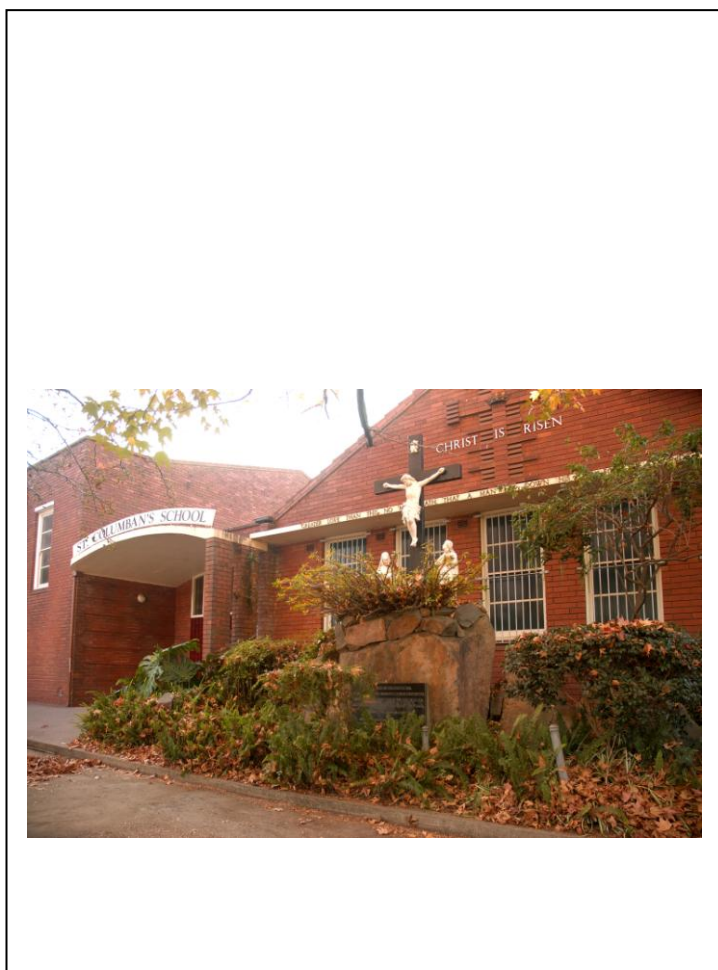




**ST COLUMBAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
MAYFIELD**

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT 2009



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Messages from Key School Bodies

Principal

I take great pleasure in presenting the 2009 Annual school Report for St Columban's Primary School at Mayfield.

During 2009 school year, St Columban's set about reviewing policies and procedures in preparation for the school review, (SEVDEV) School Evaluation and Development Planning. A major survey was undertaken of parents, parish priest, staff and students. (The results are available via the principal). In brief the survey results were very affirming of the school and what is happening within the school to support and educate the children within the school's care.

St Columban's School continues to be committed to the implementation of quality educational programs within the philosophy of Catholic Education which guides the Catholic School in its functioning. While we are accountable to the community at large for the provision of quality education we are also accountable to the Church community for providing this within the context of Christian Gospel values as espoused by the Church tradition.

The Staff and Students of St Columban's School have a special mission within the diocese. They welcome many students into their classrooms from partner school St Dominic's Centre for Hearing Impaired Children. St Columban's also provides special programmes for another 10 children integrated into our classrooms who qualified for disability funding during 2009 as well as 54 children who are assisted under the Special Needs index and 40 children who have the support of the schools pastoral support person for problems that range from the effects of parent separation and pressing home issues to those children affected by social skill inadequacies.

Within the school community there are 22 nationalities represented. Over 65 children qualify for assistance under the English as a Second Language program in 2009

All Staff are committed to providing a high quality education for the children.

Parent Representative

St Columban's Primary School Mayfield has a warm and friendly atmosphere. The School's motto is TRUTH, and Christianity is its centrepiece. It is a multicultural school community, with over 20 different ethnicities and cultures coming together everyday to share their lives, and create their futures as Australians.

The staff of St Columban's, are dedicated to the education of our children. This is evident not only within the classrooms, but also with masses, liturgies, and school excursions. The school is fortunate enough to

have the support of our onsite Parish Priest, Fr Bill Burston, and the parish Pastoral Associate, Deacon Lawrence Caelli. Sr Marie Jones RSJ is the pastoral support on staff at St Columban's, and provides physical, emotional and spiritual support to a great number of students, parents, families and staff.

As a parent, I am very proud to be involved and associated with St Columban's Primary School

Student Leaders/SRC

St Columban's is always a busy learning place, where all of us feel safe and happy.

During 2009 we had many experiences such as Jump Rope for Heart school tours, clinics in all types of sport. We performed in a great musical, where we all dressed up and had fun as well as learn about Australia's history. The stage 3 students presented their Web 2.0 web pages to teachers at the Catholic Schools ICT Forum. The children were teaching the teachers how to develop a Google page.

The teachers gave us opportunities to learn about other cultures. We had Asia activities days. We did craft activities and watched performers from Asian countries. We are lucky at St Columban's because our teachers care for us.

Religious Dimension and Culture of School Life

Catholic Identity

St Columban's School is proudly Catholic and Christian. Its identity is manifested daily in the events that unfold in the school and parish community. Its identity has evolved from the traditions of historical events that remain relevant and are remembered in liturgies and celebration today. Such traditions are the recognition of the original land owners, the Awabakal Peoples and the recognition of the establishment of the first school by the Dominican Sisters in 1917.

St Columban's School celebrates its Catholic identity in:

- The frequent celebration of the Eucharist each term.
- Daily prayer time at Assemblies and in classrooms.
- Liturgies to celebrate NAIDOC week, Special feast days (St Dominic's, St Columban's), mission and pastoral works (Mothers and Grandparents).
- Visual displays that teach of the Liturgical Calendar of the Church.

The School as part of Parish and Diocesan Life

St Columban's School is recognised as a vital part of the Parish community, participating in weekend Masses, the Parish based Sacramental Program for the Sacraments of Initiation, entertaining members of the Legion of Mary at their gatherings, class attendance at the Masses of Anointing with the elderly and contributing to the St

Vincent de Paul Society in practical donations and visitations to the aged in the local community.

Teaching of Religion

The staff and children are engaged in Catechesis through the implementation of the Diocesan Religion Syllabus K-12, specifically in the formal Religion lessons each day (utilizing the RE Units of Work, knowledge and outcomes based) and generally across the other KLA subjects with emphasis on Christian values and attitudes.

Teaching of Religion emphasises creative pedagogy, celebration of the liturgical calendar, and an understanding of the spiritual development of the student

Retreats and Faith Development Programs

Programs incorporated in the timetable include:

- Seasons for Growth.
- Reflection days which highlight feast days, e.g. St Dominic and Indigenous celebrations.
- Prayer Development (Kindergarten children and parents).
- Staff Spirituality Discussion days

Values (including Social Justice Initiatives)

Values education and Social Justice play a major role in St Columban's every day activities. As we are a school of 22 different nationalities and integrate children with disabilities it is important that the children learn respect of others, tolerance and acceptance, kindness, cooperation, harmony and responsibility. The children and staff of St Columban's engage in many activities throughout the year:

- Mission fundraising
- Harmony Day (March)
- Mini Vinnies
- Integration of Special Needs
- Entertainment of the Elderly
- National Anthem is sung at all assemblies
- Children recite the ode of allegiance
- Seasons for Growth programme
- Aboriginal celebration days
- Multicultural days and festivals
- Buddies program
- Integration of the deaf and children with other disabilities into our school
- Pastoral support person
- Pastoral support and behaviour management policy

In line with the Australian Government's "Values for School's", St Columban's is in the process of planning a new pastoral care and behaviour management policy based on these values.

Policies

Enrolment Policy

St Columban's follows the guidelines provided by the Catholic Schools Office Policy *Enrolment (Amended 2008)*. The Policy has been devised to accommodate, as far as is possible, the needs of families seeking a Catholic education. In situations where enrolments have to be restricted because of limitations on capacity, preference may need to be given to children of Catholic families, as defined in the Policy. Implementation of the Policy is via our local school Enrolment Committee which has discretionary authority in keeping with Diocesan guidelines. Copies of the Policy are available from the school, or from the Catholic Schools Office website (cf end of Report). Parents concerned about school fees should ensure they make contact with the school. Diocesan provisions (including standard discounts for those with a Health Card) exist to help in this area, and the Principal can also exercise discretion where genuine need exists.

Student Welfare

The school gives a high priority to the pastoral care of students and commits significant time and resources to this area. A pastoral support worker, Sr Marie Jones is available to assist students and parents who are experiencing problems or need practical assistance.

A psychologist who visits one day per week sees students who may need to be referred to other agencies.

The Red Cross Breakfast program, which is sponsored by the St Vincent de Paul Society, provides breakfast for students. The Society is also a great help with school uniforms and other requisites for some families; particularly refugees who are struggling to adjust to their new lives in Australia.

Sr Maureen Rigby OP runs a weekly prayer group and discussion for parents during term 2. Other groups have also been closely involved with providing pastoral care for our students. These include Student Support Team, Centacare, Jesuit Refugee Service, Royal Blind Society and the Northern Settlement Services. For further information refer to the school's Pastoral Care Policy.

Discipline

The School's Pastoral Care and Behaviour Management policy is under review. It will be based on restorative practices and values education

The policy will be accessible from the school portal <http://intra.mayfldsc.mn.catholic.edu.au>

Complaints & Grievances

As well as Pastoral Care and Behaviour Management, the school has policies on First Aid, Bullying, Excursions, Custody Issues, Anti-Discrimination and Complaints Resolution policies. These reflect the special emphasis given in the school to ensuring that every child

is able to experience a quality education in a safe and unthreatening environment.

Parents are always encouraged to raise issues with the teacher and/or the Principal. In regard to issues of procedural fairness reference is made to the Catholic Schools Office Pastoral Care Policy as revised in 2002 and Complaints Management policy 2006. All policies may be accessed via school portal.

Student Achievements

Academic Achievements

The school is always seeking to raise the literacy and numeracy competencies of the students in our care. During 2009 the school participated in National tests for Numeracy and Literacy held in May for Years 3 and 5. NAPLAN (National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy) The scores from these tests are published in this report.

The school developed a unit of work for HSIE based on Vietnam and its connections with Australia. Children developed their own websites using Web2.0 products. The children presented their work and explained how to build these sites to teachers at CSO Technology Forum. Year 4 students participated in the Throsby Styx Creek Project with Hunter Water and Catchment Authority. This involved water testing and designing signs for the waterways to deter pollution.

The school newspaper was once again of a high standard. The editorial committee drew praise from journalists at the Newcastle Herald and members of the community. The children's Newcastle Permanent Building Society Advertisement Competition entry was highly commended.

Lexia a computer based learning tool for phonics/reading was introduced into the reading program this year with great results, especially for the children with special needs.

Cultural Achievements

There were numerous cultural achievements throughout 2009. Our Japanese program in Stages 1 and 2 and our Italian Programme that has been running in Stage 3 for the past 15 years, continued to develop. The latter gives the senior students an introduction into European language and culture before moving on to high school. The school continued with its project in the "Leading 21st Century Schools Engage with Asia' project.

The school hosted an Asian cultural day where many countries arts and crafts were experienced. The school musical "Our Australian Story" was a great hit. The children danced, sang songs and recited poems about Australia's history.

Sporting Achievements

The children participated in a wide variety of clinics and gala days during this year. These include basketball, netball, and soccer, AFL, Rugby League, Rugby Union and Athletics.

The primary swimming program with our two Austswim instructors in Terms 1 and 4 continues to be very successful. Many children with little or no experience of water safety gain confidence through this program and several progressed to the Diocesan Carnival.

Year 2 receives an intensive swimming programme in Term 4

During Terms 2 and 3 the children enjoy a 20 minute health hustle every morning to improve fitness.

The Jump Rope for Heart Team continued to tour in 2009 visiting many schools in the Hunter region with National Heart Foundation representatives. The team continues to inspire other schools during their visits and has helped to raise many thousands of dollars for medical research.

The school netball team did very well the St Catherine's College Singleton Netball Gala Day in the primary division. Many schools throughout the Hunter attend this Annual Carnival. The senior girls did well at the Diocesan Netball Gala Day at Charlestown reaching the final in the pool.

The Rugby team and the rugby league teams entered all local competitions and were the runners up in most

Performance in Statewide Tests

NAPLAN Program 2009 - Year 3						
Percentage in Skill Band						
		Reading	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Writing	Numeracy
Band 6 and Above	St Columbans Primary School M	9.1%	0.0%	4.5%	0.0%	4.5%
	National Performance	21.8%	18.6%	25.5%	15.8%	12.3%
Band 5	St Columbans Primary School M	13.6%	36.4%	22.7%	13.6%	9.1%
	National Performance	20.1%	20.2%	22.7%	28.6%	20.1%
Band 4	St Columbans Primary School M	13.6%	9.1%	22.7%	31.8%	13.6%
	National Performance	22.6%	25.1%	21.3%	29.7%	27.0%
Band 3	St Columbans Primary School M	31.8%	9.1%	4.5%	18.2%	22.7%
	National Performance	18.1%	18.7%	14.0%	15.1%	22.7%
Band 2	St Columbans Primary School M	13.6%	27.3%	22.7%	22.7%	13.6%
	National Performance	11.1%	9.4%	9.0%	6.3%	11.8%
Band 1	St Columbans Primary School M	18.2%	18.2%	22.7%	13.6%	36.4%
	National Performance	4.4%	5.9%	5.7%	2.6%	4.2%

NAPLAN Program 2009 - Year 5						
Percentage in Skill Band						
		Reading	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Writing	Numeracy
Band 8 and Above	St Columbans Primary School M	3.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.8%
	National Performance	12.5%	9.6%	14.5%	6.8%	8.2%
Band 7	St Columbans Primary School M	26.9%	26.9%	38.5%	19.2%	19.2%
	National Performance	20.5%	17.6%	21.2%	17.1%	16.5%
Band 6	St Columbans Primary School M	23.1%	11.5%	30.8%	42.3%	26.9%
	National Performance	25.1%	26.3%	25.9%	30.8%	28.3%
Band 5	St Columbans Primary School M	38.5%	38.5%	19.2%	30.8%	42.3%
	National Performance	20.7%	26.0%	19.7%	26.5%	27.4%
Band 4	St Columbans Primary School M	3.8%	23.1%	11.5%	7.7%	7.7%
	National Performance	12.9%	13.0%	10.8%	11.6%	13.7%
Band 3	St Columbans Primary School M	3.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	National Performance	6.5%	5.8%	6.3%	5.5%	4.1%

Staff

Staff Qualifications

Qualifications & Experience	Number of Staff	
I. Teachers with teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR).	13	
II. Teachers with qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by NOOSR but lacking formal teaching qualifications		
III.(a) Teachers not having qualifications as described in I or II above but having relevant successful teaching experience or appropriate knowledge relevant to the teaching context	(a)	(b)
III. (b) of these which are New Scheme Teachers.		

Professional Learning Undertaken

The Staff of St Columban's had the opportunity during 2009 to attend professional activities in the areas of Grammar and Literacy, Programming, Child Protection, Anaphylaxis Training, Emergency First Aid and CPR, Smart board activities, Web 2.0 certificates on line. Literacy certificates on-line.

Teacher Attendance

The average teacher attendance rate for this school is 95%.

Teacher Retention

The teacher retention rate from 2008 to 2009 was 100%.

Enrolments

Actual Enrolments 2009

Scholastic Year	Number of Students
K	25
1	27
2	25
3	22
4	24
5	27
6	28
TOTAL	178

Roll Class	Number of Students
K	25
1	27
2	25
3	22
4	24
5	27
6	28
TOTAL	178

Student Attendance (Primary)

The average student attendance rate for students at this school during 2009 was 87 %.

School Priorities

Achievement of School Priorities

The priorities of

- installing LT upgrades
- purchasing of resources to assist classroom delivery
- completing the "Leading 21st Century Engage with Asia Project"
- maintaining a happy and safe school for all members of the community
- beginning the review of policies and procedures were all achieved

Facilities

During 2009 the Commonwealth Government National Pride Project allowed seven classrooms to be refurbished. These rooms were carpeted, painted, had storage furniture installed and the last of the smart boards were installed.

The facilities are maintained on a regular basis with a maintenance man attending to items needing attention, once a fortnight.

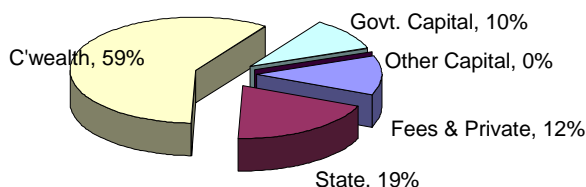
Community Satisfaction

SEVDEV surveys of parents, teachers, students and parish priest showed that all members of the school community surveyed felt that St Columban's had a clear Catholic identity and quality teaching and learning was delivered. They also agreed that their children were cared for in a safe and welcoming school environment where they (the Parents) also felt welcome. Parents thought that our buildings, grounds and resources were adequate. The children felt safe and respected by staff at school. The majority of children said that they were learning most of the time and that they were comfortable approaching teachers for assistance with all types of problems. The staff survey provided feedback that agreed with the Parent body. They felt that they had adequate opportunities for professional development and that the school was well organised and administered in an effective manner.

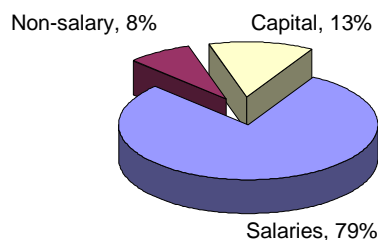
Financial Information

The following graphs represent the income and expenditure for St Columban's Primary School, Mayfield for the school year ending 31 January 2010 as aggregated from the annual returns to the Australian Government's Department of Education, Science and Training.

Recurrent & Capital Income



Recurrent & Capital Expenditure



Concluding Statement

Fr Bill Burston, Deacon Lawrence Caelli and St Columban's Parish are thanked for their help and continued support for the school.

Parents, staff and students are thanked for their generous contribution to St Columban's School. Several former parents also continue to help the school many years after their children have left. We remain very grateful for their interest after all this time.

Report Access and Publication

This report is available to members of the school and wider communities. Copies will be supplied to the Catholic Schools Office, The Board of Studies, The Parents and Friends Association, the Parish Priest and to all parents.

Copies of this annual report are available to the general public. Persons wishing to access a copy of the report should contact:

The Principal
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St Columban's Primary School
Church Street
MAYFIELD NSW 2304
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For further information relating to Diocesan Policy please refer to: <http://mn.catholic.edu.au>