MOTHER TERESA SCHOOL
Harrison, ACT

2011 SCHOOL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Do small things with great love

Mother Teresa School
SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: 40 Wimmera Street Harrison

Principal: Michael Lowe

Parish Priest / School Chaplain: Fr Mark Croker

School Board / Council Chair: Michael Whyte

Telephone: 62415604

Fax: 62413411

Email: office@motherteresa.act.edu.au

Website: www.motherteresa.act.edu.au

This report was prepared by:

Michael Lowe

PRINCIPAL
MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Principal’s Message
Welcome to the second Annual Report for Mother Teresa School in Harrison. The 2011 year has been a year of growth and consolidation for Mother Teresa School. Numbers in the preschool have reached capacity and the enrolments in the preschool have translated into significant growth in Kindergarten. In 2011 we had 75 children enrolled in Kindergarten in 3 class groups. The school Mission and Vision statements have been finalised and are proudly displayed in the front foyer. Building works were completed in November and the school celebrated the official school opening and blessing on November 4 in great style.

Community Council Message
The Community Council has continued to support the school during the 2011 school year. The Community Council’s (CC) focus in 2010 was friend raising and this year there has also been a focus on fund raising to support the educational endeavours of the school. The CC has organised two BBQ’s at Magnet Mart, sold ice creams, attended the parish trivia night, helped at the school fair, held a casino night, Mothers’ Day and Fathers’ Day stalls and a golf day. Each of these events contributed to the building of community at Mother Teresa School. Significant work has been done in assisting the school to review policy documentation in preparation for school registration.

SCHOOL FEATURES
Mother Teresa School is a Catholic Primary School located in Harrison. The school caters for students in Preschool – Year 4, and has a current enrolment of 275 students.

Students attending this school come from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities consisting of 45% male and 55% female students; 1% indigenous students; and 3% Language Background other than English (LBOTE).

The school employs 23 staff comprising 16 teachers and 7 non-teaching staff, the latter being employed in a variety of capacities including Learning Support Assistants and Child Care Workers.

Mother Teresa is a Catholic Systemic Primary School located in Harrison. Mother Teresa is the third school in the Holy Spirit Parish and is a campus of Good Shepherd Primary School in Amaroo.

Mother Teresa School is in the second year of operation and the buildings feature bright colourful learning spaces for the children. The school has water stored underground and this water is used to flush toilets and water the gardens. The classrooms are kept at the appropriate temperature through a computerised climate management system. Lights in the school are all movement
sensored. Stage 3 that includes eight new classrooms, was completed for Term 4 2011. Children have enjoyed moving into their new learning spaces and working in the spacious library.
This year the school children joined with the two other parish schools for a celebration at Holy Spirit School. The children enjoyed the opportunity to join together as one parish.
The children entered the Catholic Schools Netball and Soccer Carnivals during 2011 and played with a high level of sportsmanship and skill. The children in the Year 3 soccer team won the Peace Cup.
During Science Week the children from St Francis Xavier College prepared simple science experiments for the children who in turn shared this learning with all children in the school including the preschoolers.
Indonesian and a structured music program were introduced for the first time in 2011 and the programs have been very successful at Mother Teresa.

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.
The focus for the school for this year was “help us grow”. Each class is featured in huge plants that adorn the wall in the break out space. At the weekly assemblies, classes take turns introducing values that are important to the community at Mother Teresa School. Symbols are collected by each class and taken back to the rooms to be placed on the prayer table as a reminder of the importance of the value.
All important church events are celebrated at Mother Teresa School with all children joining in the Easter celebrations and celebrating the birthday of our patron Mother Teresa.
Decisions were made during 2011 with regard to the important task of outreach. Each term has a different focus for fund raising and assisting those people less fortunate. The preparation of St Vincent de Paul hampers will continue to be our focus in Term 4 each year.
Staff prayer is very important at Mother Teresa with all staff attending to prayer each morning at 8.30 am. During 2011 the staff have included more Scripture in their prayer while unpacking and relating to our school Mission statement in a prayerful way.
Children in Years 2 and 3 have been involved in the Parish Sacramental Program through Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Mother Teresa School has enjoyed the support and regular visits by our parish priest Father Mark Croker and Fiona Wilkinson the pastoral associate

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.
School and National Mean Scale Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 3</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>416</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Proportion of students at or above the National Minimum Standard

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

Proportion of students in each Achievement Band

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 3</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Band 6</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band 5</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band 4</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band 3</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band 2</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band 1</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above tables show that 2011 was the first year that Mother Teresa School students sat the NAPLAN test. The percentage of students in the top two bands in Numeracy is pleasing compared to National figures. Year Three performed well above average in a number of areas such as Reading, Writing, Grammar and Punctuation. Based on the results we have implemented an initiative that will standardise the teaching of spelling across the whole school.

NAPLAN results will be further analysed to inform and guide the direction for future improvements particularly in the areas of Grammar and Punctuation. The high percentage of students achieving minimum standards (100%) compared to National figures, is testament to the focus on curriculum differentiation strategies implemented at Mother Teresa School.
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

Mother Teresa School is open to families from religions other than Catholic as long as they are willing to support the ethos of the school. Children who enrol in the preschool are encouraged to attend the Catholic school that is closest to their residential address.

Behaviour
The aim of the Behaviour Management Policy is to ensure a consistent, caring and positive approach to behaviour management. At Mother Teresa School our two rules are be safe and be happy. All children have the right to feel safe and happy and the responsibility to ensure others feel safe and happy. We believe that as a staff, we are committed to modelling responsible behaviour to the students in our care and dealing with them at all times in a fair and consistent manner. We believe that staff and parents share this responsibility and we should, in working together, endeavour at all times to model the behaviour to each other that we hope for from the students. The school implements support structures and programs which prioritise and address the identified needs of individual students or the school as a whole. 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
In 2010 and again in 2011 the school underwent renewal of Registration. This was an opportunity to evaluate current teaching and learning and to look ahead to further improvements. The external team affirmed the school’s initiatives and successes and worked with the Leadership team to identify future directions. These include developing a differentiated curriculum and a focus on the early years of school.

Priorities for 2012 will include a review of teacher programming with a view to implementing agreed practice across the school. To assist in the teaching of spelling, a whole school program will be
introduced in the 2012 school year. Teachers will fully implement the gradual release of responsibility model in the teaching of Mathematics during the 2012 school year. The Australian Curriculum Science Curriculum has been implemented at Mother Teresa School during 2011. In 2012 the school will add the History section of the Australian Curriculum to the school implementation plan.