

# ANNUAL REPORT

## ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

REGISTERED SCHOOL NUMBER: 1550



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## Contact Details

ADDRESS	5 Victoria Street Pyramid Hill
PRINCIPAL	Colleen Hampson
PARISH PRIEST	Fr Novelito Lim
SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR	Nizelle Sawit
TELEPHONE	(03) 54557220
EMAIL	principal@sppyramidhill.catholic.edu.au
WEBSITE	www3.sppyramidhill.catholic.edu.au
E NUMBER	3036

## Minimum Standards Attestation

I, Colleen Hampson, attest that St Patrick's Primary School, Pyramid Hill is compliant with:

- All of the requirements for the minimum standards and other requirements for the registration of schools as specified in the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic)* and the *Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017 (Vic)*, except where the school has been granted an exemption from any of these requirements by the VRQA
- Australian Government accountability requirements related to the 2019 school year under the *Australian Education Act 2013 (Cth)* and the *Australian Education Regulations 2013 (Cth)*
- The Child Safe Standards prescribed in Ministerial Order No.870 – Child Safe Standards, Managing Risk of Child Abuse in School.

February 2022



## Our School Vision

St Patrick's strives to:

- Provide a safe, positive and caring school environment
- Build collaborative partnerships among home, school, parish and wider community
- Nurture the uniqueness and dignity of each individual in the school community
- Provide a contemporary curriculum that develops the intellect, imagination, spirituality, social skills, wellbeing and physical growth of each Learner

## School Overview

St Patrick's is a small remote school in Pyramid Hill. It begins 2021 with 16 enrolled Learners. Towards the end of Semester One, a new enrolment was received for Grade 1. The majority of the Learners (68%) are EAL (Filipino) with Tagalog and Bisaya being their native tongue.

- Foundation: 3 Learners
- Grade 1: 3 Learners
- Grade 2: 3 Learners
- Grade 3: 3 Learners
- Grade 4: 3 Learners
- Grade 5: 2 Learners
- Grade 6: -

In 2021, to support all Learners in the Mathematics curriculum, two extra hours each week were accommodated into the Curriculum timetable. This provided an opportunity on two days of the week, for a two hour block of Mathematics where additional opportunities were gained to integrate Mathematics skills and learning into practice. The intention was to provide hands on learning to utilise the skills learnt in the previous hour and practice these in real and rich experiences.

As a lead school in Respectful Relationships, this program was timetabled on a fortnightly basis, with a teacher supporting the implementation of the program across Foundation - Grade two and Grades 3 - 6 Learners. Opportunities to reach out to our Partner schools were made throughout the year, although with Covid restrictions and other priorities within individual schools, these meetings were not held.

In 2021, St. Patrick's began a three year professional learning journey in 'Visible learning' with Corwin Australia. This journey is in partnership with St Mary's Cohuna and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Elmore. Visible learning is a proven process for school improvement as evidence shows that visible learning in action provides a positive difference to the Learner's outcomes and to the teacher delivery and professional development. It is important that Learners understand what they are learning, why they are learning and how they best learn. Equally important is this information and understanding for all staff.

The continued implementation of the '*Words Their Way*' program ensures that each of our Learner's spelling needs are met through regular testing and personalised letter & word features and analysis.

## Principal's Report

St Patrick's Primary School is blessed with thirteen families who value education and continually support all that is happening within the school environment. The enthusiastic and dedicated staff provide individualised learning opportunities to meet the learning needs of all at St Patrick's.

Our community involvement continued as often as possible given Covid 19 restrictions. The '*Community of Readers*' program continued to pair a community member with a Learner whereby one morning each week an adult from the community would sit with the Learner to listen to their reading. This was an opportunity to continue to provide an audience for Learners and to build connections and relationships with an adult from our local community. Some partnerships have continued since the program's inception in 2017.

St Patrick's commenced a three year journey with Corwin Australia this year. While '*Visible Learning*' is in its initial stages of conception there has already made considerable progress and impact on both the Learners and the staff. Our focus in the second half of this year has been on the two learning dispositions of '*Collaboration*' and '*Creativity*'. Teaching and learning in a collaborative space with Learners from across all grades of the Primary school in one large classroom promotes the opportunity to teach each Learner at their point of need, not to their grade level. This 'collaborative' space was the promoter of the first disposition to allow our Learners an opportunity to understand how each of us learns: both with and from each other. Class definitions were devised ensuring a voice from all in the classroom, which were then made visible to all as a display in the classroom and inclusion in the school newsletter.

At St Patrick's we make our '*Learning Intentions*' visible to all ensuring that every Learner knows exactly what they are learning. The use of '*Success Criteria*' supports each Learner as they are aware of what they need to show to demonstrate success in a given learning task. Each Learner was provided with a paper slip containing both the Learning Intention and the Success Criteria to attach to their working document for visibility and a reminder as to the *what* and *how* of their learning. This process was explained to parents to support their conversations at home in regards to 'what' their child learnt not 'what' their child did at school. Information on each newsletter communicated the journey and our successes. This process additionally supported staff as they were developing a deeper understanding of the curriculum and how to unpack it into smaller achievable steps for Learners. This journey has been ably supported by Sam Rodgers, Visible Learning Consultant who has challenged and questioned each of us to support us to know why and what we are implementing as educators and Learners.

The transition to Governance was a seamless transition at St Patrick's. Our Parish Priest, Fr Novelito Lim continues to be a welcome face in our school: classroom and playground, community and the wider community, where his connections and relationships with every stakeholder is valued and encouraged. Classroom Masses continue to be held on a monthly basis nurturing faith, connection and relationship. Fr Novie is able to make the connections between the Gospel message and real life through engaging and interactive Homilies.

I have truly been blessed to be a teacher and Principal at St Patrick's Primary School. Throughout my journey I have always been supported, particularly by the parent community and the Parish community. My love for teaching and learning and the genuine interest I have for all those with whom I work with and alongside is obvious in the passion and commitment I have towards my role. St Patrick's Primary School has provided me with many rich opportunities for which I am truly grateful. I am most grateful for all those I have travelled the journey with and St Patrick's will always hold a special place in my heart. I am fortunate to live within the community allowing the relationships I have built and nurtured to continue to grow.



## Parish Priest's Report

School year 2021 is a tough year not just for the Learners but to everyone, experiencing this pandemic is not easy but we all were able to adjust. Thanks to you all. One of the things that I learnt this year is to be flexible, just go with the flow, as rules change in an instant, we just need to adapt and make the best out of it.

However, in all the things that we experienced this year, from remote learning to the lockdowns, and a short face to face classes, we all made it. We end the year with a smile.

Congratulations to all the Learners who finished their Sacramental program, for those who received their Confirmation and First Eucharist, you now have a deeper relationship with Christ as you partake Him now in the Sacrament, may you be heralds of the Good News to your friends, families and to those whom you encounter.

To Colleen, you have been a great source of inspiration and motivation for the entire school, to the Learners, staff members and even to our parishioners. With your leadership qualities, you have always guided the Learners towards the glowing light. On your farewell, we wish to pay our sincerest gratitude to you for the years of service as Principal. We all will miss you. Good luck on your future endeavors and hoping for you to be back in this school soon.

To John O'Connor, a big welcome. We hope you will enjoy your time at our school. We are a caring, vibrant community and we want you to feel a part of our team and especially of our community.

The school and parish have a great relationship, and we hope to continue this great relationship not for our own good but for the good of the people in our community.

Father Novelito Lim  
*Parish Priest*  
*St Patrick's Parish, Pyramid Hill*

## School Education Board Report

St. Patrick's Primary School has always been a faith filled community that lives the values of St. Patrick and St. Mary of MacKillop. Truly that lives in our motto - "To Love, Learn and Respect".

On behalf of the School Advisory Committee, it gives me great pleasure to provide the 2021 Chairman's Report.

The Council serves as an avenue to ensure that the direction and vision of the school is being upheld. Throughout this year the Board have been involved with the School Executive with the following:

- Participated in St. Patrick's Annual Action Plan 2021
- Assisted raising funds in school-related purposes
- Consultation regarding Principalship 2022
- Attended Tri-School Advisory Council Meeting

To our School Principal, Colleen Hampson, the Board would like to express our gratitude for all your hardship and strong leadership for all these years. Thank you for the help and support you have given us unselfishly.

To our teaching staff, much appreciation for generously giving your patience and value for learning onto our learners, for showing them the love, compassion and delivering the quality catholic education.

To Penny Caspani, thank you for giving your time and always informing us with our meeting matters.

To Father Novie Lim, as part of the Committee and leading the Parish Community for his contribution and support to our School Board.

I would like to thank the remaining members of the board for their presence and support during the term. I would also like to encourage anyone in the community to be a part of the Advisory Council in planning and decision-making that matters for our children's future.

Truly, I am very grateful for the experience for the past two years being part of the School Advisory Council. I have gained a valuable connection which allows me to grow. Sadly, I am stepping down since our family will be moving for good.

May you all continue the care and support for our school community. To the 2022 Committee, I wish all the best and continued success in the future.

Nizelle Sawit  
School Board Chair  
2021

## Education in Faith

### Goals & Intended Outcomes

- To be a faith filled community that lives the values of St Patrick and St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

### Achievements

- Catholic Education Week celebrations including a family night celebrating Australian history (to support Inquiry Unit learning)
- St Patrick's Feast Day celebrations including our local Government school
- Northern Plains Cluster Mass & Dinner
- Mother's Day afternoon tea & Father's Day breakfast (via Uber delivery)
- Sacramental preparation for Grades 3 & 4 Learners (including 3 candidates from the community) - Confirmation and Eucharist
- Good Samaritan Cup with our collaborative schools, St Joseph's Kerang and St Mary's Cohuna
- Monthly Classroom Mass

### VALUE ADDED

- No Insight SRC

## Learning & Teaching

### Goals & Intended Outcomes

- To engage our school community, allowing all to achieve their maximum potential, acknowledging and valuing our diverse culture
- To foster a love of learning and teaching with the Learner at the centre

### Achievements

- Commenced 3 year journey with Corwin Australia, 'Visible learning' with co participants from Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Elmore and St Mary's Primary School, Cohuna
- Termly Data days to analyse Learner assessments in Mathematics and Literacy to guide the teaching and learning for the following term
- Sporting Schools program providing opportunities with Gymnastics education in Term 1
- Collaborative Planning Days/sessions with staff from St Mary's Primary School, Cohuna
- Online EAL webinars for staff assisting with recognition of EAL Learners and support
- CES Speech Pathologist twice termly visits to support Learners with speech and articulation as well as classroom support in learning and teaching
- Australian history unit of Inquiry learning visit to Polly Woodside and Cook's cottage in Melbourne
- Stephanie Alexander Kitchen and Garden program (S.A.K.G.) on a fortnightly basis promoting healthy lunchboxes and food preparation
- Involvement in the ASPA - Arts on Show initiative
- Graduate teacher and Principal weekly meetings to support teaching and learning
- Respectful Relationships professional development to support new staff and the implementation and history behind the program
- Parent Support Group (PSG) meetings to set and review termly goals for individual Learners
- Bike Education and Swimming program held in Term 4

### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Our continued commitment to collection and analysis of data supports Learners and staff in all aspects of teaching and learning. Professional learning meetings are held in the Principal's Office where this data provides a visual stimulus to support conversation and mapping.

## Student Wellbeing

### Goals & Intended Outcomes

- To provide a safe and welcoming learning environment that allows Learners to acknowledge, embrace and accept challenges
- To build strong partnerships with families and the wider community

## Achievements

- Gymnastics program in Term 1
- Termly staff functions promoting wellbeing and relationship building
- 'Community of Readers' program
- Celebrations including St Patrick's Feast Day, Philippines Independence Day, National Reconciliation Week, Harmony Day
- School Chaplain conducted home visits to support individual families
- Introduction of 'Find your courage' wristbands celebrating the courage of founding mother, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop
- 'Respect the badge' award presented by Constable Joy Jenkins recognising respect shown by individual Learners
- Catholic Education Week family night celebrating Australian history Inquiry unit
- Mother's Day Afternoon tea & Father's Day Uber breakfast
- Staff Spirituality Day with Collaborative schools from St Mary's Cohuna and St Joseph's Kerang
- ANZAC Day ceremony with Pyramid Hill community
- Anaphylaxis update re Epipen administration an individual Learner needs
- FoodShare - Learners volunteering with St Patrick's Church community
- Foundation Learners transition sessions each Monday in Term 4
- Bendigo Cup Fashions on the field
- LBC boxes shipped to the Philippines with family and community donations supporting disadvantaged schools and children

## VALUE ADDED

- 'Community of Readers' program continues for its fifth year. A program where every Learner is connected with a community member to support morning reading on one day each week.
- Stephanie Alexander Kitchen and Garden program on a fortnightly basis supports healthy eating, food preparation and life skills.

## STUDENT SATISFACTION

- No Insight SRC data for 2021

## STUDENT ATTENDANCE

- If a Learner is absent parents are required to complete and return an absence slip that we use for our records and then archive. If a Learner is absent for three consecutive days, the family is contacted to ascertain how to best support the Learner and the family
- Non-attendance is managed by the School by notifying the Administration Officer to contact the family regarding the Learner's absence. This is carried out prior to 9.00am. This is then recorded and documented into the software program SIMON.
- Each Semester, individual Learners who have recorded the highest attendance rate receive a voucher or gift to celebrate this achievement.

## Child Safe Standards

### Goals and Intended Outcomes

- To continue to embed Child safe practices

### Achievements

- Termly Governance meetings with Parish Priest
- Staff meeting agenda has Child safe as a standing item
- All volunteers complete a Volunteer's application form and WWCC which have all been electronically filed
- St Patrick's commitment to child safety is evident through visual signage at the Administration Office, front gate, newsletter and website.



## Leadership & Management

### Goals & Intended Outcomes

- To encourage continual School Improvement with a strong lens on individual needs
- To value learning and those that pursue leadership opportunities

### Achievements

- Allocation of a Position of Leadership
- Mentoring of Graduate teacher
- 100% of school fees collected in 2021

#### EXPENDITURE AND TEACHER PARTICIPATION IN PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

##### DESCRIPTION OF PL UNDERTAKEN IN 2021

- Commencement of three year journey in 'Visible learning' with Corwin Australia
- Reading Recovery
- School Governance updates with all parents
- CLIL training days
- ACER PAT testing online learning to depth understanding and knowledge in PAT testing
- Staff updated First Aid training

NUMBER OF TEACHERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN PL in 2021	
AVERAGE EXPENDITURE PER TEACHER FOR PL	\$

### TEACHER SATISFACTION

- Insight SRC not conducted in 2021

## School Community

### Goals & Intended Outcomes

- To build strong partnerships with families and the wider community

### Achievements

- 'Women's Wellbeing Wednesday' program continued either online during Covid restrictions or onsite
- School Chaplain supports the wider community including home visits, phone calls, emails and text messages.
- Continued involvement with the 'Community of Readers' program promoting a love of reading, connection and relationship building.

### PARENT SATISFACTION

- Insight SRC survey was not conducted in 2021
- Throughout periods of 'Home learning' during the pandemic, parents completed a survey providing an opportunity for feedback regarding our practice and support to families. Feedback was always affirming as parents were appreciative of educational and wellbeing support for their child/ren and themselves.

## Future Directions

St. Patrick's begins a three year professional learning journey in 'Visible learning' with Corwin Australia. This journey is in partnership with St Mary's Cohuna and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Elmore across 2021 - 2023.

## School Performance Data Summary

The School Performance Summary reports on data in the following areas:

- Proportion of Students Meeting the Minimum Standards
- Average Student Attendance Rate by Year Level
- Teaching Staff Attendance Rate
- Staff Retention Rate
- Teacher Qualifications
- Staff Composition

School data can be found on CEVN under the tab **Data Management**. Click **Annual Report to the School Community 2019**. To access the data, scroll down to the heading **School Data** and click the link [Download your SP data](#). Select the option to download as a word report and copy and paste the data in this section.

Alternatively, you may wish to copy and paste the data into the body of your report and delete this page. E.g. Proportion of Students Meeting the Minimum Standards (NAPLAN) would fit under the heading Student Learning Outcomes and Average Student Attendance Rate by Year Level would fit under the heading Student Attendance. Teaching Staff Attendance Rate, Staff Retention Rate, Teacher Qualifications and Staff Composition would all fit under the section titled Leadership & Management.

**NOTE:** *The School's financial performance information has been provided to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and will be available for the community to access from their website at [www.acnc.gov.au](http://www.acnc.gov.au)*