SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

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This report was prepared by:

Michael Lowe

PRINCIPAL
MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Principal’s Message
It is with pleasure that I present this Annual Report for 2012. This year has been one of continued growth and consolidation. The building project made up of additional classrooms and an administration area is almost complete and this will temporarily house Year 7 students from John Paul College (JPC). We look forward to working together with JPC during 2013. The school registration process during Term 2 was affirming for our school community with many positive comments made about the students’ engagement and the work of the school staff.

School Community Council Message
The Community Council (CC) has continued to support the school throughout the 2012 school year. There were a number of changes to the CC membership with new members continuing the great work that was started by our first Council. There has been a focus on fundraising this year with a huge level of success. The school has had a walkathon, masquerade ball, a fete and chocolate drive. These events have enabled the school to purchase new i-pads for the children and donate money to the rural schools fund. The CC is looking to fund the purchase of new playground equipment for the school in 2013.

SCHOOL FEATURES

Mother Teresa is a Catholic Primary School located in Harrison. The school caters for students in Preschool – Year 4, and has a current enrolment of 394 students.

Students attending this school come from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities consisting of 46% male and 54% female students; 1.5% indigenous students; and 1.6% Language Background other than English (LBOTE).

The school employs 32 staff comprising 21 teachers and 11 non-teaching staff, the latter being employed in a variety of capacities including Learning Assistants, office administrators and before and after school care workers.

Mother Teresa School continued to grow during the 2012 school year. The Early Learning Centre, which is at capacity, continues to offer before and after school care for children attending Mother Teresa School. The centre has had a focus on the development of the outside space with a water feature being added for the enjoyment of the children together with plantings and an addition to the garden.

In the primary school the children have enjoyed planting and caring for vegetables in the sustainable school garden and the green rangers have been busy removing weeds and watering plants.

We were fortunate in 2012 to receive funding to employ a Defence School Transition Aid at Mother Teresa School. With many Defence families at MTS this is a welcome addition to support children and their families especially during times of deployment.

Building has continued this year and the new classroom spaces built for John Paul College will be handed back to Mother Teresa School in 2013.

The school’s website can be found at www.motherteresa.act.edu.au
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mother Teresa School follows the Archdiocesan Religious Education Curriculum, *Treasures New and Old*.

Our whole school focus for this year has been 'Together As One'. The metaphor of a jig-saw puzzle was used to remind the children of their role and importance in the school and in their family. Together we make up the heart of God and each person has a part to play.

During the year we celebrated the Eucharist in the school hall for the first time. This was a wonderful celebration as children, staff and parents joined together in celebration.

The families of MTS have been involved in weekend class Masses and the Year 3 children celebrated their First Eucharist earlier this year.

The three schools joined together again this year to celebrate our recognition of our identity as three Catholic schools in the Holy Spirit Parish. This wonderful event was held at Mother Teresa for the first time this year.

Our focus for outreach has been on supporting Caritas, Catholic Mission and St Vincent de Paul. The generosity of the families attending MTS is remarkable and allows the children to feel that they are able to help others in need.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT - NAPLAN

Students in Year 3 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.

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<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
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<td>427</td>
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Proportion of students at or above the National Minimum Standard

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<td><strong>YEAR 3</strong></td>
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<td>National</td>
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<td>School</td>
<td>91.7%</td>
<td>95.8%</td>
<td>91.7%</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
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Proportion of students in each Achievement Band
The above tables show that there has been an improvement in the performance of the children in relation to spelling from our 2011 results. The reading and writing are at or above the national average. Numeracy will be an area of focus at Mother Teresa School in 2013 with the ‘Working Like a Mathematician’ professional learning being shared with the teaching staff and a professional learning day led by CEO staff to be conducted during stand down time early in 2013. The teaching staff will continue to use the ‘gradual release of responsibility’ model in their maths teaching.

**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)

Mother Teresa School is open to families from different faith traditions who support the Catholic ethos of the school. The ELC is a parish based service and children who attend Mother Teresa ELC are encouraged to attend their closest Catholic Primary School for Kindergarten enrolment.

**Behaviour**
Mother Teresa School has a philosophy of looking for and rewarding appropriate behaviour as a basis for behaviour management. This is achieved by the awarding of individual house points to children in the classroom and on the playground. The winning house each term earns a special treat as a reward. In 2013 the school will embark on a specially designed social skills program that will build on the positive reinforcement model.

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 Behaviour Management Policy 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.

PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

During 2012 the school has been actively engaged in the implementation of the Australian Curriculum. This has meant a focus on the development of agreed practices and templates for planning. The development of assessment rubrics for the use across grade levels has been a focus during the second half of the year.

In 2013 the school will focus on improving student outcomes in relation to literacy and numeracy. This will be achieved through teacher professional development and the implementation of a whole school mentoring program. There will be a new social skills program implemented across the school with a view to improving student engagement.

The school will continue to work with the spelling program Sound Waves which is in the second year of implementation. The results of this trial are proving to be successful.