



2014 ANNUAL REPORT

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH SCHOOL

DIMBULAH

School Profile:

St Anthony's Primary School is an integral part of the Cairns Diocese and the Parish of St Anthony's, Dimbulah.

The school is considered rural and remote with 54 students currently enrolled (as at 2015). Families are mostly from farming backgrounds, therefore, where possible, teachers try to make relevant links with farming and real-life situations.

St Anthony's currently offers an educational range from Prep to Year 6 (as at 2015). The School has three classes, with visiting specialists in Literacy Enrichment, Health and Physical Education, Learning Support and Counselling. Private music lessons are also offered by a visiting music instructor. The school is committed to the goals of inclusion within a supportive school environment.

Classes at St Anthony's School are generally composite with the grouping of grade levels varying from year to year depending on student enrolments and staffing needs. The school provides a wide variety of learning experiences for students through curriculum programs in all Learning Areas. Intervention programs are offered to support students in their learning.

St Anthony's has a welcoming feel to it and a group of dedicated and motivated parents who assist with the provision of the best educational environment possible for their children. Close liaison also exists between the school and the wider community, ensuring maximum outcomes for student learning.

Catholic Life and Mission:

Spiritual Development

The Religious Education element of our whole school curriculum is embedded in the everyday life, relationships and culture at St. Anthony's. We recognise the presence of God in our school community in each of our students, staff, parents and in the extended members of our wider school family. The sacredness of our people, their lives and our school life together is affirmed and celebrated. Celebration of liturgies and the sacraments are an integral part of the formal, public prayer and worship at St. Anthony's. Our staff nurtures conscious and active participation in the prayer life of the school. We aim to develop a variety of approaches to ritualising everyday life in our school using words, actions and symbols in light of the gospel. Our religious education curriculum aims to develop the religious literacy of all of our students to provide a foundation for them to critically inform their participation in the life of their faith communities and in wider society.

In 2014 we participated in community events including Catholic Education Week, the Dimbulah Lions Festival, Anzac Day and the Great Wheelbarrow Race. Our school community actively plans and implements structures and practices reflective of the scriptures and Catholic social teaching for justice, peace and ecological sustainability. At St Anthony's, in partnership with Catholic Education Services, we are committed to providing "a quality education for our students by enrich and promoting our Catholic identity, tradition and ethos and through quality Religious Education and Faith Formation". (Strategic Priorities, Diocese of Cairns, 2002)

The School in the Life of the Parish and Diocese

The school community reflects the diversity of society with families of differing cultural, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. The school caters for diverse learning needs within an atmosphere of mutual respect and where individual differences are valued.

St Anthony's is an integral part of the parish community. The spiritual growth and welfare of each student, along with sound educational practices is a shared responsibility of the parish priest, principal, staff and parents under the supervision of both Catholic and Government Educational authorities.

Parent Participation

Here at St Anthony's, we are committed to supporting parents as the first and primary educators of children. We assume the belief that schooling is a partnership operation. It is in working as partners – in supporting and encouraging each other's efforts that we benefit in bringing children to a genuine knowledge of themselves and of the world in which they live. Together it is hoped that efforts of co-operation and mutual support will complement each other through the sharing of a common vision and of common goal. Parents are involved either formally through the Parents and Friends Association or assisting in various activities that are part and parcel of school life. St Anthony's School is fortunate to have a significant level of parent involvement within the school community. Parents contribute to and support the school in various ways:-

- Before School Reading - parent volunteers in the classroom
- Participation in school celebrations including Class and Whole School liturgies & assemblies
- Sporting Events and Carnivals
- Regular Parents and Friends Meetings
- Maintenance Committees
- Working Bees
- Parent Volunteers in the Classroom
- Regular Parent/Teacher Meeting, reporting, social gatherings
- Year 6 Leadership Camp
- Catholic Education Week Mass
- Sacramental Programs
- Social-Emotional Well-Being workshops
- Parent workshops on Literacy and Numeracy
- Parent workshops on managing behaviour
- Lions Festival

Parent Satisfaction:

The vast majority of our parents report that St Anthony's is always striving to improve the quality of teaching and learning experiences provided to students. Satisfaction Survey data indicates that parents feel St Anthony's is a school where students are encouraged, where learning is fun and where students look forward to coming each day.

Data also indicated parents feel comfortable approaching leadership and staff regarding concerns about a child's learning or social interactions and that their concerns are taken seriously.

Overall, parents are very satisfied with the education their child(ren) are receiving at St Anthony's.

Staff Profile:

The staff at St Anthony's Parish School is a dedicated group comprising of:

- Principal
- APRE
- Curriculum Support Teacher
- Learning Support Teacher
- 4 Classroom Teachers
- 1 Specialist Teachers
- Literacy Enrichment Teacher
- 2 Administration Support Officers
- 1 Indigenous Liaison Officer
- 4 School Officers
- Cleaner
- Groundsperson

Our school would not continue to prosper without a professional and dedicated teaching and support staff. All of these people fulfil their duties giving far beyond what is required supporting our students and our school community.

Staff Satisfaction:

St Anthony's staff feel recognised and valued. They have built strong relationships with colleagues and feel supported. The staff trusts the leadership team and feel that change is managed well in our school. Staff feel that the school encourages staff input when making decisions.

Staff feel that the school has a positive ethos and encourages a climate that is conducive to learning, where goal setting and expectations are clear and student responsibility is encouraged.

All staff are satisfied with the school's performance.

Our Learning Community:

Professional Learning

In 2014 the school personnel undertook a range of professional learning activities related to improving student outcomes. These included:

- Australian Curriculum -History
- SINA Training
- First Steps - Reading
- First Steps - Writing
- APRE Focus Days
- SEL Focus Days
- Students With Disabilities Conference
- Australian Primary Principal's Association Conference
- Australian Literacy Educators' Association Conference
- Using Stepping Stones (Origo - Marty Egan)
- On-Track Admin Training
- Using Improve
- Aspiring Leaders PD
- Student Protection Training
- Work Place Health and Safety Training
- Copyright Training
- Library Assistant's PD
- LIBCODE
- Christian Meditation
- Consistency of Teacher Judgement Day
- Coral Swan - Literacy in the Early Years
- Mark Davidson - Tips and Trends for Managing Student's Behaviour
- Whole School Profiling
- NAPLAN Analysis
- Administration Officer's PD
- First Aid

Learning and Teaching:

Literacy Focus:

A focus on the improvement of student achievement in literacy was evident in 2014 at St Anthony's, which was linked directly to the Federal Government's Literacy and Numeracy National Partnerships initiative (DEEWR). The Literacy Enrichment Teacher (LET) aimed to improve literacy outcomes for our students. The LET was required to stimulate robust, innovative literacy learning at our school and to facilitate strategically reflective literary practices in order to improve the quality of instruction and therefore student learning outcomes.

In 2014, St Anthony's also placed a large emphasis on consistency in planning. The school invested considerable time and money to develop a basic level of planning for the whole school with the aim to improve consistency and increase the standard of planning and delivery of the curriculum across the school.

Student Performance

In 2010, student reports reflected significant requirements legislated federally of all schools across Australia. The written reports were issued in July and December and reflected the A-E rating as the mandated five-point scale using the 'OnTrack' system. Opportunities were also provided for specific parent/teacher interviews enabling parents to speak with teachers about their children's progress. Parents are regularly encouraged to work in partnership with the school and are always welcome to discuss their child's progress at any stage of the year by mutual arrangement of a convenient time.

Year 3, 5 and 7 test results

2014 National Assessment Program School Results (Year level by School, State and National means). Please keep in mind that to gain accurate statistical data, group sizing must be 30+. The maximum class size for 2014 was 12 students.

		Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Reading	Numeracy
Yr 3	School Av	317	285	287	319	344
	State Av	390	400	421	409	393
	National	402	412	426	418	402
	Av					
Yr 5	School Av	427	449	450	442	431
	State Av	457	489	500	496	481
	National	468	498	504	501	488
	Av					
Yr 7	School Av	484	484	490	512	497
	State Av	505	536	540	541	543
	National	512	554	543	546	546
	Av					

Student Satisfaction:

Students at St Anthony's reported that they feel positive, happy and energised at school. They feel that staff are well prepared for lessons and are providing learning experiences which will prepare them for the future. Satisfaction Survey data indicates that students feel that staff put a lot of energy into their teaching and that they are easy to understand.

Community Involvement:

St Anthony's School is committed to ensuring that links are maintained with various agencies, organisations and groups within the wider community. Integral to the mission of St Anthony's Parish School is our commitment to supporting parents as the first and primary educators of their children. We assume the belief that schooling is a partnership operation. It is in working as partners – in supporting and encouraging each other's efforts that we benefit in bringing children to a genuine knowledge of themselves and of the world in which they live. Together it is hoped that efforts of co-operation and mutual support will complement each other through the sharing of a common vision and of common goals. This idea of partnership is lived out in many ways and evident on a daily basis.

The small school enrolment (47 families) creates a family atmosphere at St Anthony's. The other benefit of a small school is the capacity for everyone to become involved in the social and family orientated events held each year.

Our annual Christmas Fair was one of the most successful ever, with funds raised by our P&F Association directly benefiting the school. This year's success was helped enormously by the generous donations of local business owners who contributed through sponsorship for the event.

Priorities for 2015:

- Employ a Literacy Enrichment Teacher to further develop teacher's competency in the area of teaching Literacy.
- Continue a cycle of School Review and Improvement.
- Critically analyse school-based assessment data as well as NAPLAN data and focus on particular areas for improvement through teacher Professional Development and classroom programs.
- Continue to update the Australian Curriculum in Mathematics, English and Science, History and introduce Geography.
- Implement the Explicit Teaching of Spelling across the school.
- Continue to find ways to engage students in learning including the continuation of lunch clubs and Better Buddies program.

Brad Williams
Principal