SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: Wheeler Crescent Wanniassa ACT 2903

Principal: Mr Tim Elliott

Parish Priest: Fr Lachlan Coll

School Board / Council Chair: Mrs Maria O’Donnell

Telephone: 02 62314022

Fax: 02 62314420

Email: office.stanthonyswanniassa@cg.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.stanthonzsact.edu.au

This report was prepared by:

Tim Elliott

PRINCIPAL
MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Principal’s Message
St Anthony’s provides a happy, friendly and dynamic learning environment for students from Kindergarten to Year 6. This learning is based on a rich integrated curriculum with an emphasis on the teaching of Literacy and Numeracy skills. Teaching and learning is differentiated and maintained by dedicated educational professionals and supported by parental involvement. Students are encouraged to achieve their personal best in an environment underpinned by our Catholic values. St Anthony’s offers a caring learning environment that is based on positive, respectful relationships. Our Values Education program and respect for school rules makes everyone feel welcomed, safe and valued.

School Board Message
2012 has seen another successful year at St Anthony’s. The teachers are directing wonderful learning activities, using the new facilities to provide great learning opportunities that will equip our children well for the 21st century. We have also seen value adding to our NAPLAN scores. Whilst our children are at school primarily to learn in an academic sense, the type of community they are in and the support it offers both them and their families is critical. Our school community is a friendly and welcoming one where many parents participate actively in fundraising and community building activities such as the school fete the walkathon.
Maria O'Donnell  School Board Chair

Student Representative’s Message
St Anthony’s Primary School first came together in 1982. Our school motto is “Tell the Good News.” We like St Anthony’s because every single person shows respect to you no matter where you come from and who you are. We continue to follow Jesus’ footsteps to help find our identity. The staff at St Anthony’s ensure every child is safe and is looked after. Teachers give us the chance to participate in lots of school activities, such as Wakakirri, choir, band, Science Club, Mission Impossible, sport and Social Club.
Taylor-Jane Burge and Andrew Reay
School Leaders

SCHOOL FEATURES
St Anthony’s Primary is a Catholic Primary School located in Wanniassa. The school caters for students in Kindergarten - Year 6, and has a current enrolment of 429 students.
Students attending this school come from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities consisting of 56% male and 44% female students; 7 indigenous students; and 7,8% Language Background other than English (LBOTE).
The school employs 55 staff comprising 28 teachers and 27 non-teaching staff, the latter being employed in a variety of capacities including secretary, finance secretary, learning support assistants, school aged care director, assistant director and child care workers, canteen manager and janitor.
St Anthony’s is well equipped with classrooms designed for 21st century teaching, learning resources, specialised furniture catering for individual needs, interactive whiteboards in each classroom, forty laptops and over eighty iPads.

St Anthony’s prides itself on being an inclusive school where educational programs are differentiated to address the individual needs of each child. The students participate in a variety of standardised testing from Kindergarten to Year six. Their achievements are monitored and tracked to ensure they receive extra assistance or enrichment as needed. Students are supported from Kindergarten to Year Six by a range of specialist programs provided by the Learning Support team. The school has Music and Italian teachers and the students have the opportunity to engage in a range of extra-curricular activities. These include Tournament of Minds, Choir, Chess Club, Environment Team, Gifted &Talented enrichment days, Science Club, Sport gala days as well as academic and sporting competitions.

St Anthony’s is first and foremost a community and it has a very dynamic parent body. Parents are welcome to participate in all aspects of the school including:
- Parents and Friends Association
- School Board
- Classrooms and canteen assistants
- Excursions and special school events

St Anthony’s strives to provide a safe, secure and caring environment as we work to develop effective partnerships with parents, families and the wider community.

We are proud to offer an outstanding before and after school care centre which also offers vacation care.

The school’s website can be found at www.stanthony.act.edu.au

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

St Anthony’s follows the Archdiocesan Religious Education Curriculum, *Treasures New and Old*. St Anthony’s theme for 2012 was ‘Walk Humbly with God’. This theme coupled with the associated Christian values that we aspire to as a Catholic community formed the basis for all values education in our school. Daily Religious Education lessons, peer support sessions, focus assemblies and community celebrations provided opportunities for our students to witness and live these values on a daily basis. In 2012 the school coordinated the parish sacramental program.

Weekly Community Prayer together with Masses, liturgies and our close partnership with our parish has provided opportunities for our community to share in the prayer life of the school.

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT - NAPLAN**

Students in Years 3 and 5 sat the *National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy* (NAPLAN) in May this year. 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.
### School and National Mean Scale Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>414.4</td>
<td>418.6</td>
<td>451.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>493</td>
<td>476</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School</td>
<td>522.8</td>
<td>485.7</td>
<td>501.4</td>
<td>510.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Proportion of students at or above the National Minimum Standard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Proportion of students in each Achievement Band

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Band 6</td>
<td>31.7%</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
<td>27.1%</td>
<td>35.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Band 5</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
<td>38.8%</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Band 4</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>25.9%</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Band 3</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Band 2</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Band 1</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Band 8</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The above tables show that over all St Anthony’s Parish Primary School students are achieving close to or well above the National Mean Scale Scores in all areas of Literacy and Numeracy. The results show that for both Year 3 and Year 5 the majority of students are performing in the top three bands. Most pleasing are the Year 3 results in Grammar and Punctuation where 59.3% of students are achieving in the top two bands. A number of initiatives have impacted on these results including a range of teaching strategies to improve student understanding of Literacy and Numeracy and our involvement in the National Partnership program. These initiatives resulted in motivated students achieving pleasing test scores.

**SCHOOL POLICIES**

**Enrolment Policy**
In enrolling students we are directed by the Archdiocesan Enrolment Policy which can be found on the Annual Report page of the school’s website or on the Catholic Education Office website at [http://www.ceocg.catholic.edu.au/parents/Pages/GeneralPolicies.aspx](http://www.ceocg.catholic.edu.au/parents/Pages/GeneralPolicies.aspx)

**Attendance Policy**
St Anthony’s has a policy in relation to school based procedures for ensuring student attendance and procedures are followed if a student is not attending school. The school policy is in accordance with system and government requirements. If appropriate notification of the reason for a child’s absence is not received, then the teacher will send a home a form to the parent/carer requesting an explanation for the reason of the child’s absence. The principal will assess regular school attendance on a case by case basis having due regard for the individual circumstances of each child. The principal will support families in encouraging each student to attend school, but if this is unsuccessful then the principal is required to direct parent/carers to the relevant support networks or agencies. The full responsibility for attendance of a child at school lies with parents/carers. Parents and carers are also encouraged to provide the school with advance notification of extended periods of absence so that consideration can be given to providing educational materials to support the child’s learning.

**Behaviour**
St Anthony’s Primary School has continued to implement a School Wide Positive Behaviour Program. This program promotes a happy and safe environment for all students, staff and families. Our school rules of ‘Be Fair, Be Kind, Be Safe’ are the basis of our program. Through explicitly teaching and encouraging desired behaviours our students are able to clearly articulate what being fair, being kind
and being safe looks and sounds like. Through the rewarding of positive behaviours we have seen an increase in desired behaviours and a decline in undesired behaviours.

Corporal punishment is expressly prohibited in this school. In addition we do not sanction the administering of corporal punishment by non-school persons to enforce discipline at our school.

The full text of the school’s School Wide Positive Behaviour Program is available on the school website or from the Front Office.

Complaints and Grievances Resolution Policy

The school policy is based on procedural fairness and recognises that parents and caregivers must have access to processes that allow them to resolve concerns in a supportive and conciliatory environment. Any concerns raised are responded to promptly and fairly and confidentiality is always maintained. A full text of the school policy is available on the school website or from the Front Office.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Professional Learning

All teachers have been involved in professional development activities during the year. These activities are designed to develop the skills and understandings of staff to improve student outcomes. Professional development can take many forms including whole staff days, subject specific inservices, meetings and conferences.

The school held five whole school professional learning days for staff in late January and early February before the commencement of school for 2012. The content of these days was as follows: Exploring their personal Enneagram; Introduction to the Australian Curriculum in Mathematics and History; First Aid and CPR Training; First Steps linking documentation; Integration; Analysing school assessment data; Developing teaching programs, matrixes and rubrics; General school administration, transition of learning and medical information of students and general preparation for each class. Each of these sessions was facilitated by leadership staff from within the school or the Catholic Education Office.

During the year staff also undertook key professional learning in the following areas: Religious Education Accreditation A; Using an ‘Inquiry’ approach with integrated teaching and learning; Primary Connections Science; National Professional Teaching Standards; Calmer Classrooms – supporting students with anxiety; English – Teaching Grammar; Differentiating Teaching; and an introduction to the ‘Kidsmatter’ Framework.

Teacher Qualifications

All teachers are qualified as required by the relevant State and Territory bodies. A number of staff have post graduate qualifications ranging to the level of Masters in Education.

TEACHER ATTENDANCE AND RETENTION

The average teacher attendance rate at St Anthony’s was at a high level during 2012 at 98%.
The teacher retention rate from 2011 to 2012 was 81%. Some staff did leave St Anthony’s at the end of 2011, including four staff who joined Catholic schools in our system. Two of these staff were successful in leadership positions in their new schools.

**STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

The average student attendance for the school during 2012 was 94.2%.

School attendance rates disaggregated by Year group are shown in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance rates by Year group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PARENT, TEACHER AND STUDENT SATISFACTION**

The opinions of parents, students and teachers were sought covering a range of aspects including school effectiveness. Parents overwhelmingly commented positively that the school staff are enthusiastic in their approach to teaching and learning. A large number of parents noted that the school has high standards and expectations of student behaviour. Parents overwhelmingly stated that they believed the school provided a safe and caring environment for their child. The majority of parents who responded to a recent survey stated they felt the school was well managed and there was effective leadership in the school. Parents expressed that they felt very welcome visiting their child at school and participating in events. Parents also stated in feedback that they believed their child’s teacher at St Anthony’s genuinely cared for their child. It was also pleasing to hear that a large majority of parents felt comfortable talking with staff about their child and working together to support them. An area for development highlighted by our parents is that they felt there could be better communication between school and home. This is an area that the school is committed to discussing with parents and improving overall.

Teacher satisfaction was mainly positive, many staff commenting on their involvement in the life of the school as very rewarding. Teachers expressed they had a real connection with their students and were committed to improving the learning outcomes of the students in their class and the school in general.

Students enjoyed the many opportunities to enhance their learning, both in their classroom and through extra-curricular activities. Students appreciated the efforts and commitment of their teachers. Students displayed a genuine pride in their school and aspired to follow in the footsteps of the senior students.
PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

St Anthony’s theme for 2012 was ‘Walk Humbly with God’. This theme coupled with the associated Christian values that we aspire to as a Catholic community formed the basis for all values education in our school. Daily Religious Education lessons, peer support sessions, focus assemblies and community celebrations provided opportunities for our students to witness and live these values on a daily basis. In 2012 the school coordinated the Parish Sacramental Program.

Weekly Community Prayer together with Masses, liturgies and our close partnership with our parish has provided opportunities for our community to share in the prayer life of the school.

In 2012 we continued to see Numeracy Blocks being embedded into our daily teaching practice with an emphasis on brain based research and QTF. Our NAPLAN Numeracy results indicate that our students in both Year 3 and Year 5 are well above the National Mean Scale Scores in Numeracy. This is an indication that this strategy is working.

2012 also saw the beginning process of implementing the Mathematics and History aspects of the Australian Curriculum in to our school.

2013 will be a year of consolidation in the implementation of the Australian Curriculum. In 2010 we introduced English and Science and in 2012 Mathematics and History.

The major focus for the school in 2013 will be pedagogy based on:

- quality teaching and learning that engages students in the highest learning experiences;
- assessment strategies that inform and guide teaching and learning;
- National Standards for Teachers;
- utilisation of technology to support teaching and learning and engage the students in meaningful and productive manner.

In 2013 St Anthony’s will also become a ‘KidsMatter’ school. ‘KidsMatter’ is an Australian initiative for primary schools that provides a framework, resources and support to identify and implement strategies to improve the mental health and wellbeing of students. ‘KidsMatter’ will give our school access to the latest thinking and research on mental health and wellbeing including:

- Strategies to help build a positive school community
- Social and emotional learning resources for use in and beyond the classroom
- Practical ideas for working with families
- Specific guidance to help children with mental health difficulties.

The ‘KidsMatter’ whole-school approach assists schools to be the best possible place to nurture and support the wellbeing and academic achievement of all students.