2014 Annual School Report
St Peter’s Primary School, Stockton

5 Dunbar Street
STOCKTON NSW 2295
stockton.catholic.edu.au
About the Annual School Report

St. Peter’s Primary School, Stockton is registered by the Board of Studies as a member of the Catholic system in the Dioceses of Maitland- Newcastle. The Annual School Report provides parents and the wider community with fair, accurate and objective information about various aspects of school performance and development. The Report describes achievement of school development priorities in 2014 and gives information about 2014 priorities. This Report is a legislative requirement under the Schools Assistance Act, 2008.

The information in this Report is complemented by the school website where other school publications and newsletters can be viewed or obtained from the school.

Messages from Key School Bodies

Principal

2014 has been another successful year at St. Peter’s School. Our enrolment numbers have continued to grow slowly with an anticipated enrolment next year being 88 students.

The major focus of our School Improvement Plan this year was on pedagogy in Mathematics. Funding was used to provide teacher release. Each teacher worked with a colleague teacher to look at programming and planning of lessons, collection and distribution of appropriate resources, formulation of rich assessment tasks and plotting of students on the Numeracy Continuum. Teachers found this collaboration time to be invaluable and appreciated the feedback they were able to give each other. Data received from end-of-year assessments indicates that children are benefitting from this more focused teaching of Mathematics. We hope to continue this project in 2015.

Incorporation of technology into our teaching continued to be a focus in 2014. Each classroom now has ten laptops and the Smartboard is well used as a teaching tool. We have continued to develop our knowledge and understanding of Gate 21 and teachers have been doing some training with Skill Snacks.

This year has seen a continued focus on Music. Each class has had a forty five minute music lesson each week conducted by myself. This has allowed teachers to have a block of RFF time as it has been tied in with their Library release. The children have enjoyed their music time and took great delight in presenting a musical item at the end-of-year Assembly.

Once again the children participated in a variety of extra-curricula activities. These included World Of Maths workshop, a Science Challenge day, regional debating and public speaking. Sports carnivals and gala days included swimming, cross-country running, athletics, soccer, rugby league and netball. The school was also represented at local community events such as Anzac Day March and Remembrance Day service.

Denis Prendergast

Principal

Parent Body

The P and F Association is an integral part of St Peter’s Primary School and provides a formal structure for parents and others interested in the welfare of the students, to participate in all activities and decision making processes at the school and to work for the benefit of the school and its students. The monthly meeting is an opportunity for parents to learn more about school policies and to raise any concerns arising from the parent body. All parents are encouraged to be part of this group and to attend the meetings which are usually very productive and informative. The P and F is also vital in establishing collaboration and a good working relationship between parents/carers and teachers. This relationship is one that St Peter’s is proud of and one that is quite unique.
St Peter’s has a clear identity as a Catholic school in the local community and we as members of the P and F Assoc. work hard to raise that profile and the values for which we stand. The P and F is very active in fundraising to assist the school in purchasing any necessary resources. In the past 2 years the P and F Assoc. has purchased sporting equipment, educational resources, playground equipment and funded whole school excursions. Fundraising activities in the past year have included a Bunnings BBQ, a School Disco and a school movie night. The P&F. Association also runs the school canteen which not only provides a service to children but is also a valuable source of funds in our fundraising endeavours.

Student Body
The children have had another great year at St. Peter’s. We have enjoyed participating in many events besides what we do in the classroom. This has included debating, public speaking, Science Challenge day and visits to Westcott nursing home to sing and play board games with the residents.

Sport has been a popular activity at St. Peter’s. This year we have participated in Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics Carnivals, Paul Harragon Cup Rugby League and a Netball Gala Day. Towards the end of the year we had a Surf Safety and Surf Skills day conducted by the coaches at Pirate Point Surf. This was a very enjoyable activity and we hope it can happen again in the future.

We would like to thank all our fantastic teachers for helping us in our learning this year. A special thank you to our Principal, Mr. Prendergast who is leaving at the end of this year. He has been a great role model for us all, teaching us to persist when things get challenging and to always do our best. We hope he has a happy retirement.

Ben Matthews and Marissa Moncrieff
School Captains

Who We Are

History of the School
St. Peter’s Primary School, Stockton is a small school located in a beach side suburb of Newcastle. The school was first established in 1887 and has been handing on the Catholic tradition and practice of faith through successive generations. Living the values and teachings of the Gospel is integral to St. Peter’s vision.

Location/Drawing Area
St. Peter’s School is located in the centre of Stockton, at 5 Dunbar St. It draws students from Stockton, Fern Bay, Fullerton Cove, Williamtown and Medowie.

Characteristics of the Student Body
The table below shows the number of students in each of the categories listed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LBOTE*</th>
<th>SWD*</th>
<th>Indigenous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Language Backgrounds Other Than English (LBOTE), Students with Disabilities (SWD)

Religious Dimension and Culture of School Life

Catholic Identity
Saint Peter’s is truly a catholic parish school. Children from all backgrounds are invited to apply for enrolment and, as much as possible, accommodated. We have a policy of inclusion and this is demonstrated daily through action and words. The whole school community embraces people’s differences and celebrates what we can learn from interacting with each other. The tolerance demonstrated by families and children is a feature of the school and is noticed by the wider community. The symbols associated with a catholic school are clearly evident to the wider community.
The School as part of Parish and Diocesan Life

The school and parish have strong links and we look to build these through any events we can be part of. We like to keep the parish informed as to what is happening in the school. This is done through the Principal’s representation of the school on the Parish Pastoral Council and by including items of school news in the weekly parish bulletin and quarterly parish newspaper.

St Peter’s school has actively promoted participation in the Catholic Church community by immersing the students, teachers, parents and the wider parish community in meaningful prayer and shared liturgies. The students of the school are taking on more active roles in parish and community celebrations. In 2014 the continuation of family Masses each term was a successful focus for school and parish cooperation and will continue to be a priority for future development. Talents such as liturgy preparation, musical arrangements and organisational prowess are shared to ensure the parish celebration is meaningful and welcoming to all.

Children from St. Peter’s School were involved in the Parish Sacramental Program in 2014. The sacraments of Confirmation, Eucharist and Penance were received. The children and their parents participated in the program, which involved information and training sessions over a number of weeks.

During 2014 some Yr. 6 students represented our school at the annual Catholic School’s Week Mass. As well, we participated in mission activities, raising funds for Caritas, Catholic Mission and St. Vincent De Paul Society. Children of the school also donated items for the St. Vincent De Paul Christmas hampers.

During 2014 we continued our weekly prayer time each Friday morning. This is called “Thank God it’s Friday” prayer and is held first thing after the school bell for children and teachers. Parents and parishioners are also invited to take part. This is a time of reflection on a specific theme or on the weekend scriptures. It is pleasing to see some of the senior children taking a lead in this activity.

Teaching of Religion

The K-12 Syllabus for Religion developed by the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese is implemented throughout the school. Daily religion lessons are conducted in keeping with developing a greater understanding and knowledge of our Catholic faith, through the four strands: Jesus and Scripture, History and Beliefs, Celebration and Prayer and Justice and Morality. This policy is available to parents from the school office.

Retreats and Faith Development Programs

In Term One, staff attended a Spirituality day on the theme of understanding children’s spirituality. This was led by Dr. Brendan Hyde from ACU. In June the Principal attended a Principal’s retreat on the theme of building our church community.

Children in Stage 3 had a retreat day in visiting the Mercy Convent in Singleton. This allowed them to find out about the establishment of the Sisters of Mercy in Ireland by Catherine McAuley and the history of the Mercy sisters in Australia and in our diocese. Stage 3 students also attended a three day excursion to Canberra. Obviously this involved a good deal of team work and tolerance of others and from this point of view it was a great learning experience for the children.

As previously mentioned, some children participated in the Parish Sacramental Program with their parents.

Values and initiatives to promote respect and responsibility

The school is always represented at community gatherings such as ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day as another way of promoting respect among our young people for what previous generations have done for us and developing a sense of responsibility to continue the values and culture of our democratic society in the future.

St Peter’s eagerly participates in a number of charities and fundraising events which aim to support people in need from our local and wider communities. Our school takes great pride in being able to raise significant funds and goods for charities such as the Catholic Missions, St Vincent De Paul and the Cancer Council.

2014 proved to be another great year for the fundraising and promotion of global awareness for the students of St Peter’s. Visitors from Catholic Mission and St. Vincent De Paul Society spoke about the work of their organisations in helping to alleviate poverty and promote the dignity of individuals. Children were reminded of their responsibility to show care and concern for others.
Policies

Enrolment Policy
St. Peter’s School follows the guidelines provided by the Catholic Schools Office Enrolment Policy 2013. This Enrolment Policy has been devised in order to accommodate the needs of families seeking a Catholic education. It aims to set direction for school procedures and practices for enrolling students into Catholic Primary and Secondary Schools within the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle and to establish a common, consistent approach in enrolment practices and assist the system of Catholic schools to provide schooling, where possible, for all Catholic children who seek enrolment, cater for the individual needs of each child equitably within the constraints of the available teaching and material resources and to encourage parents enrolling their children in Catholic schools to give support to parish and school life, especially in education in faith.

Copies of the Policy are available from the school, or from the Catholic Schools Office website. 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
At St Peter’s the care and support of all children is our primary concern. Our Pastoral Care policy is part of the day to day operation of the school. The respect and dignity of every student is reflected in all our procedures and practice. A review of our Pastoral Care policy was completed early in 2014. In this review more emphasis is given to positive strategies to promote care and a culture of positive behaviour as opposed to reactionary processes for dealing with negative behaviours. A full copy of the current policy is available by contacting the school office.

Discipline
During 2014 we continued to implement the school’s Behaviour Management Policy. No changes were made to this policy, which had been reviewed in the previous year. Our Behaviour Management Policy focuses on student behaviour and the consequences for breach of school rules and regulations. It outlines a Behavioural Management Plan to be followed in the case of inappropriate behaviour.

The emphasis is on children making “good choices” and owning their actions.

For serious breaches warranting suspension or expulsion, we adhere to the Diocesan Pastoral Care policy procedures.

A copy of our Behaviour Management policy is available on request from the school office.

Anti-Bullying Policy
Catholic schools have the responsibility to promote cultures of trust, cooperation and respect in the lived experience of the Catholic Christian setting. Bullying in a school mitigates such a culture and inhibits the development of positive relational outcomes for the common good of students, teachers and caregivers. St Peter’s Anti-Bullying Policy is reviewed regularly and is available on the school website.

Complaints and Grievances
The school has formal written protocols in place to address complaints and grievances. These protocols are in line with the Complaints and Grievances Resolution Policy (2013), developed to provide a consistent approach for all Diocesan schools. This policy aims to address the concerns of Parents / Carers and the wider community. These concerns may include children’s learning, behaviour and welfare, School organisation and management, student health and safety issues.

A copy of this policy and the informative parent brochure is available from the school office, school website or is available on the Catholic Schools Office website. The policy and associated support material was updated in 2013.
Student Achievements

**Academic Achievements**

This year the children from Yr. 6 sat for the UNSW Religious Education test. Four Credit certificates were awarded.

Children in Yrs. 5 and 6 also participated in the Newcastle Permanent Primary Mathematics Competition, with an overall achievement of three Distinction and two Merit Awards.

Our Yr.6 class participated in a regional Science Challenge day. They had to complete several tasks employing skills in engineering. A result of second place in their category was achieved. Senior students also participated in the Diocesan Debating Competition which was held during Term 3 and the Diocesan Public Speaking Competition which was held during Term 4.

**School Academic Priorities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Steps taken to achieve the priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Improvement in Numeracy Standards    | Teacher PD: Catherine Attard workshop  
SIP Project: Teacher release to work with colleague on improving pedagogy in Maths.  
Plotting of children on Numeracy Continuum  
Rationalisation of resources |
| Improvement in Literacy standards    | Continue use of Focus On Reading strategies  
More careful analysis of NAPLAN results from previous year and planning of activities to address problem areas. |
| Commence using new Syllabus in Science | Review Scope and Sequence  
Trial new units  
Two teachers attended Science workshop introducing the new syllabus. |

**Performance in National Testing**

**National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2014**

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN assessment results provide valuable information about student achievements in literacy and numeracy. An analysis of these results assists school planning and is used to support teaching and learning programs. The tables below show the percentages of students who achieved particular skill bands in numeracy and the aspects of literacy. The school results shown are compared to students nationally. Literacy is reported in four content strands (aspects): Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation. Numeracy is reported as a single content strand.

On analysis of the data the school plans to target students in Band 2 with remedial assistance and also target higher achieving students for extension. During 2015, the school improvement plan will incorporate emphasis in these areas.
Cultural Achievements

Guitar lessons were continued during 2014 with a small group of Yr. 5 / 6 students reaching the stage of being able to play together at Assemblies and our School Masses at the end of the year.

Each class had a weekly designated Music lesson taught by the Principal which incorporated music appreciation some theory and also performance aspects. Students participated in regional debating and public speaking competitions and attended Diocesan cultural initiatives such as “Dio Sounds” and “Aspire”. During Term 4, children from K, Yr.1 and Yr.2 visited Westcott, a local Aged Care facility, to present Christmas carols they had learnt.

Sporting Achievements

St Peter’s students are encouraged to participate in both school and community sporting events. Our emphasis is on maximum participation and encouraging every child to “have a go.” The Netball Gala and Paul Harragon Cup days were opportunities for widespread participation. Children also had the opportunity to be selected for representative teams via the Diocesan Sports trials process. A number of children from our school represented the North Region in swimming and athletics, with some going on to compete at Diocesan level. A Surf Skills and Safety day was held for children in Yrs. 3 – 6. An intensive swimming program for Yrs. K – 2 was very successful.

Other Highlights for 2014

During Term 4 students from Years 5 and 6 visited Canberra to augment studies in the teaching of Australian Democracy and Federal Government. To assist in making the excursion viable, the students attended with students from St Kevin’s, Cardiff and St Patrick’s, Swansea. Meeting and working with students from other schools added to the overall educational experience. The school’s celebrations for Mothers’ Day and Fathers’ Day incorporated both religious and social components and were well attended by parents.
Staff

Staff Qualifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications and Experience</th>
<th>Number of Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Teachers with teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition (NOOSR).</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Teachers with qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised by NOOSR but lacking formal teaching qualifications</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>(a) 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Of these which are New Scheme Teachers.</td>
<td>(b) 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Workforce composition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Staff</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total teaching staff</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total non-teaching staff</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand total</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of teachers who are Indigenous

Professional Learning Undertaken

Throughout the year staff members at St Peter’s took advantage of professional learning opportunities by attending training in a number of areas including: Introduction to the Primary Maths Syllabus and associated workshops, the launch of the Primary Science Curriculum and Understanding Children’s Spirituality.

The executive staff attended Diocesan and Regional Assembly Days and the Principal attended training days aimed at the establishment of Professional Learning Communities as well as a principals’ conference focused on school leadership.

Teacher Attendance

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

Teacher Retention

The teacher retention rate from 2013 to 2014 was 86%.

One teacher’s position finished as it was a temporary appointment under the National Partnerships Program and another also finished as she was in a temporary job share situation which did not continue in 2014.
Enrolments

Actual Enrolments 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholastic Year</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year One</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Two</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Three</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Four</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Five</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Six</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student Attendance

Percentage of student attendance by Year level and school average for 2014:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Kindergarten</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Year 6</th>
<th>School Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>91.58 %</td>
<td>90.63 %</td>
<td>92.78 %</td>
<td>94.18 %</td>
<td>95.54 %</td>
<td>93.85 %</td>
<td>94.75 %</td>
<td>93.33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Managing non-attendance

Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to maximise their potential. Schools, in partnership with parents and guardians, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. The compulsory schooling age is 6 to 17. Principals and school staff, in consultation with students and their parents, will usually be able to resolve problems of non-attendance. While parents should be reminded of their legal obligations under the Education Act (1990) the welfare of the student must be the focus of this consultation. The most effective means of restoring and maintaining regular school attendance includes sound attendance monitoring practices and regular follow-up of unexplained absences by contacting parents promptly. Resolution of attendance difficulties may require a range of additional school based strategies including student and parent interviews, reviewing the appropriateness of the student’s educational program, development of a school-based attendance improvement plan, referral to the school counsellor or outside agencies and support from school - based personnel. If a range of school - based interventions has been unsuccessful, support may be requested by referring individual cases of unsatisfactory attendance to the Catholic Schools Office.

Annual School Priorities

Continue to promote the good health and social/emotional well-being of the children through our Daily Fitness program, Crunch and Sip program and You Can Do It program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Steps taken to achieve the priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To promote fitness and an active lifestyle</td>
<td>Daily fitness program; 2 hours of timetabled activity per week; swimming skills programme during Term 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To promote healthy eating habits</td>
<td>Daily fruit break during morning session.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To promote resilience and well being</td>
<td>You Can Do It Programme taught throughout the year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community Satisfaction

Overall St Peter’s is held in high regard by the local community. The children are happy in coming to school and respond in a very positive manner to their teachers. Active parent participation means there is a genuine partnership between home and school. The school is seen as a very caring place where individual students’ needs are catered for by the staff. It is seen as a place where safety issues are addressed and children feel safe.

The school actively promotes itself within the local community and takes every opportunity to be involved in community events. We work to develop links with local community groups and organisations. Some examples include participation in Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services and performances for Westcott Nursing Home.

The school is perceived as a welcoming environment. Parental attendance at Assemblies, Open Days and school events is very positive. We take any opportunity to join with other local schools for various activities - cultural, sporting and civic.

The school grounds and facilities are well maintained and parents and pupils are proud of and appreciate the school buildings.

Financial Information

The following graphs represent the income and expenditure for St Peter’s Primary Stockton for the school year ending 31 January 2015 as aggregated from the annual returns to the Australian Government’s Department of Education, Science and Training.

Recurrent & Capital Income

- Commonwealth, 64%
- State, 20%
- Fees & Private, 14%
- Other Capital, 2%
- Government Capital, 0%
Concluding Statement

St Peter’s Stockton is a vibrant learning community that strives to meet the learning needs of all its students. We are mindful of students’ unique gifts and talents and endeavour to nurture these as much as possible. We expose the children to many varied learning experiences as possible and embrace opportunities to interact with the local community.

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 school’s Annual School Report are available to the general public. Persons wishing to access a copy of the report should contact:

Denis Prendergast
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For further information relating to the Diocesan Policy please refer to: http://mn.catholic.edu.au