2012 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

St Francis of Assisi Primary School
Tarneit
Contents

Our School Vision ........................................................................................................................................... 2
School Overview ............................................................................................................................................. 3
Principal’s Report .......................................................................................................................................... 4
Education in Faith .......................................................................................................................................... 5
Learning & Teaching ...................................................................................................................................... 6
Student Wellbeing ......................................................................................................................................... 7
Leadership & Management ........................................................................................................................ 8
School Community ......................................................................................................................................... 9
Future Directions ........................................................................................................................................... 11

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>45 Fairview Pde</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tarneit VIC 3029</td>
</tr>
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<td>Jan Keogh</td>
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<td>WEBSITE</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sfatarneit.catholic.edu.au">www.sfatarneit.catholic.edu.au</a></td>
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</table>
School Vision

St Francis of Assisi school is a vibrant Catholic learning community of peace, justice, respect and excellence.

Mission Statement

As an integral part of St James the Apostle Catholic Parish Community, our school provides a high quality Catholic education that promotes the dignity and potential of each person (as created in the image of God) and encourages & supports the building of peace and justice (the kingdom of God) in the local and global context.

Motto

Sing out your joy to all the earth
School Overview

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School opened in February 2012 with an enrolment of 180 students from 15 different countries and 47 cultural backgrounds. Situated in Tarneit, it is the second primary school in the parish of St James the Apostle, Hoppers Crossing North. With Thomas Carr College next door we have opportunity to establish strong partnerships and ensure positive transitions from primary to secondary schooling.

The school building is designed for open space learning, with stage one comprising 3 learning pods, 3 shared learning areas and an administration area / staff facilities. Infrastructure that accommodates a technology rich environment has been established. Two outdoor playing spaces have been constructed for student use. These include an adventure playground, sand pit and basketball court.

Located in the growth area of the city of Wyndham, enrolments are expected to increase quickly. With a projected enrolment of 260 for 2013, stage 2 building commenced in October. In March 2013 further indoor and outdoor learning spaces will become available.

With 7 home groups and 17 staff, our foundation year was an adventure in establishing a positive and inclusive learning culture. Student engagement in learning and student wellbeing were a high priority and consequently school improvement was focussed on community building and the quality of the professional learning/practice.

The 2012-2015 School Improvement Plan goals and intended outcomes are:

1. To build a welcoming, caring community with a strong Catholic identity.
   That community members demonstrate Gospel values in their behaviour
   That prayer and liturgical celebration are integral elements of school life

2. To provide all students with challenging and stimulating personalised learning within a contemporary learning environment.
   That all students are highly engaged in their learning
   That all students achieve the expected level or higher across the domains of learning

3. To create a safe, happy environment for student engagement and learning.
   That students feel safe, happy and connected to their peers and teachers
   That students have a strong sense of ownership of their learning

4. To build a highly effective performance and development culture.
   That all community members have a high level ownership of the vision and strategic direction of the school
   That professional learning empowers all staff to positively contribute to the culture and practice of the school

5. To build a welcoming, caring community characterised by strong partnerships.
   That parents work in partnership with staff to support student learning
   That student learning is supported by a range of community partnerships
Principal’s Report

The first year of St Francis of Assisi primary school has been an amazing one. Characterised by a spirit of generosity and love for our children, the community we aspire to be has begun to emerge. Parents and staff alike have expressed their pride in belonging to such a positive and inclusive community; and children have developed a strong sense of connectedness to the school.

A key focus of our foundation year was to create a welcoming, caring space for children, parents and community members. Staff across the school have been extremely committed to establishing positive relationships and learning spaces that are calm, orderly and happy. With the support of leaders and a culture of reflective practice, the staff team has ensured consistency of expectations and approach. Parents have been strongly encouraged to take ownership of the vision and values of the school, and to work in partnership with staff to build community. A Parents in Partnership (PIP) group has been established and through the monthly meetings school leaders and parents plan, discuss and take action together. Working bees and school activities for the opening, official opening and feast day are only a few examples of the opportunities the community had to come together to celebrate. Parents and community volunteers are welcome at the school, many are known by name and all are invited to be as involved as possible.

Another core goal was to ensure that student learning was optimised. Staff developed shared understandings of personalised learning; regularly monitored student literacy learning and worked with a maths consultant to develop best practice approaches to mathematics. Through participation in a deep leadership for learning project, leaders facilitated the development of practices that enabled student voice in learning and provided opportunities for student passions to inform programming. With highly skilled teachers for the specialist areas of performing arts, Italian and physical education, our learning spaces were vibrant, active and happy. I am proud to report that the professional learning culture of the school is extremely positive, with staff working together to identify and address the needs of students in a focused and constructive manner.
Education in Faith

Goals & Intended Outcomes

**To build a welcoming, caring community with a strong Catholic identity.**

*That community members demonstrate Gospel Values in their behaviour.*

*That prayer and liturgical celebrations are integral elements of school life.*

Achievements

At St Francis of Assisi, our Catholicity is perceived to be strong and positive. In the School Improvement Report (based on student, parent and staff feedback) the mean score is 85.8. This score exceeds our set target of 85.

### VALUE ADDED

In its foundation year, St Francis of Assisi Primary school has worked towards creating an atmosphere of care and welcome, where all members of the community are valued for who they are. We live by the values of being a welcoming, encouraging, listening and respectful community where all are encouraged to come as they are.

We have begun to explore Franciscan spirituality which highlights the importance of living faith through action, with a particular focus on sustainability and being stewards of God’s creation.

We have worked in partnership with St James parish and school in celebrating the sacramental and liturgical life of the church. We have celebrated whole school masses throughout the year, using the school as our sacred space. We have been involved in providing adult faith formation workshops, where parents have been given the opportunity to make connections with their faith and the faith journey of their child.

A key element has also been to inspire a culture of prayer and reflection throughout the school. This has occurred through whole school assemblies, daily prayer in the classroom and staff prayer. We have begun to introduce the practice of meditation throughout the school.

The Religious Education curriculum is planned by home group teachers with the support of the RE leader. In Years 3 – 6, we have commenced the development of a personalized learning approach to RE. To ensure we have a whole school approach to programming we have structured RE professional learning team meetings each term.

We have made a strong connection with the Missionary Society of St Paul who minister to our parish, through supporting their mission work in the Philippines. We have invited members from the parish community to speak about their experiences of being active members of the parish.

Our school motto, ‘Sing out your joy to all the earth’ is one that reflects our belief that all who are part of St Francis of Assisi school community will experience a deep sense of joy, as they are given meaningful opportunities to be the best that they can be.
Learning & Teaching

Goals & Intended Outcomes

To provide all students with challenging and stimulating personalised learning within a contemporary learning environment.

That all students are highly engaged in their learning.

That all students achieve the expected level or higher across the domains of learning.

That teachers develop reflective and responsive planning practices that take into account student voice to co-design learning.

Achievements

The table below shows the percentage of students in Years 3 & 5 who met the minimum standards in English and Maths. As this is our first year, there is no data previous to 2012.

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<td>NA</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>YEAR 3 WRITING</td>
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Value Added

Staff have been involved in various Professional Learning opportunities during 2012. The Leadership Team conducted a research project that aimed to build teacher capacity in using reflective and responsive planning practices that was inclusive of student voice to co-design learning. Parallel to this project structures and processes were implemented to ensure the planning of rich learning experiences to best impact student outcomes. Through the use of leaders’ expertise and educational consultants, staff developed a shared understanding of personalised learning. This has contributed to the development of an engaging culture of learning for all.
Student Wellbeing

Goals & Intended Outcomes

To create a safe, happy environment for student engagement and learning.
That our students feel safe, happy and connected to their peers and teachers.
That our students have a strong sense of ownership of their learning.

Achievements

In our Foundation Year we have focused on establishing learning spaces that are calm, orderly and characterized by positive relationships. School wide values and behavior expectations have been established. Students are highly motivated and staff have worked towards the development of student voice.

| STUDENT ATTENDANCE RATE | 84% |

VALUE ADDED

All students Prep-Year 6 are able to articulate our school values of listening, welcoming, encouraging and showing respect. They experience the behaviours related to these values in all interactions with staff and demonstrate them towards visitors and generally towards each other. In our recently introduced Behaviour Expectations, we are working with our students to develop a greater sense of responsibility in their behaviour and to assist them in the active display and reflection of the school values.

Our students have had the opportunity to take an active role in the success of each of our school celebrations. Senior students are encouraged to take an active role in the care and support of younger students in the playing and learning spaces.

Our students have become active learners through the opportunities of reflective practice where they are able to identify their achievements, wonderings and/or needs in relation to their learning. Students have been introduced to the giving and receiving of feedback; as well as the articulation of learning goals.

STUDENT SATISFACTION

In the School Improvement Report, the student engagement mean score was 79.1. Our target 2012-2015 is 85.
Leadership & Management

Goals & Intended Outcomes

- **TO BUILD A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CULTURE.**
  That all community members have a high level ownership of the vision and strategic direction of the school.
  That professional learning empowers all staff to positively contribute to the culture and practice of the school.

Achievements

Across the year we celebrated both the opening and the feast day of this new school, as well as offering opportunities for parents and extended family members to attend two show cases of learning. A Parents in Partnership group was established which is open to all parents. Volunteers were required to participate in a two hour training program prior to assisting in the learning spaces. All these events and workshops were used to reinforce and strengthen the vision, practices and directions of the school.

As a staff we have developed a strong culture of reflective practice which empowers both the team and individuals to share strengths, solve problems and develop the skills for effectively targeting the needs of learners and nurturing their passions.

Community members (staff, parents and students) are encouraged to actively listen to others and to be responsive to need and inclusive of all.

In the School Improvement Report, the parent opinion mean score was a positive 80.8. Across this School Improvement period (2012-2015) the school target is 85.

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<th>Teaching Staff Attendance Rate</th>
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EXPENDITURE AND TEACHER PARTICIPATION IN PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

DESCRIPTION OF PL UNDERTAKEN IN 2011

Leaders have participated in the “Deep Leadership for Learning” module through the Catholic Education Office Western Region; as well as being involved in the networks relevant to their specific area of responsibility. All home group teachers and coeducators have worked in conjunction with a Maths Consultant to develop shared understandings of best practice in the teaching of this core learning area. Several staff and coeducators have been trained in a range of literacy intervention strategies. Weekly staff meetings and regular level planning days have been opportunities for reflective practice and facilitated planning to inform and shape programming. We have utilised the skills and knowledge of staff to enhance the performance of all.

| NUMBER OF TEACHERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN PL | 13 |
| AVERAGE EXPENDITURE PER TEACHER FOR PL | $770 |

TEACHER SATISFACTION

Staff has worked extremely hard to ensure we collectively build a highly positive school culture. In the School Improvement Report, the staff climate mean score was 91.9. This is above the set target for this School Improvement period.

School Community

Goals & Intended Outcomes

To build a welcoming, caring community characterised by strong partnerships.

That parents work in partnership with staff to support student learning.

That student learning is supported by a range of community partnerships.

Achievements

A Parents in Partnership (PIP) group was established which is open to all parents. Monthly meetings were held, both during the day and in the evening, to enable as many parents as possible to engage in conversation about policy directions and planning for events and maintenance. The average attendance at these meetings was 12.
30 volunteers participated in a two hour training program prior to assisting in the learning spaces. This program provided volunteers with a deeper understanding of the school’s approach to learning and teaching.

The partnerships with parents was visible through their support and involvement in the following events:
- support of student learning in the spaces and at home
- attendance at excursions and working bees
- involvement in monthly meetings
- high attendance and support at significant school events (Official Opening & Blessing, Prime Minister’s visit, liturgical celebration and showcases of learning)
- organisation and support of fundraising initiatives
- creation of our foundation quilt
- completion of surveys to provide school with feedback or ideas to inform policy development.

All these events and workshops were used to reinforce and strengthen the vision, practices and directions of the school.

**PARENT SATISFACTION**

At St Francis of Assisi, parent feedback has been extremely positive, especially in regard to parent input and approachability of staff. There is a strong sense that children have experienced connectedness to school. In the School Improvement Report, the parent satisfaction mean score is 80.8 (target for 2015 is 85.0).
Future Directions

In our second year of operation we will continue to work on the same goals and intended outcomes we identified in our 2012-2015 School Improvement Plan. Although we achieved a great deal in 2012, we now need to embed some practices into our school culture as well as address other elements of the goals / intended outcomes. Within our 2013 Annual Action Plan we have identified the following key improvement strategies:

- Explore a range of strategies & programs to support the social and emotional needs of students.
- Embed the use of feedback and shared reflective practice across P-6 into the culture of staff learning.
- Optimize parent engagement through the Parents in Partnership structures.
- Provide a variety of parent education sessions that empower parents to support student learning and spiritual formation.

We also look forward to the completion of stage 2 of our building program and utilizing the additional facilities for student learning and community building.

Together this community can realise the vision: *St Francis of Assisi school is a vibrant Catholic learning community of peace, justice, respect and excellence. In our first year we had many achievements; our second year challenges us to continue our good work together as we invite others to adopt and enrich our culture.*