AGM 2013 Principal’s Report

We began the year with the celebration of the Beginning of School Year Mass which was a wonderful community gathering and prayer for blessings on our year ahead.

All classes settled in, including our new Preps and we were off to a very happy start.

Soon we were into Easter preparations and Confirmation for Grade 6. The Faith Education component of our education program at Sacred Heart is of great importance to us and to our students. Denise Muggleton is our Religious Education Leader and she leads us in all facets of RE and Sacramental involvement in the school.

An Impressive Achievement

One of our achievements for the year has been the very exciting news that our school has been ranked in the top 100 Primary Schools in the Nation and one of Australia’s top 50 Private Schools. This is an exceptional result and one for which everyone is to be congratulated – students and staff. We received a letter of congratulations from the Director CEOM, Mr Steve Elder and Fr Michael said that the Parish applauded after his announcement at Mass. League tables aren’t everything and the richness of the educational environment at Sacred Heart goes way beyond pure academic results, however the achievement gives acknowledgement to the great work done by teachers and students.

Staff Changes

We were very sorry to farewell Jan Hendry, our Deputy Principal, at the end of last year. Jan has done an admirable job at Sacred Heart over many years. Lyn Regan has taken up the mantle of Deputy and combines this with her role of Teaching and Learning Leader – and as you all know, she is doing a fantastic job! Clare Coman has left the classroom to take up the roles of Librarian and Student Wellbeing Coordinator. Christiane Kehoe is our school counsellor for one day per week and I know that parents are welcoming and valuing her input. She regularly meets with staff, either for professional
development sessions or informally to discuss the welfare of particular students.

As well as welcoming our new students at the beginning of the year, we also welcomed James Millane into the staff community – and isn’t he lucky to have been accepted into such a fine school! Bei Min Chen has taken on Mandarin classes for Prep and we also have after hours classes occurring. Mandarin will be taken up throughout the school next year in response to the Government priorities expressed for Asian perspectives to be taught throughout the schools. Tony Hollamby has been teaching Science across the grades at various times through the year.

Grounds Development
The negotiations with Council over a Planning Permit for our Adventure Playground canopy have taken a great deal of time and energy and money! We are now working towards a VCAT hearing, necessitated by the objections from our neighbours.

The landscaping to soften hard playground surfaces and provide attractive passive play areas for students has made a very significant change to our playground. The areas have become a great attraction for students and for parents and are constantly used In breaks as well as by parents awaiting students after school. We are also planning for a grandstand style seating section for Kiss `n `Drop to keep children contained and safe while we wait for their parents to arrive.

The oval covering with artificial turf has proceeded after much deliberation, discussion and research over the year. We have tried so hard to maintain the natural grass of the oval but heavy use and overshadowing by the gum trees have beaten us! It was a hard decision to move to the artificial surface but one that we felt was necessary.

Toilet block refurbishment
The junior school toilet block has been refurbished and everyone is very happy with the results. The building company FIMMA, who undertook our BER work successfully completed the work for us.
Social Justice Initiatives
Social Justice has become a vital part of our school life here at Sacred Heart.
Our students have the potential and may well have the opportunity to
be future leaders of our businesses, our State, our Country and our
World. They are faith filled, capable, articulate, confident and forward
thinking young people full of idealism and potential.

Many negative issues confront us today – poverty, terrorism,
exploitation, refugees desperately risking everything in the hope of a
better life, environmental issues such as drought, global warming and
pollution, economic crises, corruption and the list goes on. We can
become overwhelmed by the problems or turn a blind eye to them or
we can confront them. I believe that the leaders of our world,
whether in large or small spheres, need to be people of principle,
people of empathy and high moral values with a belief that they can
make a difference, and a difference for the better. Too many of our
leaders look to the bottom line profit, the next election, the personal
gain, the power rather than to the common good.

As individuals we can’t change the world but we can each have an
impact and make a difference within our sphere of influence if we
have the will and the courage to do so. Our students, particularly our
senior leaders, have shown this year a willingness, a belief and a
determination to make their world a better place by personal effort.

The crisis in the Philippines has touched everyone. The magnitude of
the disaster, the desperation and helplessness of the people and the
urgent need for help from the wider world has prompted our recent
fundraising for Caritas who will support the aid workers on the
ground and the locals in desperate need.

They have undertaken projects for fundraising for Centacare, the
Catholic Family Welfare organisation and they led our Walkathon
during Family Week. The 12 Days of Justice led by our Grade 6s this
year involved each class in the organising of an event to support
issues of social justice and to fundraise to support this. Activities
ranged from guessing the number of snakes in a lolly jar, to crazy
sock day and to our shoe collection for the In Their Shoes
organisation. Our Giving Tree will support St VInnies once again.
**Student Leadership**

We take great pride in the leadership offered at Sacred Heart for all our students and the excellent role models our lead students become. The students discuss possible issues to be addressed or activities to be undertaken with Sara Borghesi, their Grade 6 teacher and then let me know of their proposal, giving an outline of the activity and its purpose, a suggested date, organisational details and a request for permission to proceed. They then undertake the organisation of the event, publicity through the Newsletter and addressing the community at Assembly. They contact teachers, visit classrooms, make announcements, introduce, MC and judge events, take fundraising and money collection responsibility and generally just take charge. What excellent opportunity and training for their future development!

**School Data**

We consider all our data including NAPLAN, SURVEYS when assessing the year past. Recommendations from our analysis of 2009 data were to improve levels of Reading Comprehension and Numeracy to equal our like schools cohort on MySchools website. If we looked at 2010 data we have certainly attained and maintained improvement in these areas and our results are excellent. This is largely due to the strong leadership of Lyn Regan and data analysis and methodical, determined work of teachers. 2012 data shows continuing strong trends and I congratulate all the staff on this achievement – it is not just the hard work of the current NAPLAN grade teachers which leads to success but a building on year by year of high achievements through excellent teaching. 2013 Our highlight for this academic focus of course was the knowledge that we are ranked in the top 100 schools in the Nation, not a bad effort for a small Parish school!

**NAPLAN Results  (see Annual Report to the Community)**

**Surveys**

Survey results suggest that the parents do not rate the school highly, placing is generally in the bottom 25% of schools which is disappointing indeed, particularly considering the very good responses we have from students and staff. This is surprising
considering the very positive and enthusiastic comments we receive from parents and given the very high reputation our school enjoys in the wider community – as our Prep waiting lists attest to each year. While parent responses are generally positive, they are not as strongly positive as responses from parents in many other schools. We continue to have trouble engaging families in communication processes – we find many don’t read the Newsletter, even the emailed version. Our Parent Forums we hold each year are not well attended.

**Camp Program**

Whole school Camp program has been successfully conducted this year and appreciated by parents. We have will ensure that the costings were better balanced over the year in 2013. Many thanks to Richard Price for initiating and coordinating the program and to all teachers who have given up their time to enable the program to proceed. As I have indicated before this is a huge responsibility for the teachers and I appreciate their generosity in supporting your children in this venture.

Preps enjoyed their special breakfast in pyjamas, Grade 1s had their evening at school with a dinner and games, Grade 2 had their overnight at school, the Grade 3’s had their Zoo night, Grade 4’s had a great camp up at Mount Evelyn over several days and the Grade 5 and 6 students enjoyed a wonderful week in Canberra.

Our whole school camp program has been a very successful innovation and I am grateful to all the staff who work many extra hours to make this possible.

**ICT** We will be continuing with iPad use which has been a great hit and extremely well used. After discussion at Board level and support (both in principle and financially) from the PA, we will be extending the numbers to 6 in each classroom from Prep to Grade 4. The Grade 5 and 6 students will own or hire their personal unit for classroom and home work.

**School Review** 2014 will be a School Review year with an external reviewer and CEO personnel involved. We have been working towards planning and data collection and analysis over 2013. CEOM is working with a Catholic Identity Project which we will take part in
next year. Our parent, student and staff surveys for this project were completed and analysed earlier in the year.

**New CEO Developments ICON** This section of the report is unchanged from 2012 as we have no further developments to report on from the school’s perspective. Certainly developments are happening at CEO level.

A further year down the track and we are not yet functioning with the new ICON model. We will eventually be taking on the CEO version of the State Education Department’s ULTRANET. There have been many teething problems with the State Dept system and the CEO is working alongside their developments to try to ensure a smoother introduction for our schools. In the not too distant future, all teacher planning and assessment will occur in this “cloud” and teachers will have access to incredible masses of information and resources online. Paralleling these developments will be the introduction of portals for parent access. You are currently familiar with the MyClasses page for your child, possibly accessing homework etc through this. You are now gradually being introduced to class blogs thanks in particular wikis as new technology and IT skills or knowledge hit the classroom. One certainty is that costs will continue to escalate for schools and we need to ensure that we continue to meet this challenge.

ICON and ULTRANET developments will allow parents to access their child’s information online and at will and the site will provide you with cumulative data about your child (and only your child). More information as it comes to hand.

It is impossible to guess where technology is heading or the pace of development but things are changing at an ever increasing rate. Who can even imagine what education will look like by the time these students graduate from Year 12?

What is certain is that students will have greater freedom and access to the www and it will not be possible to monitor all that they are reading and writing. We all need to teach our children to treat facts on the net with a healthy scepticism, to be discerning and to talk to you / us. Keep the communication channels open, be the parent and check on what your children are exposed to and keep **cyber safety** uppermost on your agenda.
School Camp Program We have seen the Preps enjoy their breakfast in pyjamas, the Grade 1s stay for dinner and games and a late night, Grade 2’s enjoy their sleepover in the Princess Room and the Man’s Cave of Grade 2 the Grade 3’s have a wonderful night at the Zoo, Grade 4s participate in an adventure camp for 3 days and the Grade 5 and 6 students learn so much in Canberra. This whole school approach to the camp program has proved to be most beneficial with our children now looking forward with anticipation to their adventure ahead. A huge thank you to Richard Price for overseeing the program, organising activities and participating in every camp – his family must be very tolerant! Also a grateful thanks to all staff members who have willingly volunteered their personal time to support your children in these activities.

Since I am Leaving ....a run down on 10 years and what we have achieved together

- We have increased enrolments from 260 to a steady 290+ with a waiting list each year.
- We rank in the Nation’s top 100 schools.
- We have school Masses on certain Sundays during the year.
- We have refurbished the Hall with a clean, crisp toilet block, storage room, new floor with carpet and polished timber, a great audio system, drop screen, retractible stairs, painting, cupboards and safety screen on the mezzanine.
- All classrooms in the Hall building were refurbished with painting, storage cupboards, carpets, vinyl, airconditioning, sinks and interactive whiteboards.
- External toilet block in Hall building refurbished completely.
- New Library / Technology Centre built.
- New Administration area, Staffroom and Sick Bay refurbished.
- Meeting room created.
- MultiPurpose Room constructed after demolition of tennis club facilities.
- 2 new classrooms, Studio and toilet block constructed upstairs.
- Classrooms downstairs extended and refurbished.
- Tennis club rooms established.
• Toilet block refurbished.
• Senior Adventure Playground built with a rubberised ground surface.
• Junior Adventure Playground rubberised ground surface.
• Running track around oval and ‘the hill’ constructed.
• Interactive Garden edged along Glenferrie Rd.
• Landscaping of grounds.
• Extensive ICT development and purchase of up to date equipment including laptops, iPads, interactive whiteboards. Staffing to support this for both technological support and curriculum development.
• Staffing established for Student Wellbeing support, Counselling, Science, Mandarin.
• Sessional classes for Ballroom Dancing, Public Speaking, Art/Craft.
• Substantial Learning Support Staffing for assistance for students with special needs or learning difficulties.
• Parents’ Association has raised substantial funds which have supported grounds development, PE, ICT, Parent Information Nights, furniture and equipment for classrooms and the list goes on...
• Plans for the future include the Canopies over the Adventure Playground, artificial turf on the oval, further grounds landscaping, ‘grandstand’ for Kiss n Drop, extending numbers of iPads available per classroom to 6, introduction of 1:1 device program for Grades 5 and 6

THANK YOU
I thank Fr Michael Kalka our Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Kew. I have valued so greatly his support, his input and his interest. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to work with him. Michael’s involvement and support are also greatly appreciated by the staff.

Thank you Mark Herold and the members of the Board this year, Alex McMullen, Gerry Ferrari, Antoinette Barnet, Damian O’Brien, Lyn Regan, Vikki Plant and Amanda Towe. Particular thanks to Antoinette and Damian who complete two years of office at the end of this year.
Thanks to you the parents for your involvement with committees, school activities and participation in the numerous successful ventures you take on. Particular thanks to those who take up leadership roles within the parent group – Amanda Towe and the executive of the Parents’ Association on a very successful year with both friend and fund raising.
Thank you to so many other parents, too many to mention. Your involvement, support and practical assistance help us to achieve great things. Together we make a great team

2014 Staffing

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<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
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<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Courtney Drough</td>
<td>Megan Wirth</td>
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<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>Nadia Holding</td>
<td>Anna Walpole</td>
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<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>Joe Bolzonello</td>
<td>James Millane</td>
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<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>Helen Chirio</td>
<td>Gerry Ferrari</td>
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<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>Denise Muggleton</td>
<td>Cath Dunne</td>
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<td>Grade 5</td>
<td>Sarah Duffy</td>
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<td>Grade 6</td>
<td>Sara Borhesi</td>
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<td>Music and Drama</td>
<td>Sue Fabian</td>
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<td>Reading Recovery</td>
<td>Libby Mulhall</td>
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<td>Learning Support Staff</td>
<td>Gill Wright</td>
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<td>Belinda Lewis</td>
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<td>Maree Moss</td>
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<td>Caroline Reid</td>
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<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>Richard Price</td>
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<td>Mandarin</td>
<td>Bei Min Chen</td>
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<td>ICT teaching and curriculum support</td>
<td>Raff Grasso</td>
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<td>Classroom support / Science</td>
<td>Tony Hollamby</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
<td>Gail Oakey and Sue Armstrong</td>
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<td>Principal</td>
<td>Julie David</td>
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<td>Deputy Principal /Teaching Learning</td>
<td>Lyn Regan</td>
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<td>Student Wellbeing Coord and Library</td>
<td>Clare Coman</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Foster</td>
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<td>IT technical support</td>
<td>Russell and John</td>
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<td>Counselling</td>
<td>Christiane Kehoe</td>
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<td>General Maintenance</td>
<td>Michael O’Donnell</td>
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LEADERSHIP
Lyn Regan  
Deputy Principal / Learning and Teaching (Lit and Numeracy)  
Denise Muggleton  
POL 3 REL  
Clare Coman  
SWB / Student Services/ Library / POL 1 Induction  
Raff Grasso  
ICT  
Sarah Duffy  
POL 1 iPad technology  
Courtney Drough  
POL 1 Junior School Coordinator  
Nadia Holding  
POL 1 Art Coordinator

Our new staff members for 2014 are Helen Chirio and we look forward to welcoming her to the staff and of course our new Principal, Julie David and we look forward to welcoming her to Sacred Heart School.

I take this opportunity to express my deep admiration and grateful thanks to a magnificent staff, congratulate them on a successful year and assure you that you are most fortunate to have your children in their capable hands.

Firstly thanks to Lyn Regan, our curriculum expert who guides us all, to the Administration team: Gail Oakey, Sue Armstrong and Elizabeth Foster our Accountant.

To the teaching staff: Courtney Drough and Megan Wirth on Prep, Anna Walpole and Nadia Holding Grade 1, Rachel Browne and James Millane Grade 2, Joe Bolzonello and Gerry Ferrari Grade 3, Denise Muggleton and Cath Dunne Grade 4 and Sarah Duffy and Sara Borghesi with the senior grades.

To our specialist teachers: Signora Antonella Liberale, Richard Price, Sue Fabian, Libby Mulhall, Tony Hollamby, Gill Wright, Maree Moss, Belinda Lewis, Caroline Reid, Raff Grasso and our IT team Tony and Russell and Christiane Kehoe thank you for all your work supporting and enriching the lives of our students.

We sadly say farewell to Rachel Browne once again as she follows her dream to take up a teaching position in remote Australia. I wish her every happiness for the future and thank her for the lovely work she has done on our staff, she has been such an asset to our school. We also thank Antonella Liberale who finishes as Italian teacher at the school as we move to a Mandarin and Asian Perspectives focus.
Antonella has provided us with some wonderful Italian Day celebrations over her years here. Of course we will continue to see Antonella in a casual relief teacher capacity at the school so we are not losing her completely.

All our staff have made an extraordinary contribution to the life of Sacred Heart. We know just how good this team is and how effectively they work and this is recognised by Catholic Education Office who have recognised Sacred Heart as a high performing school and that label is about much more than just test scores. I know the quality and the calibre of many schools and their staffs and I know how good Sacred Heart is.

This is such a small and insignificant thank you to a staff with whom it has been my pleasure and privilege to work. I am humbled and thankful for their support, their commitment and enthusiasm, their hard work and exceptional work ethic and for the laughter. It is a pleasure to work with them.

Finally I thank the whole school community for the rewarding and fulfilling joy I have experienced working at this wonderful school. You will forever be in my heart, in my prayers and in my grateful thanks.

Teaching and Learning Leader’s report – Lyn Regan
Student Wellbeing Coordinator’s report – Clare Coman
Religious Education Leader’s report – Denise Muggleton