP.RE) or the Principal, has represented the school at these meetings. A brief report from the school is presented to the council informing the Parish of recent school events and upcoming events. In addition to this, relevant information from the Parish is fed back to the school. This helps to maintain a strong line of communication between the Parish and school. This year school events were printed on the Parish weekly newsletter as well as invitations to parishioners to attend school celebrations.

Faith Development Programs -

Religious Education Curriculum

Throughout the year staff worked with Dr. Tony Lennard, the Religious Education Officer, focusing on linking the use of ICT’s to Religious Education. Staff were exposed to a range of useful websites and given time to explore ‘iMovie’ and other ICT programs to enhance their teaching of Religious Education.

This year we purchased a number of new resources, mainly books and DVD’s, to help build on our knowledge and recognition of our patron saints. This assisted to continue to keep alive the Franciscan Tradition which remains a focus for our school.

In Term Three we were visited by Peter Kearney, a singer/song writer in religious music for Primary School aged children. Each class were involved in this visit, working with Mr Kearney throughout the day learning new songs, including actions and instrumental parts. The day concluded with a grand concert in which parents had been invited. Students were enthusiastic participants and the concert was a huge success.
This year Catholic Education Week, was held from Monday 1 August till Sunday 7 August. The focus was “Responding to the Call”. Grade Six attended Mass with fellow students from all Catholic Primary Schools in Launceston, celebrated by Archbishop, Adrian Doyle, at Sacred Heart Catholic School. During the week we held a “Treasure Hunt” organised by our leadership group – The ‘Mini Vinnies’, to raise money for the Archbishop’s Samaritan Fund, which is a Tasmanian based charity. For the conclusion of Catholic Education Week, we held a school liturgy to celebrate the Feast of Saint Mary MacKillop.

Community Participation and Christian Outreach

Mission Stall – St Francis Church
In 2011 we introduced class involvement in the Parish Mission Stall. Each term different classes prepared items to sell at the Mission Stall at St Francis Church. Stalls were manned by students, teachers and parents from our school community. Monies raised from the stall were sent to assist the Missions in East Timor. Students enjoyed preparing a range of items for the stall and enjoyed their involvement in this fundraiser.

Mini Vinnies
This year we introduced a leadership group called the Mini Vinnies. The role of this student group was to ‘serve’ and act as mini St Vincent de Paul workers in our school. Throughout the year they helped to co-ordinate and promote our annual charitable fundraisers: Project Compassion and Good Samaritan Fund, plus a Grocery Drive for Christmas, to aid St Vincent de Paul. Students have enjoyed ‘serving’ our school community and already students are eager to join this group in 2012.

School/Parish Mass’
As previously mentioned, staff and students interact with our local parish, St. Francis, through the Sacrament program and Class based Parish Mass support. Children with musical talents were invited to play at Parish/School Sunday Masses in Term 1 and 3. At the beginning of Term 3 St Anthony’s School hosted the only Mass for the entire West Tamar Parish in the Assisi Centre. At this celebration the Archbishop’s, ‘Family, School, Parish Partnership’ initiative was presented by Sister Gabriel Morgan to the Parish.

Parent Participation
Parents are invited via the school newsletter and class newsletters to attend class and whole school liturgies, Masses and celebrations. Parents were kept informed of developments within the Religious Education curriculum through articles in the newsletter, which explained staff professional development and initiatives in the RE curriculum. Parents of children making their Sacraments were also heavily involved in the Sacramental Program through the parish.

Staff Spirituality
Time is set aside each week for staff prayer. Different staff members take it in turn to lead their peers in prayer. This helps to foster our sense of community amongst our staff and encourage leadership. This year Father Allan also led Staff Prayers during each term.
**Pastoral Care**

As previously noted, our school values are modelled on Franciscan Spirituality. We strive to value and respect all of God’s creation. To develop our vision, we as a school community strive to promote the total development of each child whilst respecting his /her dignity and individuality. Our Christian values are witnessed through service, celebration and relationship. Some specific programs that we implement at school to enhance our pastoral care are as follows –

- **Peer support** – this is a structured program focusing on social skills. The program is lead by the Grade 6 students who lead a group of children who are vertically streamed. This enables students to get to know other students from different grade levels. It also provides each Grade 6 student with an opportunity to lead a small group of students.

- A Staff Student Welfare Committee has been formed, meeting monthly, providing ideas and plans of pastoral support for students, parents and staff identified to be in need.

- **YOU CAN DO IT Whole School Programme.** This was introduced as a main focus this year to assist each child to build on their social and emotional skills.

- **Making Jesus Real – Grade Six**

- **Parent Morning Teas** – invitations are extended by a group of parents to all other parents to gather together and share a “cuppa” at school with the goal of getting to know new parents and to welcome them into the St. Anthony’s community.

- **Whole School Celebrations (Masses, Mother’s, Father’s and Grandparents Day both at Church and here at school).**

- **Student Leadership – SRC, Mini Vinnies, School and House Team Captains and Vice Captains, Early Childhood Leaders, Choir and Music Leaders etc.**

- **St Anthony Award- a monthly student award to recognise students following the scholarship and values of our Patron Saint.**

- **Parents and Friends social nights.**

- **Staff social get togethers.**

**You Can Do It**

Introduced in 2010 and continued throughout 2011, this program focuses on the social and emotional capabilities that all young people need in order to be successful in school, experience well-being, and have positive relationships that include making contributions to others and the community. These capabilities are organised into 6 foundations including: Persistence, Organisation, Getting Along, Confidence and Resilience. In addition, being a Catholic school, we have included the key of Faith.
From professional learning, teachers have introduced the keys to students and are implementing the program through regular implicit lessons. Other specific strategies that are used throughout the school to promote “Program Achieve” include:

- Display of large keys in Assisi Centre.
- Display of keys in classrooms.
- A monthly motto for each focus key.
- A weekly promotion of focus key over PA system.
- Recognition of individual efforts in displaying values at assemblies eg. Certificates.
- Promotion of focus key in weekly school bulletin.
- Making frequent reference to posters/messages displayed in classrooms.

**Our Learning Community**

At St. Anthony’s Catholic Primary School our curriculum planning is based upon the needs of students and their stages of development using the Australian Curriculum.

The Australian Curriculum sets out the core knowledge, understanding, skills and general capabilities important for all Australian students. The Australian Curriculum describes the learning entitlement of students as a foundation for their future learning, growth and active participation in the Australian community. It makes clear what all young Australians should learn as they progress through schooling. It is the foundation for high quality teaching to meet the needs of all Australian students.

1. In 2011 The Australian Curriculum will be adopted in English and Mathematics.
2. From 2012 The Australian Curriculum will be adopted in English, Mathematics, History and Science. From 2013 onwards, teachers will adopt the Australian Curriculum in English, Mathematics, History, Science Geography, Language and the Arts and Health and Well-Being.

While addressing the needs of individual students we strive to nurture learning relationships within the classroom and foster the inclusion of all children, catering for all special needs children within the classroom, so that by the sharing of individual gifts the lives of all can be enriched.

Throughout 2011 many strategies have been put in place to achieve the School Improvement Goals. To achieve our School Improvement Goals in the area of ‘Curriculum – Teaching and Learning’ the following strategies were put in place.

A Paired Teacher mentoring program was continued in 2011 to expand and deepen opportunities for teachers to engage in professional conversation and to enhance the quality of teaching. The focus of this program was Writing, teachers shared quality teaching practice in this area and discussed different pedagogical practices to enhance student performance in Writing.

Allocated staff meeting times and a number of professional development sessions were implemented for the exploration of the Australian Curriculum. This ensured staff were given time for reflection and discussion in regards to planning and implementing the new Australian Curriculum. Teachers planned using the Australian Curriculum in both English and Mathematics and were exposed to the Science and
History component of the curriculum. Throughout the year teacher’s confidence in using the Australian Curriculum and their knowledge of this document increased dramatically.

Staff continued to analyse Data from Naplan, PIPS and Pat testing to make future plans in areas of need. Students who did not make the expected growth in Naplan results have been highlighted and plans are being put in place to accommodate their needs for 2012. Students who achieved below expected level in Pips have also been highlighted and plans put in place for them in Grade One. Teachers have accessed PAT results late in the year and will use these to assist with student needs and planning for 2012.

As the year unfolded the school continued to purchase a wide range of resources to assist student and teachers achieve academic outcomes. As Writing was an area of focus many resources were purchased in this learning area. Students enjoyed using these new resources, in particular, resources that linked with ICT.

**Analysis of NAPLAN Results, 2011**

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Building Professional Capacity Grant:

This Grant was used for implementing a Paired Teacher Program. The aims of this program were as follows:

- To build teacher capacity by sharing good practice across grade levels.
- To further enhance teacher experience and knowledge of the curriculum and the students at our school.

Teachers were paired up and visited each other’s classroom for a two hour block. A relief teacher was employed to release the visiting teacher. The focus for each block was set by the APLT, in Term 1 we focused on Maths and in Term 2 we had a Science focus. Our future focus for this program is to further expand upon our teacher capacity by crossing grade level teachers with another school.
Professional Learning:
Staff participated in the following whole school professional learning opportunities:

- Godly Play
- Moderation Workshops
- Australian Curriculum
- ICT – Cyber Safety
- First Aid – CPR
- Exploring NAPLAN data
- Classroom / Behaviour Management
- IEP Writing
- Science

LOTE:
All students from Prep – Grade 6 participated in a weekly 30 minute Italian lesson, for the full year.

Other Achievements:
During 2011 the learning community of St Anthony’s Catholic School participated in:

- Moderation Tasks in Maths
- Network Meetings provided by the CEO
- Explored the Australian Curriculum and cross referenced the Australian Maths curriculum against our current planning.
- Intensive two week swimming program for Prep – Grade 6
- Student Leadership programs
- Peer Support program – for all students in Prep – Grade 6
- Band, Music and Choir programs
- Participation in the inter-school Maths Relay
- School based and external standardised testing to build a picture of each child’s educational development, and to correlate over time.
- SOFOS program for gifted and talented students.

MUSIC
During 2011 all students have been involved in varied class music activities (including singing, playing percussion instrument and/or recorder (Gr 1 & 2), creating sounds and playing circle games). Many have also participated in Gr 3-4 Choir, 5 – 6 Ensemble and the Instrumental Music Program.

In addition to their weekly lessons, students in the instrumental program (conducted by Ms Fiona Mowat and tutors from St Patrick’s College) have performed in two soirees and enjoyed three band days in conjunction with other Catholic Primary Students, as well as the final annual concert, held this year at the Princes Theatre.
Grades 1 and 2 competed in the Examiner Infant School Choir section of the Launceston Competitions and were awarded second place. The Grades 3 and 4 choir were delighted this year to win their section with 90 points. They also participated in the 3rd Singfest song festival at the Albert Hall in October, and visited the Presbyterian Home for the Aged at Legana. In addition, they were involved in the farewell concert for Archbishop Adrian Doyle in August, as well as singing at the school fair and for Masses at school and church.

At the end of the year, we sadly farewell Miss Maria Deane, who has ably and enthusiastically conducted for us for a number of years.

Classes have also presented items at assemblies and class concerts and Grades 4 – 6 participated in the very popular Battle of the bands under the guidance of their teacher Mrs Meegan Hughes.

**ICT NEWS**

This year St Anthony’s acquired 12 IPads and have become experts at connecting, communicating and creating.

During the year students have been developing their overall skills using a variety of programs such as; Kidspiration, Photo Booth, Count Us In, Reading Eggs, Build Your Wild Self, Tux Paints, Kerpoof, Garageband, Scratch, Paintbrush and Mr Picasso Head.

Throughout the year a number of classes have used various computer programs and the internet as tools for everyday learning and research, especially in Maths, Science, Reading Comprehension and Design and Art tasks.

Students have extensively used Scootle Learning Paths from the Learning Federation. Youtube sites have been used to assist our understanding of current classroom topics, especially in Religion.

Digital Cameras have been used to record experiments and observations in Science. In Grade 5 and 6 students set up G-mail accounts to promote responsible usage. They have been using this to communicate with those around them, including sending attachments and group emails.
In addition to our Physical Education program, this year we have also implemented a Daily P.E. program that involves students from Prep to Grade 6. Grade 6 students lead younger students through a series of activities focusing on many different skills, whilst improving their fitness.

Students from St. Anthony’s participated in three carnivals:

**Swimming**  
The Swimming Carnival was held on 17th February, at the Riverside Pool. Parental assistance was excellent. The Francis house were victorious. On the 15th March, The NIJSSA carnival was held and students were commended on their excellent participation and behavior. We finished 7th overall.

**Cross Country**  
The school’s Cross Country Carnival was held on 21st July on the school grounds. Excellent participation from students resulted in some fine results. The Francis House were eventual winners. The NIJSSA Carnival was held on 17th August at Scotch Oakburn Park with St. Anthony’s finishing in 3rd place.

**Athletics**  
The school carnival was held on 27th September at the St. Leonards Athletics Complex.  
Francis House won the carnival. The NIJSSA carnival was held on 9th November at St. Leonards Athletics Complex and St. Anthony’s finished 6th overall.

**Camping Program**  
Each year, Grade 5 & 6 students have the opportunity to attend a school camp which endeavours to provide a wide range of valuable learning experiences. Camping experiences present the unique opportunity for students to experience a different environment, to respond to personal challenges and to develop independence and to bond with others through shared experiences.

This year, Grade 5 students travelled to Camp Clayton, a beach environment, near Ulverstone from 18th – 20th May. Students were able to experience a wide range of activities, such as flying fox, giant swing, team rescue, rock climbing, archery, volleyball and BMX. These activities focused on the areas of team-building, risk-taking and completing challenges.

Grade 6 students travelled to Gumlakes, a bush environment, near Swansea from 6th – 8th April. At the camp-site, students were able to experience activities such as flying fox, fishing, obstacle courses, mini-golf, deer feeding, swinging hammock and spot-lighting. On the second day of camping, students travelled to Coles Bay and experienced Sea Kayaking with Freycinet Adventure Tours. The camping program also had a strong emphasis on the Making Jesus Real Program (MJR), therefore students were responsible for providing and cooking their own meals for their groups, as well as participating in reflection and prayer at the end of each day.
Prep children enjoyed working with the Cultural Jewels Resource.

Grade 1 students examined dwellings around the world in an Integrated Studies unit of work. The children examined traditional Aboriginal dwellings. The students then designed and made models of traditional Aboriginal homes.

Grade 5 students performed a drama for the school community based on the Aboriginal Dreamtime story Minwee and why the Crocodile rolls.

Grade 2 students designed and created a piece of artwork using Aboriginal art techniques.

Prep children made their own Aboriginal flag and learnt about the colour of the flag and what they represent.

Grade 3 and 4 students enjoyed an excursion to Tiagarra. Students gained a deeper understanding of Tasmanian Aboriginal history.

Grade 3 and 4 students followed up their learning by displaying their knowledge in project form.
St Anthony’s Catholic Primary School has been immersed in the School Improvement Process since August 2008. The on-going process of School Improvement has been undertaken by staff, student, key stakeholders and the wider school community. This inquiry-orientated process has allowed the school to analyse and evaluate current practices, leading us to identify areas of strength as well as areas of challenges and need, thus creating a School Improvement Plan to guide us throughout the period of 2010 – 2013.

The School Improvement Process is school-based, learning-centred and future-oriented. It focuses on the desire to enhance student learning by engaging in serious dialogue and interpretation and deliberation of the data collected. The School Improvement Team has employed a range of effective strategies to encourage critical reflection and discussion about key issues. The School Improvement Plan, developed as a result of this process, is a holistic and sustainable plan.

The School Community is confident that the School Improvement Plan reflects our Catholic ethos and spirituality, giving each student the opportunity to reach their potential in a learning environment that is authentically enriched in Catholic faith and Franciscan tradition.

**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

**Goals 2011**

**Scope:** Domain 1.0 Catholic Culture & Ethos  
**Element:** 1.4 Community  
**Goal:** Expand and deepen the links between the School and the Parish and the wider community. (V, SSE, AC 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 10.1, 11.4)

**Scope:** Domain 2.0 Student Learning and Achievement  
**Element:** 2.3 Equity  
**Goal:** Further develop and embed a whole school approach to improve the outcomes for Special Needs students. (AC 9.4, 8.5, 8.3, 3.4 MD, SSE, V)

**Scope:** Domain 3.0 Learning Environment  
**Element:** 3.4 Classroom and Behaviour Management  
**Goal:** Further develop a just, proactive, positive whole school approach that ensures consistency in behaviour management. (SSE, AC, 10.1 10.2, MD)

**Scope:** Domain 4.0 Curriculum and Pedagogy  
**Element:** 4.1 Quality of Teaching  
**Goal:** Provide staff with opportunities for reflection and discussion to enhance the quality of teaching. (AC 3.3, MD, V)
Scope: Domain 4.0 Curriculum and Pedagogy  
Element: 4.3 Curriculum  
Goal: Further enhance and embed ICT within the Teaching and Learning day-to-day practice with a transitional focus on the new Australian Curriculum. (MD, V, AC 3.4, 8.5)

Scope: Domain 4.0 Curriculum and Pedagogy  
Element: 4.3 Curriculum  
Goal: Use the Australian Curriculum to plan effective learning experiences in Literacy and Numeracy.

Scope: Domain 4.0 Curriculum and Pedagogy  
Element: 4.3 Curriculum  
Goal: To improve student performances in Writing in the next 12 months.

Scope: Domain 5.0 Leadership  
Element: 5.3 Cultural Leadership  
Goal: Support the parent body, particularly the School Board, to develop a deeper understanding of the Catholic Ethos of St. Anthony’s Catholic School. (AC 5.3)

Scope: Domain 5.0 Leadership  
Element: 5.5 Administrative Leadership  
Goal: Lead the School Improvement planning process and the ongoing three year cycle of policy review. (R, AC, 4.1, 4.2, 8.1, 8.2)

Goals 2012

Scope: Domain 1.0 Catholic Culture and Ethos  
Element: 1.5 Spiritual Formation  
Goal: Provide ongoing spiritual formation for both staff and students. (AC 7.1, 7.2, 7.7, SSE, V)

Scope: Domain 2.0 Student Learning And Achievement  
Element: 2.2 Assessment and Feedback  
Goal: Improve formal and informal feedback about student learning, for students, parent and staff, to enhance each child’s learning. (SSE, V, AC 8.3, MD)

Element: 2.4 Learning Support  
Goal: Further explore and extend the range of learning opportunities provided for all students, particularly those with special needs. (MD, SSE, AC 8.5, 3.4, V).

Scope: Domain 3.0 Learning Environment  
Element: 3.2 Parent/School Partnership  
Goal: Develop the partnership between home/parish and school by increasing parent awareness and involvement in the life of the school. (AC 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, SSE, V)

Element: 3.3 Student Participation and Leadership  
Goal: Explore and develop ways to increase student participation in the life and Catholic mission of the school. (SSE, V, AC 5.4, 10.3, 11.3)
Scope: Domain 4.0 Curriculum And Pedagogy
Element: 4.2 Learning and Teaching Programs
Goal: Continue to reflect and evaluate the breadth, balance and appropriateness of learning and teaching programs to assist all students to realise their full potential. (AC 3.4, 3.2, SSE, V)

Scope: Domain 5.0 Leadership
Element: 5.4 Pastoral Leadership
Goal: Lead the review and redevelopment of the Pastoral Care policy. (SSE, AC 1.3, 3.3, 5.4, 8.2, 10.2)

SSE - School Self-Evaluation  R - School Registration Board
AC - Archbishops Charter  V - School Improvement Validation
MD - Melbourne Declaration

Enrolment and Staffing
In 2011, St Anthony’s School commenced the year with an enrolment of 243 from kinder to grade 6. There were 9 classes structured as follows; (1/2/09)
  Kinder (3 days a week)  23
  Prep  27
  Grade 1  20
  Grade 2  30
  Grade 3  25
  Grade 4  29
  Grade 5MP  30
  Grade 5MT  30
  Grade 6  26

Enrolment Census March  240
  Prep – 6  217
  + Kinder  23

Enrolment Census August  243
  Prep – 6  220
  + Kinder  23

  Total number of students  243
  Indigenous students  8
  ESL  2
  Special Needs  2
  Average class size  27

Enrolment gender  123 Male,  120 Female
Staff consisted of a fulltime Principal, 8 fulltime and 9 part-time teachers which made up an FTE of 12.6667. All teachers employed in 2011 have met the Teacher Registration Board requirements.

Ancillary staff consisted of 6 part time teacher assistants, 3 part time office staff, 1 part time library technician/teacher assistant, and full time utility officer/cleaner, totalling 10 ancillary staff members with a total FTE of 5.356.

**Average attendance rate of Teachers (approx):** 97%

**Approximate Attendance Rate of Students** 96.5%

**St Anthony’s Catholic Schools response to Absent Students**

*(Extract from St Anthony’s School’s Attendance Policy)*

- All full-time enrolled students are expected to attend all of each school day
- Class teachers will mark the attendance register in the morning and afternoon each school day. Absence notes should be kept in the register. Procedure attached Appendix 6.
- If students are to be absent from school, parents must inform the class teacher by note, or by contacting the school by phone, before the start of the school day. Office staff will relay any messages re student absence and record the reason/s for the absence noted in the Class Absentee Form.
- On the return of the student the next day, if no notification of absence has been given, the class teacher will send home a Student Absence Notification Form. Appendix 1
- No response to the letter will result in a phone call to the parent/carer by the Principal or Principal’s nominee.
- The parent/carer is to inform the Principal and/or class teacher if a student is to be absent for longer than two consecutive days.
- If a student is away for three consecutive days without notification from the parent/carer, then the Principal or Principal’s nominee will attempt to make contact with the parent/carer to establish the reason for the child’s absence.
- Attendance records will form part of each child’s half-year and end-of-year progress reports to parents.
- Class teachers are to bring to the attention of the Principal any student/s whose attendance is irregular, has unexplained absences, or whose absences appear unwarranted.
- Where there is a problem of absenteeism, the Principal will contact the parents/carers by letter to gain an explanation and will take further action as needed. Appendix 2, 3 or 4.
  - Appendix 2 – Up to 5 consecutive days ‘yet to be explained’ or ‘unauthorised’
  - Appendix 3 – 10 days in one school term ‘yet to be explained’ or ‘unauthorised’
  - Appendix 4 – 20 days in one school term ‘yet to be explained’ or ‘unauthorised’
- In the case of 20 absent days in one school term, or a pattern of absenteeism that is of concern, the Principal will initiate a case management approach with the parent/carer to support the student to return to regular attendance.
- School procedure/chart outlining the follow-up of absenteeism is attached. Appendix 5.

**Exiting Students went to:**

- Riverside High School 7
- St Patrick’s College 20
- Scotch Oakburn School 4
- Launceston Church Grammar 2
- Launceston Christian School 1
- Education Dept – Local Primary 5
- Education Dept – Primary 4 *(outside Launceston area)*
- Other Catholic Primary 1
- Interstate 8
# Student Numbers: Summary by Grade

## MARCH CENSUS 2011

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### Student

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# Student Numbers: Summary by Grade

## August 2011 Census

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**Totals:** 123, 120, 243
St Anthony’s School – Staff for 2011

Leadership Team
Principal
Mark Workman

Assistant to the Principal (Religious Education)
Mrs Megan Meech

Assistant to the Principal (Teaching & Learning)
Mrs Lisa Watson

Classroom Teachers
Kindergarten
Mrs Helen Bingley (Tues/Wed/Fri)
Kinder Assistant:
Mrs Pauline Truscott (Tues/Wed/Fri)

Preparatory:
Mrs. Ann Jak

Grade 1
Mrs Cecelia Singh

Grade 2
Ms Emma Groves
Mrs Alison Cobiac (Tues)

Grade 3
Ms Maria Deane

Grade 4
Mrs Libby Van Tienen,

Grade 5
Mrs Bradi McGee,
Ms Vanessa Prosser (Thurs/Fri)

Grade 5
Mrs Megan Meech
Mr Josh Turner (Thurs/Fri)

Grade 6
Mrs Lisa Watson
Mr Josh Turner (Wed)

Music – K., P., Gr 1, Gr 2, Gr 3 & Senior Choir
Mrs Helen Antel (Wed)

Music – Grades 4, 5, and 6 and Ensemble
Mrs Megan Hughes (Thurs/Fri)

Physical Education
Mrs Bradi McGee (Thurs/Fri)

Computer Program Co-ordinator
Ms Emma Groves (Thurs/Fri)

Computer Program Assistant
Ms Emma Groves (Tues)

Italian
Ms Mary-Lou Taurian (Tues)

Special Needs Co-ordinator/Learning Support
Ms Sandra Poole (Mon/Tues) *

Teacher Assistants
Mrs Raelee Volant
Ms. Rebecca Killworth
Mrs Donna Furfaro

Librarian
Mrs Monica Johnstone

Office Manager
Mr Matt James

Office Assistants
Mrs Ruth Symons
Mrs Nicole Cullen

Utility Officer
Mr David Kossman **

Cleaner
Mr David Kossman **

Please note
* Mrs Alison Cobiac replaced Ms Sandra Poole as Special Needs Co-ordinator in July.
** Mr Luke van Tienen replaced Mr David Kossman as Groundsman and Cleaner in March.
The Wider Community

The school theme for 2011 was titled “Staying Connected” with the aim of strengthening the unity that exists in our school community, the relationship between Parish-School-Family and the wider community developing a sense of proud belonging in our students.

In August the whole of the West Tamar Parish gathered at St Anthony’s to celebrate Eucharist and lunch. A terrific occasion where all the parishioners could join as one! The launch of the Archbishops latest document, “Family-School-Parish relationship” was held with an acknowledgement of all activities the parish and school have achieved together. One most memorable celebration for the year was Father’s Day. An enormous number of fathers and grandfathers gathered for the ‘tribute' to fathers’ liturgy followed by BBQ and games with the students during lunchtime.

A group of students from Grades 3 – 6 enjoyed an excursion to the mine in Beaconsfield as well as a historical church and cemetery tour throughout the West Tamar region. Local towns people were involved as tour guides. This tour occurred in August.

Student representatives attended the West Tamar ANZAC day march and laid a wreath on behalf of the School Community.

28 Grades 3 – 6 students once again participated in the Catholic Primary Schools Instrumental Music Program and are commended for their outstanding efforts and performances. The school choir was led by our Grade 3 and 4 students who delighted many with their wonderful performance of “Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho” and “I Luvva B O O K”. The choir also enhanced several school/parish masses with delightful signing and their performances at the Launceston School’s Singfest made us all very proud. They also warmed the hearts of the elderly at the community home in July. Special mention to our Infant Choir (Grades 1 and 2) who were also successful in the Launceston Competitions, being placed second in their section with the songs “Halfway Down the Stairs” and “The Loose Tooth Blues”. Many thanks to Mrs Helen Antel and Miss Maria Deane for providing the students with these opportunities.

Eight of our Grade 5 and 6 students also participated in the Statewide Maths relay competition. A wonderful community event for all primary and secondary schools to participate in.

Into 2012 we look forward to the Sustainable Garden – Garden Program and the redevelopment of the Kinder play yard that will have nature environmental creation. The plans and implementation of such projects have and will continue to involve members of the School, Parish and Wider Community.

Parent Involvement

Many parents are actively involved in the school and make wonderful contributions in so many ways. As with most schools, parents are a valuable resource and we rely upon much help. Being a relatively small school in student population and still participating in all activities that larger schools do, requires much parent assistance, especially when it comes to sports carnivals and fairs….. Throughout 2011 we have been most fortunate and privileged to have had much parent involvement.
Here are some ways parents have been involved throughout 2011.

- Our School Board and P&F hold monthly meetings with approximately 12 to 15 members. Both committees are active and contribute to many aspects of the school. They regularly organise social functions and fundraisers for the school community.

- The school is supported by:
  - **School Board**
    - Annabel Shegog – Chair
    - Doug Blackaby – Vice Chair
    - Mignon Bott – Treasurer
    - Denise Bott – Secretary
    - Fr. Allan Hartcher – Parish Priest
    - Geoff Foley
    - Pino Tedeschi
    - Jacinta Simeoni
    - Paul Cunningham

  - **P & F Executive**
    - Scott Glanville – Chair
    - Maree Blackaby – Vice Chair
    - Georgina Montauban - Secretary
    - Sharon Fraser - Treasurer

  - **School Clothing Pool Co-ordinator** – Josephine Towns

  - **School Canteen Co-ordinator** – Elke Hill

  - **School Magazine Co-ordinator**
    - Sharon Fraser

  - **Class Representatives**
    - Jacinta Carington-Smith - Kinder
    - Karen Pratt – Kinder
    - Nicole Thomas - Prep
    - Belinda Lovick – Prep
    - Anita Faulkner – Grade 1
    - Cath Reilly – Grade 2
    - Jo Magee – Grade 3
    - Stephanie Sebastian – Grade 3
    - Georgina Montauban – Grade 4
    - Kate Grey – Grade 5
    - Sharlene MacQuaid – Grade 5
    - Joe MacQuaid – Grade 5
    - Marisa Facchin – Grade 6
    - Sharon Fraser – Grade 6
    - Cindy Glanville – Grade 6

This year the P&F held a school fair in October. A fantastic community event which managed to raise $15,000 for the school.

**Fair Committee**
- Maree Blackaby (co-ordinator)
- Carmen Robotham
- Nikki Quill
Other Examples of parent involvement:

- Inter-school and Inter-house Sport Carnivals and seasonal programs
- Fund raising for charity (local, state and national)
- Grade 5 and 6 camps.
- Class excursions
- Excursions and School camps (parent volunteers)
- Mothers and Fathers Day Stall
- School canteen
- P and F Clothing Pool
- Planning design and implementation of the Sustainable Garden Project, Kindergarten Yard Development and Sacred Space.
- Classroom Activities
- Parish-School Mission Stalls
- Multi-Lit Literacy Program
Summary of Financial Information