

St Finn Barr's Catholic School Annual Report 2013

School Profile:

The Presentation Nuns founded St Finn Barr's Catholic School in 1893 in Invermay and moved to its present location in 1927. The main administration building is a prominent feature of Invermay Road. The entire school has been renovated over the last nine years, including the building of a new kindergarten, hall and large open spaced discovery area for library and computing. St Finn Barr's supports the ethos of educating the whole person through its learning and teaching programs. We are a PBS (Positive Behaviour Support) School with the motto "We are a community of Safe, Respectful, Resilient Learners". This is an important element of our school culture and is supported by our peer-support program. Our school community is diverse and this adds greatly to the richness of our school's life. St Finn Barr's has a multi-grade structure with the following classes - Kindergarten (x2), Prep (x2), Grade 1/ 2 (x3), Grade 3/4 (x3) and Grade 5/6 (x2). Our two Kindergarten groups attend school for 3 full days each. Both groups attend on Thursday. Centacare runs After School and Vacation Care programs at St Finn Barr's to cater and support our working families.

School Facts:

School sector	Non-government
School type	Primary
Year range	K - 6
Total enrolments	274
Girls	140
Boys	134
Full-time equivalent enrolments	274
Indigenous students	8%
Location	Provincial
Student attendance rate	95%
Teaching staff	20
Full-time equivalent teaching staff	14.7
Non-teaching staff	12
Full-time equivalent non-teaching staff	6.3

Catholic Culture and Ethos:

Liturgy and Prayer:

Each Monday morning our school community gathers in our Church to begin the school week in prayer. Classes are rostered to take responsibility to lead this prayer. St Finn Barr's School celebrated Masses throughout the year. Some of the school Masses celebrated included - Beginning of the Year, Thanksgiving/Graduation Mass, Feast of St Finn Barr and Mary McKillop. The school celebrated prayer liturgies for key events such as St Patrick's Day, Holy Week, Easter and Advent. Each Thursday two classes on a rotating basis attend the weekly 12.00 o'clock Parish Mass. Also one other class celebrates a class liturgy lead by our Parish Priest each Thursday at

Religious Education Curriculum:

The school has developed a sequential curriculum based on units from the resource banks of the 'Good News For Living' curriculum framework. To support teachers in developing these units collaboratively, funding was provided to release teachers to work with Religious Education Officer Libby van Tienan.

Spirituality:

The staff supports each other on their faith journey through prayer and reflection. Our school has a significant focus on the MJR (Making Jesus Real) Program. This program is overseen by Julian Davey and promotes values education in a Christian and Catholic context.

The School in the Life of the Parish and Diocese:

Our school, as part of the Launceston parish, provided Sacramental programs for students. The Sacraments are 'parish based, school supported and family initiated'. As a school community we supported the children from St Finn Barr's and the parish in their preparation and receiving of the sacraments.

Community Participation and Christian Outreach:

Our students were actively involved in community awareness activities. These included Project Compassion, Good Samaritan Projects Tasmania, the Launceston Winter Relief Appeal, purchasing a Shelter Box for disaster relief.

Student Learning and Achievement:

Student background:

School ICSEA value: 982

Bottom quarter	Middle quarters	Top quarter
24%	40% 23% 1	4%

NAPLAN Results for 2013**National Average Grade 3**

Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar	Numeracy
419	416	411	428	397

St Finn Barrs's Grade 3

394	390	392	386	382
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National Average Grade 5

Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar	Numeracy
502	478	494	501	486

St Finn Barrs's Grade 5

486	488	482	475	454
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Student Performance:

All Grade 3 and Grade 5 students, except two, participated in the NAPLAN tests in

2013. The results from the NAPLAN data showed that the two areas of concern for St Finn Barr's in Grade 3 were Literacy (in particular Grammar and Punctuation) and Reading. In Grade 5 Grammar and Writing are the areas of concern. These areas had been identified through internal school testing and review processes. To address these issues there has been a focus on Professional Development, utilizing extra support in each grade to support both writing and literacy.

Grade 5 students were close to ALL Schools averages for Spelling. They are above the ALL SCHOOLS averages for Persuasive Writing.

There was strong improvement in comparing the results from Grade 3 with Grade 5 in Persuasive Writing tested. The improvement was larger than the improvement for ALL schools between Grade 3 and Grade 5.

Targeted programs:

St Finn Barr's has a number of students who receive funding from Targeted Programs. These children received additional support in the classroom through individualized programs and by working with teacher aides.

Healthy Promoting Schools:

St. Finn Barr's is an Asthma Friendly and Sunsmart School.

All students participate in Morning Fitness.

Special Needs:

Staffing provided support in an early intervention program in Kindergarten, targeting and identifying students in the areas of speech, early language and social/emotional development.

The school was provided with funding for students with special needs including (but not exclusive to) Aspergers, Anxiety, Autism, Social/Emotional Needs and Speech. Students are integrated and supported within the classroom.

Other Achievements:

Students were involved in the Launceston Speech and Drama Competitions where all classes performed well.

Students in Prep to Grade 6 participated in School Cross Country and Athletic Carnivals with students from Grade 3 to Grade 6 involved in the Swimming Carnival.

All students from Prep to Grade 6 are involved in a Swimming Program. Primary classes are held at the end of the year for 2 weeks.

Grade 5/6 classes are involved in an annual three-day camp.

At the whole-school assembly held each week students receive Student of the Week Awards, Merit Certificates and the Grade 6 students choose and announce the God Squad Award. Assembly begins with acknowledging the original custodians of the land on which our school has been built.

Students are encouraged and supported in making positive choices in behaviour and receive good decision cards for doing so.

Curriculum and Pedagogy:

Learning and Teaching:

Our school supports the ethos of educating the whole person through its learning and teaching programs.

The school has a multi-grade structure with the following grades: Prep (x2), Grade 1/2 (x3), Grade 3/4 (x3), and Grade 5/6 (x2).

The school uses the Australian Curriculum. The multi-grade groupings support the stages of development in this document. Teaching teams were established within these multi-grades with each team planning collaboratively. We were involved in the Early Numeracy Interviews for the fifth year. The focus was on improving the pedagogy of the teachers through modeling best practice and discussion utilizing the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office's educational officer.

Students begin each day with Daily PE with two hour uninterrupted literacy blocks and one-hour numeracy blocks for all grades across four continuous days in the week. The literacy block is made up of a one hour reading and one-hour writing block. Focus for teachers, with teacher aide support, was to increase the reading, writing and spelling outcomes for all children.

Learning Support continued for students with specific needs. Individual Educational Plans were written in consultation with parents.

Our school provides all the key learning areas: Religious Education, Numeracy, Literacy, Studies of Society and the Environment (S.O.S.E.), Science, Physical Education, Health and Wellbeing, Music, Visual Arts, Information and Communication Technology (ICT). There is an additional focus on major and minor Integrated Units of Inquiry each term. Leadership Values Programs, Peer Support, Grade 5/6 Camp and Intra-school sport are also part of the mandated curriculum at St. Finn Barr's school.

Leadership:

Leadership structure for 2013

Principal

Assistant Principal Religious Education

Co-ordinator Teaching and Learning

Pastoral Care Support

Kindergarten

CTT Prep x2

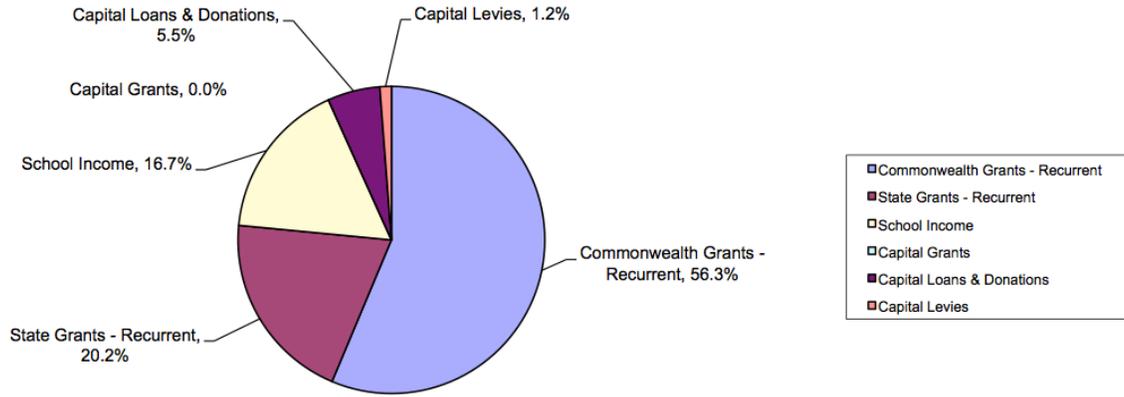
CTT Gr 1/2 x 3

CTT Gr 3/4 x 3

CTT Gr 5/6 x 3

The staff consisted of one Principal, nine full-time teachers and five part-time teachers. Eight part-time teacher aide assistants were employed, one full-time Utility officer, 0.9 Office/ Bursar and a part- time librarian technician. All staff were appropriately qualified.

**ST FINN BARR'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
SOURCES OF INCOME 2013
Total Income \$3.0 million**



**ST FINN BARR'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
EXPENDITURE 2013
Total Expenditure \$2.9 million**

