

# ANNUAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY REPORT

**Year** 2007  
**School Name** Corpus Christi School  
**School Type** k-6  
**Suburb/Town** Bellerive

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**Principal:** Mrs Elaine Askey-Doran

## School Profile

Corpus Christi Catholic School is a Kindergarten to Grade 6 co-educational primary school, which is situated at Bellerive on the Eastern Shore of Hobart, the capital city of Tasmania. There were 465 students enrolled at Corpus Christi in 2006. It is a Parish primary school within the Archdiocese of Hobart with systemic administration under the direction of the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office. In 2006, the school celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding by the Presentation Sisters, who conducted the school from 1936 - 1986. Since 1987, the school has been under the leadership of lay Principals. The school has expanded over the years from a single stream school to a double stream school during the 1990's.

The vision of Corpus Christi School is for all in the school community to be aware of and make use of the gifts that God has given them.

The mission of the school is to provide a loving, caring and supportive environment where students are encouraged to grow in faith within in a Catholic community and to develop their potential. We endeavour to promote among our community a strong sense of belonging in an atmosphere, which recognises the important role staff and parents play in the education of our students. As an educational community, we promote life-long learning by providing a student-centred curriculum, which aims to equip Corpus Christi students with the knowledge and skills necessary to make learning easy now and in the future.

The school crest depicts a chalice and a raised host that represent the Body and Blood

of Christ and the Southern Cross which symbolises that we are Australians.

The school motto is SI SCIRES DONUM DEI, which translated means "if you only knew the gift of God". The focus of the motto is on growth, opportunity and personal development.

During the past seven years, the school has undergone major redevelopment of its facilities, resulting in a new Kindergarten classroom, named Presentation House; new student amenities; new senior staff offices; refurbished Preparatory, Grade 1, Grade 3 and Grade 4 classrooms, and refurbished Music and Educational Support rooms. The school grounds have also undergone redevelopment so that the school has a pleasant and attractive setting with established and well-maintained gardens. Through substantial fundraising activities, the school's parent groups have provided funding to purchase play equipment that reflects Australian Standards.

## **Catholic Life and Mission**

Our mission at Corpus Christi School is to follow Jesus by providing a welcoming and supportive learning environment where we strive to live the Gospel values of love, compassion, forgiveness, justice and peace. The promotion of these Gospel values is evident in our modelling to our students, by word and example, to becoming fulfilled and responsible members of Australian society. The partnership between parents and staff working together is an essential part of the development of relationships within our school community. We aim to develop within our community an attitude of respect and acceptance where all members are valued.

As an educational community, we aim to challenge students to express their opinions and communicate effectively and creatively that they may become resourceful and effective problem-solvers with a commitment to life-long learning. We are committed to providing the best possible educational opportunities for our students by continually examining our learning and teaching practices, our resources and the organisation of the school.

As a Catholic school, it is important for us to celebrate as a Christ-centred community. We gather throughout the year to celebrate the Eucharist in class groups and as a whole school. We support the Parish Sacramental programs of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation, which are significant celebrations in the parish/school year. Parents are vital participants in the programs, as they support their children through preparation and celebration of the Sacraments.

Celebration through prayer plays a significant role in the life of the school. Each classroom has a prayer table around which the teachers and students gather to pray each morning and afternoon. There is weekly staff prayer and prayers at the commencement of all school meetings. On a regular basis throughout the year, the whole school celebrates in class-conducted Prayer Services, which are held in the Parish Church or the School Hall. Special liturgies are held to celebrate important events such

as Holy Week, Mothers' Day, Fathers' Day, Remembrance Day, ANZAC Day, Advent, and the beginning and closing of the school year.

As an important part of the Bellerive/Lindisfarne Parish, we strive to foster co-operation, support and communication. We encourage students and their families to attend Parish Masses, Holy Days and significant Feast Days.

The staff has participated in professional learning sessions, which focussed on spirituality. Our main focus for 2006 has been the charism and spirituality of our founding order, the Presentation Sisters. We participated in spirituality sessions which provided links to the Sisters and their founder, Nana Nagle. We wrote a Kindergarten - Grade 6 scope and sequence program entitled "Lighting a Lantern for Life", focussing on the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the school and the contribution of the Presentation Sisters to the school's history.

We also focussed our attention on the Archdiocesan Religious Education Curriculum "Good News for Living", ensuring that we provided substantial learning experiences for the students in programs for Lent, Easter, the Church, Advent and Christmas.

The Grade 6 students participated in leadership programs, such as "Making Jesus Real" and Mini-Vinnies outreach program, both of which highlighted their commitment to being positive role models and leaders for the younger students.

We supported outreach programs such as CARITAS, and the Archbishop's Samaritan Project and we provided stationery items for schools in East Timor.

## **Our Learning Community**

Corpus Christi offers a comprehensive education to its students. It is a learning community of staff, parents and students. The community works together in a climate of respect, support and understanding to provide an environment of security and growth in which each student may develop and progress. At Corpus Christi School, we endeavour to provide specialist teachers and facilities in areas of Music, Physical Education, LOTE: Italian, Drama, and Information and Communication Technologies. The school actively encourages and provides for students to participate in outdoor education programs, the Arts and sport.

The students at Corpus Christi School receive a Catholic education which encompasses the following learning areas: Religious Education; English; Mathematics; Science and Technology; Studies of Society and Environment (SOSE); the Arts, which includes Music and Drama; Health and Physical Education; ICT and LOTE.

We aim to:

- \* Guide students in their discovery of a Christian way of living within the family of God.
- \* Assist students to develop and grow academically to the best of their abilities and capabilities.

- \* Encourage students to take responsibility for their own learning.
- \* Provide equity and equal opportunity for all students.
- \* Provide a well-balanced curriculum, which acknowledges and addresses the needs of students in a climate of social, cultural and technological change.
- \* Assist students to develop self-confidence, self-esteem and respect for others.
- \* Encourage students to learn co-operatively and collaboratively and to maintain a positive attitude to learning.

Students in Grades 3 and 5 participate in the Australian Government mandated literacy and numeracy benchmark testing with above average results. Our learning and teaching programs in English and Mathematics underpin the successful curriculum and assessment results that are evident at the school. Corpus Christi offers support programs to meet the individual learning needs of its students. Programs are available to support students in literacy, numeracy, motor skills, speech therapy, English as a Second Language (ESL), special education and gifted education.

Students with special needs, talents and gifts are given appropriate opportunities, challenges and experiences to develop their potential and to satisfy their learning needs with various activities throughout the year. On-line learning, which can be accessed from home, robotics, science activities, chess, philosophy, drama and choir are offered to enhance students' learning opportunities. Individual education programs are provided for students who are assisted in our educational support programs.

The students are afforded opportunities to participate in physical education and sport programs which promote health, co-ordination and fitness. Students participate in many excursions which support classroom learning programs. Students in Grades 4, 5 and 6 participate in a school camp program, which provides opportunities for students to experience working together in the wide community.

Students have opportunities to participate in the City of Hobart and the City of Clarence Eisteddfods in drama and choir performances.

The Grade 6 students are involved in leadership programs which develop their skills and experience in assisting and supporting younger students. These programs are the Student Council, Peer Mediation, Aussie Sports Leaders, the Social Committee and the Mini Vinnies Committee (which is an outreach program connected to the St Vincent De Paul Society.)

## **Pastoral Care**

Pastoral care is an expression of the philosophy and vision of the school. We endeavour to demonstrate pastoral care in every dimension of school life. The Christian ethos of the school is reflected in Gospel values and these values provide the foundation of the

school community's pastoral care for one another. The Gospel values are characterised within the environment of genuine care, compassion and love. Each person is respected and acknowledged as a valuable member of the school community. We seek to establish a relationship and partnership which promote mutual understanding, respect, tolerance and acceptance with staff, parents and students.

To provide and maintain a positive environment, we aim to:

- \* Become witnesses of the Gospel values of truth, justice, freedom, love and service.
- \* Create a friendly, safe and supportive school community where everyone is treated with dignity.
- \* Provide balanced and broad Catholic Christian educational experiences which stimulate learning, encourages excellence and respects individual differences.
- \* Support staff through structures that allow for personal and professional growth.
- \* Give every opportunity for parents to enter into an educational partnership with staff and to share in their children's spiritual, emotional and intellectual development.
- \* Support staff, parents and students in times of grief, illness and stress.

The programs and policies that are provided to support our pastoral care program include Centacare Family Life Program for Grades 2, 4,5 and 6 students; Behaviour Management, Anti-Harassment and Anti-Discrimination Policies; Positive Behaviour Support Program; a buddy system to support positive relationships between older and younger students; procedures for the personal safety of students; critical incident management; and a drug education program.

## **Strategic Planning**

The school's strategic plan has been developed from dialogue and meetings involving staff, parents and students and is intended to assist future decision making. The plan provides an outline of our guiding principles and our most important goals for: Learning; Faith Formation; Community; Buildings, Grounds and Resources; and Financial Planning and Management. Essential to the success of the strategic plan is the monitoring of progress and the achievement of specific and realistic goals during each year of the plan's existence.

The school's Vision Statement underpins all aspects of the strategic plan. The annual strategic goals for 2006 were:

1. LEARNING: (a) to provide educationally stimulating and challenging literacy and numeracy programs.

(b) to develop a reporting system for parents reflecting the Australian Government's mandate to openly and accurately report to parents of students at the school. Our strategy to reach this target included significant collaboration amongst staff and parents.

Parents were encouraged to reflect and comment on the redesigned report format, with a resultant overall general support for the written reports and for the parent teacher consultations which were held in conjunction with the reports to discuss students' progress and development.

2. **COMMUNITY:** to continue to investigate the introduction of Outside School Hours Care at the school. This is an ongoing plan which is planned to be brought to fruition in 2007.

3. **FAITH FORMATION:** to commit to the continued introduction of the Archdiocesan Religious Education curriculum "Good News for Living."

4. **BUILDINGS, GROUNDS AND RESOURCES:** the redevelopment of the Preparatory and Grade 1 classrooms. This was achieved in first term, with a blessing and official opening being conducted in third term. The School Board of Management has developed a comprehensive staged building program to redevelop classrooms to suit learning and teaching in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This program has achieved many of its objectives and will continue to be the focus of planning and implementation in the coming years, particularly in the provision of upgraded facilities for upper primary students.

5. **FINANCIAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT:** to actively participate in the Catholic Education Office's consultative review of future funding options. By the end of 2006, the School Board of Management had fully supported and had begun to implement the CEO's funding model.

## **Enrolment and Staffing**

During 2006, the enrolment at the school consisted of 465 students, 50 of whom were Kindergarten children. Each of the two streams in Preparatory to Grade 6 were at capacity, with most classes having an enrolment of 30 students. Overall, there were approximately 30 more boys enrolled than girls. There were 6 Aboriginal students and 2 Rwandan refugee students.

There were 47 members of staff, consisting of 30 teachers, and 17 ancillary staff. Of the 30 teaching staff 11 were full-time teachers and 19 part-time teachers. The Leadership Team consisted of an Assistant Principal: Learning and Teaching, an Assistant Principal: Religious Education, a Literacy Curriculum Officer, a Numeracy Curriculum Officer and an Occupational Health and Safety Officer. The ancillary staff consisted of 9 part-time teacher assistants, 4 part-time office staff, one of whom was the Finance Administrator, 1 full-time utility officer and 3 part-time facilities maintenance staff.

## **Community Involvement**

The school actively participates in the community. We support Caritas, the Catholic Church's welfare agency; we sponsor children in the Philippines through the Presentation Sisters mission in that country; and we support the St Vincent De Paul Society by raising funds for their projects and to heighten awareness of disadvantaged

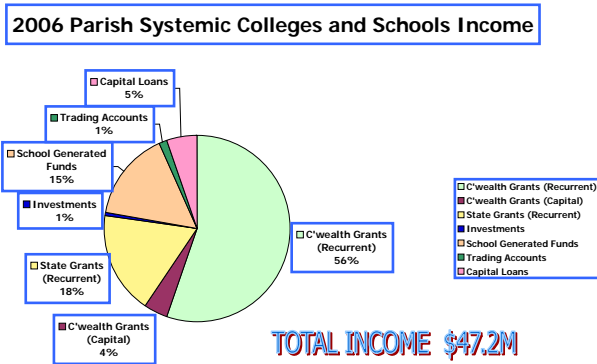
families.

The school has developed links to MacKillop College, the Catholic secondary college which the majority of our students attend for their secondary education. These links are evident in community outreach programs, arts programs and sporting programs.

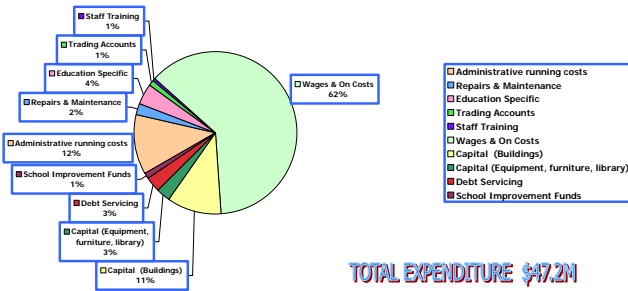
## Summary Financial Information

The Parents and Friends Association contributes significantly to the resourcing of the school. Through fundraising activities such as the annual School Fair, publication of an annual year book and social activities, the P&F has provided substantial funding for resources such as classroom equipment, outdoor play equipment, and computer hardware and software.

The School Board of Management provides effective and prudent planning and management and this has allowed Corpus Christi School to establish and maintain a sound base for the provision of excellent facilities and resources. The Board of Management has developed a long term financial plan. It adopts a responsible financial consideration of all proposed projects. There is a high level of financial expertise on the Board. The Finance Committee of the School Board formulates an annual action plan for priority outcomes in regard to specific school projects.



**2006 Systemic Parish Colleges and Schools Expenditure**



## **About this Report**

In preparing this report, information has been gathered from evaluations conducted during the year. Information about the school's practices and student learning outcomes have also been analysed and from this goals for the school's future development have been determined.

## **This Report was prepared by:**

Mrs Elaine Askey-Doran, Principal, Corpus Christi Catholic School, 2006.

**Signed**