Annual School Report 2013

It is with pleasure that I present the 2013 Holy Spirit Catholic School Annual Report. Highlights for this year included the Teaching and Learning achievements, particularly our rewarding results in Naplan; implementation of Visible Learning; introduction of Indonesian language to the curriculum offerings; parent engagement evenings with Indigenous families; Harmony Day Dinner; inaugural Remembrance Day Mass to mark anniversary of Catherine McCauley and the contributions of our service men and women; Reconciliation morning tea; UZMOB Big Day Out; completion of Kidsmatter Program and refurbishment of the Administration Area through a contribution by the Australian Government through the Block Grant Authority.

As with other years Teaching and Learning continued to be a focus. Through the employment of consultants who specialise in the area of Numeracy, we have finalised a draft for a formal whole school Numeracy plan to complement the Literacy plan that is already embedded in teaching documents. During this year we received considerable funds from the Australian Government through a project titled ‘Next Steps’ to develop a range of initiatives across the school, including in the area of Teaching and Learning. Focus teachers in the school received professional development in the area of English with a particular focus on grammar. This program enabled us to engage the Visible Learning Team to support us in collecting and analysing evidence across a whole range of area within the teaching and learning domain. Building partnerships with community is also a focus of the program and Indigenous families have had a direct impact on the decision making processes of the school through the Parent Engagement evenings.

In addition to Professional Learning around English, as a school community we continued to focus on both the English and Mathematics components of the National Curriculum along with Geography, Science and History. Performing Arts, Indonesian and Health and Physical Education are offered through specialised teaching programs.

Our partnership with the Reverend Bill Cruise Foundation continues to provide targeted tuition to identified students who require additional support in literacy. Our strong results for Indigenous students in Naplan are a testament to the contribution that this program makes to our School Community. During 2014, we look forward to continuing to work with the Exodus Foundation in embedding targeted intervention programs across the school and extending the program offering to both Indigenous and non Indigenous students.

We were delighted this year to continue our partnership with the Smith Family. Along with scholarship offerings for identified students, percussion instruments were a popular resource during Performing Arts lessons. We appreciate the support provided to us by the Smith Family and look forward to forging a strong partnership ensuring excellent outcomes for students. Critical to the work of the Smith family is their affirmation of the role of both family and school in achieving outcomes for students.

A highlight again this year included our Harmony Day Dinner. Well over two hundred people came together to share a meal and celebrate the cultural diversity of our school community. We look forward to celebrating this event each year and building on shared understandings of the richness that cultural diversity brings to our community. We were delighted this year to have members of the Philipino parent group sing a repertoire of songs at the Christmas Concert. Through a focus on Community and Culture we are building on establishing a strong connection throughout the community with various events. This year we celebrated again the Reconciliation morning tea where members of the stolen generation were invited to the school.
Other highlights throughout the year included the Bombing of Darwin Ceremony; Anzac Day Ceremony; Danceathon fundraiser; Holy Week presentations, Deck Chair film fundraiser and community evening; Remembrance Day Mass and the Christmas concert and Music Soirees. Our school choirs and Liturgical Dance group continue to provide an opportunity for our students in the area of the Performing Arts. The beautification of the gardens and grounds continues to be supported by the fundraising efforts lead by Kath Baylis.

This year we acknowledge staff members of the school community who are moving on. Joanne Moller and husband Bruce are transferring to Bathurst Island for 2014. Joanne, Bruce and daughters Danielle, Jess and Laura have been wonderful supporters of our school community. Joanne’s passion for early years learning and the value of each individual at our school will be missed. Lucas Plummer has applied for 12 months leave so we wish him all of the best for his adventures through 2014 and look forward to seeing him on our doorstep in January 2015. Kyra Kerrins has been successful in a position at Top End Learning. Kyra’s love of our young children in COL is always evident along with her ability to produce creative outfits for all occasions. Jeremy D who taught Health and Physical Education across the school and has become a valued member of staff is transferring back to Geelong in Victoria; we will miss his presence across the school. Emma Tothill (COL and Student Support) is looking forward to travelling during 2014; her capable way of working with our students of all ages will be missed along with her generous spirit and friendly smile. Sarah Sarmardin, a much loved Transition teacher who left for Perth in June is not returning. Kate Newton who has been an outstanding teacher in Transition is finishing up her six month contract and is looking forward to the new challenges that the Top End will provide and last but not least Libby Joy who has provided student support on a casual basis. We thank all staff for their dedication to our students and wish them well for the year ahead. With staff returning from Maternity Leave there will be limited change in classroom teachers and a high level of stability for the school as we welcome Simon Duffy as the new Principal and Anna Hill as Religious Education Coordinator.

Thanks and appreciation goes to all members of the school staff for their commitment and contribution during this year. Their efforts towards continuous improvement in all areas of the school’s performance are evidenced in a range of successes documented in this report.

These achievements are not realised without the support and participation of all members of the school community. In my final year at Holy Spirit Catholic Primary school my thanks and appreciation is extended to the staff, students, families, School Board, Parents and Friends, the wider parent community, Parish community, Catholic Education Office, DET partners and governments at both the Federal and Territory level. It has been a privilege to serve this community over the past seven years.

God Bless

Bernadette Morriss
Principal 2007-2013
Vision Statement

Holy Spirit Catholic community is inspired by the gift of the Catholic story and tradition, encouraging all members ‘to live, to love and to grow in Christ’.

Holy Spirit Catholic School is committed to developing the fundamental value of each person. Through sharing and living the Catholic story and tradition, we foster learning that enables students, families, school and community to engage in a collaborative partnership for a life-long journey of education.

Catholic Identity

The Holy Spirit Catholic School motto “To live, to love, to grow in Christ” has been ever present in all aspects of the day-to-day running of our school this year. Posters have been brightly displayed around the school explaining what it means to be a W.E.S.T person (Welcome, Encourage, say Sorry, Thank); religious songs have been enthusiastically sung at morning assembly and the religious education curriculum has been embedded into all subjects. Religious Education and Catholic Identity at Holy Spirit has not simply been a stand-alone subject within a day but a vital element across all areas of the school day.
Each morning throughout 2013 the school has gathered together to begin the day with prayer. Students from each class have led the school in praying our Holy Spirit School prayer together, followed by teaching the school a song and dance, which is always relevant to the liturgical calendar or whole school mass focus. The Sunday gospel reading was also presented to the school in a creative way during our Friday morning assemblies.

The Year 5/6 classes have worked intensively on the Making Jesus Real program which allows them to think about their values and attitudes through songs, stories and activities. Prayer has continued to be a key element to the life of the school and this year we have celebrated two whole school masses or liturgies per term. Each learning team took the opportunity to plan and lead a mass or liturgy. A highlight for this year was a visit from the first Principal of Holy Spirit School, Sister Patricia McGinty. Sr Pat spoke to staff about the charism of the Mercy Sisters and on November 11th the first Remembrance Day Mass was celebrated in honour of the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy; Catherine McCauley.

Social Justice has continued to be a focus in the senior school this year. During the season of Lent, these students were responsible for the collection of the money from the Project Compassion Caritas boxes in each class, of which over $900 was raised. In term four, all students participated in the annual Mission Market day, which raised over $1600 for Caritas and over $ was raised to support the people of the Phillipines following Tornado and St Vincent de Paula Christmas appeal.

During the year, a program in which the Year Six students took part in a leadership breakfast one morning per term. The title of each presentation was “What is Faith” The students shared a nutritious breakfast together and then listened to a guest speaker share with them about how their faith inspires them to be a leader within their community. Speakers included Bishop Eugene Hurley, Reverend Jeremy Greaves who is the Dean of the Darwin Anglican Church and former Olympian Nova Peris. Year Six students then ended their year together with a retreat lead by Fr. Dan from the Missionaries of God’s Love. In this time they reflected on the year and the blessings that God had given them during their time at Primary School.

The school continues to work in partnership with the Holy Spirit Parish through the sacramental program. We were delighted to share in the Baptisms of students through a whole school Mass. Throughout the year many students from Holy Spirit School took part in preparation sessions and rehearsals prior to the celebration of the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation.

The Holy Spirit School Senior, Junior and Boys choir, as well as the liturgical dance group were once again busy this year. Some of the events, which they performed at, included whole school masses and liturgies, the school’s Harmony Day dinner and various school assemblies.

In Holy Week, classes presented powerful and engaging interpretations of the Easter story. The school watched as the story of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Garden of Gethsemane, Good Friday and the Resurrection unfolded before them. Once again this year, families of Holy Spirit gathered at Marrara Sports Stadium for our Christmas Concert which was well received by the whole community.

Staff from within the school took many opportunities to engage in professional development, with the final day at St. Paul’s with Reverend Doctor Elio Capra. Doctor Elio has completed a series of three days with staff across the Diocese. Some staff also continued with study of their Masters in Theology and Graduate Certificate in Religious Education.
School Profile

Holy Spirit School founded in 1979 is set in spacious grounds in Darwin’s northern suburbs. With a student enrolment of approximately 325 (including Community of Learners), the school strives to enable students to grow personally, academically and spiritually in keeping with our motto, “To live, to love, to grow in Christ”. As we celebrate 34 years of providing Catholic education to the Darwin community we have much of which to be proud. Our students learn in an atmosphere that integrates Gospel values with their life and learning. They are valued as unique individuals working to achieve their potential; spiritually, academically and socially. Our teachers are committed to providing a quality Catholic education based on Gospel values in partnership with the parish, parents and wider community. Their priority is to support students achieving their potential.

Holy Spirit School celebrates the cultural diversity of the school. Our school is proud of its student profile that is representative of African, Indian and Oceanic cultural backgrounds. More than thirty two cultural backgrounds are represented in the community. The profile of Indigenous students, 22% is supported by two Indigenous Education Workers who support literacy and numeracy programs and the implementation of Indigenous Perspectives across the curriculum. In addition the Indigenous Education Workers oversee the carriage of a funded program referred to as ‘Homework Centre’. Student support is coordinated by a Student Support Coordinator and specific individual programs are offered to 4% identified as having a disability.

The school has established a number of rituals and celebrations whereby cultural diversity is celebrated. Sorry Day, Reconciliation Week, Anzac Day and Harmony Day are just some of the nationally recognised days celebrated at Holy Spirit Catholic School.

At Holy Spirit School, education programs are provided for students from the ages of 3 through to 12 years. The Community of Learners (3-5 years), Transition through to Year 6 and provision for outside of School Hours Care is provided with a breakfast program 7:00 am – 8:00 am, After School Care 2: 30 pm – 5:30 pm (includes Active After School programs) and Vacation Care that provides a learning program of fun and activity during all
non-school contact times. Therefore the school doors are open to the community 10 hours per day over 50 weeks of the year.

Staffing Information

Staff profile:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teachers</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support staff</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
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*FTE = Full time equivalent

Summary of teacher qualifications

<p>| | |</p>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Post graduate qualifications</td>
<td>72.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor degree or equivalent</td>
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Student Profile

Student enrolment

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Girls</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

% Indigenous students:

% Students with a disability (SWD):

Average attendance:

National Partnership Project

During 2012 and 2013, Holy Spirit School received funding under the Next Steps project. These Australian Government funds allowed us to provide a range of professional development opportunities for staff; provide additional support staff to assist in improvements for our Indigenous Students in the area of literacy and numeracy and develop a framework whereby parents and school can work closely together in partnership that directly affects student outcomes. The professional development for this year focussed on teaching students for whom English is a Second Language and the implementation of the Visible Learning model for teaching and learning. This Professional Development contributed to improved teaching approaches that will benefit all students.
Student Leadership

Student Leadership Program continued in 2013 with two school captains Amelia Llewellyn and Andrew Caldwell. A total of eight Sport’s Captains

Our Leadership Groups participated in many projects throughout the year, such as recycling, Project Compassion and many fundraising events. We are continuing to develop how our Leadership groups look and the role they play in our school community.

In addition to our Student Leadership, Buddy Classes continued to bring our younger and older students together. This gave our younger students, some faces around the school they could go to speak with. It provided them with another person to assist them when out in the playground. In addition to this, for our older students it was a chance for them to be role models to our younger students and to gain an understanding of what it means to have people around you who rely on your help.

Teaching and Learning: Student Outcomes

We continue to review strategies to improve teaching processes and learning outcomes for our students. Ongoing professional development in line with Australian Curriculum continued to be a priority for our teachers this year. At the beginning of the year all teachers attended professional development on the research conducted by Doctor John Hattie, presented by the Visible Learning Team.

Action Teams in Literacy and Numeracy continued through 2013. Each Action Team met in Weeks 4 and 8 of each term to action some of the recommendations made through ongoing improvement and renewal processes Assessment and Reporting, as well as the collection of data continue to be a priority at Holy Spirit. Teachers are provided with a timeline schedule of when and how to collate this data. At the end of the year this data is then collated and provided to all our teachers.
### Year 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Aspect Tested</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>96.4%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>97.2%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>96.4%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
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<td>96.4%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>91.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>86.4%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar and Punctuation</td>
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<td>85.7%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>91.8%</td>
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### Year 5

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<th>Assessment Aspect Tested</th>
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<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
<td>83.3%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>91.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>79.1%</td>
<td>81.2%</td>
<td>97.2%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>84.3%</td>
<td>91.7%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>94.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>86.1%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>91.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar and Punctuation</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>81.2%</td>
<td>91.7%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>94.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a) Our scores compared to NT Schools and all Australian Schools

### Year 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>NT Schools</th>
<th>Australian Schools</th>
<th>Our School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>326</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar and Punctuation</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>385</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Yellow = WOW factor – scores that are close to or exceed Australian School scores.

Purple = scores that are well beyond NT Schools scores.

### Year 5
Yellow = WOW factor – scores that are close to or exceed Australian School scores.

Purple = scores that are well beyond NT Schools scores.

**Work Health and Safety**

As of January 1st 2012, Australia’s Work Health and Safety legislation changed for all workplaces. These new laws were introduced to harmonise Work Health and Safety legislation across Australia. As a school we were required to comply with new safety obligations.

At the beginning of the year a WHS Committee was established. The committee comprised members from executive, teaching staff and COL. The committee initially met twice per term, and further to advice once a term was deemed sufficient. Through this process we actioned some of the recommendations made through ongoing improvements and safety around the workplace. We discussed any issues/concerns that needed to be addressed.

Holy Spirit School was independently audited in 2012. As a self insured organisation, Catholic Education is required to demonstrate adequate systems for the management of Work Health and Safety consistent with the requirements of the National Self-Insurers WHS Audit Tool. From our audit an Action Plan was presented with proposed corrective action and an estimated completion date. Our Asbestos Register was updated at the beginning of year. Asbestos Management Systems conducted a Part 5 Asbestos survey on all structures in the school grounds. While asbestos was detected, it has now been included in our electronic copy of our register. This register is located in our front office and all contractors are required to read over this before performing any work.

All electrical cords were tested and tagged by Appliance Test and Tag over a two day period early in the year. All cords deemed unsafe and were cut and tagged dangerous. Staff was advised that when bringing in electrical cords from home that they are to be tested and tagged before use. While this was a large project, Appliance Test and Tag have informed us that when they visit our school in 2013 it will not be so onerous.

Throughout the year WHS safety checklists were completed each term through each learning area, including outside playground. An Action Plan was put into place to assist with maintenance around our school.

**Community of Learners / Early Learning Centre**

Holy Spirit Community of Learners continued to provide excellent early years care and education.

All staff is committed to ongoing formal study programs. All full time staff participated in an opportunity to attend the Australian Early Childhood conference in Perth.
Children and parents engaged positively throughout the year with a number of regular celebrations, including a Harmony Day dinner, Mother’s Day Breakfast, Father’s Day Afternoon tea, Melbourne Cup luncheon and our Christmas Concert with a shared dinner.

We would like to acknowledge the support and encouragement we receive from the staff and principal at Holy Spirit School; 2012 saw an increase in the number of parents who chose to send their children to Holy Spirit Catholic School for Transition. This is undoubtedly because of the integration which has occurred. COL staff feels free to contribute to the life of the school on all levels. Equally we feel supported by the school.

**Outside of School Hours Care**

During 2012, Outside of School Hours Care, in both the Before and After School Program and Vacation Care provided an excellent service for families within the school. This program continues to meet the needs of families from 7:00 am through to 5:30 pm on school days and 7:30 – 5:30 am during all Vacation periods.

Active After School Care is conducted during Outside of School Hours and provides our students with opportunities to learn various sports; dance, yoga and recreational activities.

**Parent Involvement**

Our parent group is evidenced in the school community through various activities. The School Board includes a range of parents who provide advice to the Executive body of the school. Johanna Stieber was elected as the new Chairperson with Nicole Neumann, Deputy Chair. Elected members include; Patricia Pini, Guy and, Patricia Pini and Christine Crimmings. The Principal, Deputy Principal and Parish Priest are included in the membership.

A number of smaller fundraising events occurred in 2002 including barbeques, raffles, movie night and danceathon. Total funds raised for the year were approximately $13,000. These funds contributed to the purchasing of reading materials and the new stage area as well as computer technology in classrooms. Parents were encouraged to contribute to fundraising and attend school events throughout the year.

As recommended by the Kidsmatter Action Team, a parent room ‘Rainbow Room’ has been created complete with furnishings, computer and parent resources to create a communal space for meetings and informal gatherings.

Parents are encouraged to support classrooms, attend excursions and we appreciated the wonderful support that parents provide through their attendance at Friday Prayer Assemblies.

Indigenous families contribute to the schools governance through the Homework Centre Parent Group. This group meet at least twice per year. Homework Centre is offered three nights a week between 2:30 – 4:00 pm. Students are provided with afternoon tea before setting in an hour of homework based activities. Our Indigenous Students attended a Big Day Out that provided an opportunity for them to network with students from other Catholic Schools.
Thank you

At the end of 2013 we farewelled Joanne Moller. Joanne was the Assistant Director of Community of Learners for five years and teacher of years 4/5 and Transition for an additional two years. Joanne’s passion for early year’s learning, creative learning environments, development of the whole child and developing independence in learning are just some of the things that she will be remembered for. We wish Joanne and husband Bruce all the best for their work at Bathurst Island. Holy Spirit School community are indebted to Joanne, Bruce and their daughters Danielle, Jessica and Laura for their generous support of the school community. Their love of the school community and many generous hours of volunteer work is appreciated.

Financial Summary

KPMG completed an annual audit for all cost centres within the school including Community of Learners and Outside of School Hours Care. Matters arising from this audit identified key areas to address in a schedule which the Principal has addressed. Our thanks and appreciation to Lee Mian Chong for her diligence and conscientious effort in audit preparations. The audit outcomes were excellent.

School Self-Assessment – SIRF review.

During this year two areas of the School Improvement Renewal Framework were reviewed to evaluate current progress and to establish clear goals for the next phase of Strategic Planning. The two areas identified for review this year were; Catholic Identity and Teaching and Learning. Our thanks to parents, students and teachers for their contribution to written surveys, Survey Monkey and focus group forums.
Yet another year has passed with the Year 6 students ready to move on to Middle School, new transition students ready to start ‘big’ school, and the other students excited for the Christmas break and eager to find out who their new teacher will be in 2014.

The 2013 school year has been another successful one for Holy Spirit Primary School, and this is evident when you visit the School and see the fine young and happy students out in the yard.

I would like to give a huge thanks to Bernadette Morriss who has ensured that the School’s focus is not only on Teaching and Learning, but on building a real sense of community, and in ensuring the educational and spiritual journey of each individual student, remains the focus of all. This has been the case, not only for 2013, but for the past seven years with Bernadette as Principal of the School. We thank you Bernadette for your leadership over the years, for your guidance and your vision, and for the positive impact you have had on the lives of the students who have attended Holy Spirit during that time.

A big thanks also to the dedicated, energetic and enthusiastic staff – both teaching and non-teaching – who make the School the success that it is today. We give our thanks to all staff for what they give to the School so that our children are safe and happy, and encouraged to be the best people they can be, both educationally and socially.

During the year, we welcomed Fr Jimmy into the Parish and School community, and we have enjoyed getting to know him and continue the important connection between the Parish and the School. Thank you Fr Jimmy – your commitment and contribution to the Board meetings is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank every volunteer who has helped out in any way over the course of the year. Your assistance is noticed over the entire school - from the gardens to the in-class reading support, cooking at BBQs or donations of time to repair property – just to name a few.

Last of all, I would like to thank the other Board members for the time they have devoted over the year – Anne Myerscough, Trish Pini, Guy and Justine Glover, Nicole Neuman, and Chris Crimmings. I would also like to thank Paula Sellars and Lee Mian Chong for the support that they have provided to the Board. I look forward to working with you all in 2014.

Johanna Stieber
Chairperson
The information in this report has been verified and the priorities endorsed by the Director of Catholic Education.

[Signatures]
Principal
School Board Chairperson
Director of Catholic Education
Date 2013