Principal's Foreword

Introduction

With an enrolment of 401 St. Thomas' Catholic Primary School strives to cater for the needs of both boys and girls from Prep to Year 7. Our school has 2 streams in Prep to Year 4 with multiage classes in Years 5 and 6 and two small Year 7 classes which allows for an emphasis on our much valued leadership program.

Our school logo - a heart for mind and spirit - reflects the unique place St. Thomas' occupies within the community, being a centre point or heart where students, staff, parents, the church and the local community connect.

Value-Added by School

See separate attached report on Achievements for 2010 relative to School Renewal Plan Goals

School Profile

St. Thomas' Primary School is a Catholic school administered through Catholic Education, Archdiocese of Brisbane.

Coeducational ✔ or Single Sex ☐

Year levels offered:  Primary ✔ Secondary ☐ P-12 ☐

Total student enrolments for this school 401

Total Enrolment 401 Girls 217 Boys 184
Curriculum offerings
Our distinctive curriculum offerings

The curriculum is diverse to provide a range of learning opportunities and cater for the individual style of learning that each child possesses. We believe that students are life long learners and that the curriculum must be dynamic and continually changing.

The implementation of the curriculum is supported by a number of specialist teachers who work with all children/classes in our school, including learning support, literacy support, speech and drama, art, music, LOTE (Language Other Than English - Italian) and physical education. Other programs offered to students include:

* LAP (Learning Assistance Program) - across all year levels
* PAL (Phonological Awareness for Language) - across all year levels
* Support-A-Reader - across all year levels
* Multi-Lit (Literacy Program) - across all year levels
* Jolly Phonics (Prep and Year 1)
* Jolly Grammar (Year 2)
* Individual and Years 3-6 class participation in speech eisteddfod
* Dance Cart - Years 4-7 participation

Extra curricula activities

St. Thomas’ offers the students many extra curricula activities including:

* Sports Program
  - Inter school netball competition Years 5-7
  - Inter school touch football competition Years 5-7
  - tennis coaching after school
  - organised intra school lunchtime sport for Year 3-7 children
* Speech and drama offered to all students
* Years 5, 6 and 7 outdoor education program - aligned with leadership programs
* St Thomas' has a large number of children who participate in strings, guitar, band and choir programs and performances
* L.O.T.E. - Italian competitions and a program from Prep - Year 7
* Participation in "Days of Excellence" literacy and numeracy program with other schools
* Buddies Program (Year 7 students are 'buddies' to Prep students, Year 6 students are 'buddies' to Year 1 students and Year 5 students are 'buddies' to Year 2 students for 2010
* Year 5-7 Leadership Program
* Robotics Program
* Organisation of, and participation in Kids Connect 2010
How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

St. Thomas' School is well resourced in the area of ICT. Each classroom is equipped with an interactive whiteboard which enables teachers and students to enhance the learning and teaching cycle. Students have easy access to computers including a number of computers in each classroom - PCs and Macbooks, ipods, ipads, digital cameras and a computer lab of 26 computers with a one to one laptop program for the Year 7 students to be introduced in 2011.

An ICLT teacher, 2 days per week, supports teachers and students in enhancing their ICT skills, ensuring ICLT is embedded in the school curriculum and assisting quality learning through a variety of ICTs.

Social climate

St. Thomas’ student population is drawn from families who live in and around the parish. The children represent a range of social and economic backgrounds.

St. Thomas’ school is a supportive learning environment that develops from the interaction between the students, teachers, parents and the wider community. It is characterised by openness, enthusiasm, trust and support. The students, with their families and teachers, are encouraged to look beyond their own cultural reality and develop an understanding of the lives of people in other communities.

Children are involved in pastoral care programs such as:-

* The Helping Hands Group
* Years 6 students attend parish Healing Mass each term, accompany parishioners and help serve morning tea
* Year 7 students prepare morning prayer each Monday in the church
* The students support Project Compassion in the early part of the year. Money is also raised for Catholic Missions
* Rice Day is another way we raise the awareness of the children about the lack of food and clean water in impoverished countries.
* One class each week attends the morning Mass with our parish community
* At Christmas each year, money and foodstuffs are sent to the local St. Vincent de Paul for needy families
* Environment Group - voluntary group of students dedicated to caring for our school environment

At St. Thomas’ we are aware of the good things we experience each day and we encourage pastoral care projects that help the children to recognise the fortunate cultural and educational environment in which we live.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

St. Thomas’ School has an extremely active and involved parent/caregiver body. With 252 families in the school, over 234 families to date have participated in the legislated volunteer induction to offer their services to our school throughout the year. At the inductions we identified at least twenty different ways parents/caregivers are regularly involved in school life. This is particularly evident during the preparation of our annual school fete. With a renowned parish and school community; little turnover of our highly regarded staff; successful whole school behaviour management program; designated leadership program for students across Years 5, 6 and 7; thriving Parents and Friends organisation; active school board; particularly large numbers of enrolment applications, it is reasonable to assert that student, staff and parent/caregiver satisfaction with St. Thomas’ is of a high level.
Involving parents in their child’s education

We value open dialogue with our families and we strive to develop and maintain healthy relationships among and between staff, students and their families.

A very active School Board and Parents and Friends Association are at the hub of a vibrant school community. Parents are invited to take part in school activities and classroom interaction is encouraged. A number of parental educational programs exist.

Tuckshop, student banking, the fete, social activities, as well as a wide range of educational programs, are all opportunities for parents to work in partnership with staff for the benefit of our children. Our weekly school newsletter "Thomatalk" conveys cultural, academic and sporting achievements to school families. "Thomatalk" can also be accessed through our website. A number of meeting times are planned for interaction between families and staff to discuss each child's learning journey.

Staff Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workforce Composition</th>
<th>Teaching Staff</th>
<th>Non-teaching Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headcounts</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time equivalents</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Qualifications of all teachers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highest level of attainment</th>
<th>Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctorate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Graduate Diploma</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelors Degree</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diploma</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Expenditure on and teacher participation in Professional Learning

The total funds expended on teacher professional learning in 2010 was $30,843.40

The major professional development initiatives were as follows:

* Develop a further understanding of an inquiry approach to learning
* Engagement of all teaching staff in the "First Steps" Reading Program professional development
* Participation in consistency of teacher judgement across the areas of English and Science
* Continued professional development to support students with special needs (Autism spectrum)
* Continue to develop skills to embed ICLT into everyday teaching and learning
* Examine the Learning and Teaching of Religion through development of inquiry units in the Belief Strand of RE.
## Average staff attendance rate

The staff attendance rate was **96.82%** in 2010.

## Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year

From the end of the 2009 school year, **96.5%** of staff were retained by the school for the 2010 year.

## Key Student Outcomes

### Attendance

**Student attendance** - 2010

The average attendance rate for the whole school as a percentage in 2010 was **95.1%**.

## Student Achievement – NAPLAN for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results – our reading writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Measures</th>
<th>Yr 3</th>
<th>Yr 5</th>
<th>Yr 7</th>
<th>Yr 9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reading</strong></td>
<td>Average score for the school in 2010</td>
<td>432.6</td>
<td>501.4</td>
<td>597.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Average score for Australia in 2010 (Do not change)</td>
<td>414.3</td>
<td>487.3</td>
<td>546.0</td>
<td>573.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>96.2%</td>
<td>97.9%</td>
<td>97.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>94.6%</td>
<td>90.5%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Writing</strong></td>
<td>Average score for the school in 2010</td>
<td>435.3</td>
<td>500.6</td>
<td>584.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Average score for Australia in 2010 (Do not change)</td>
<td>418.6</td>
<td>485.2</td>
<td>533.4</td>
<td>567.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>97.9%</td>
<td>97.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>96.4%</td>
<td>95.2%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spelling</strong></td>
<td>Average score for the school in 2010</td>
<td>398.5</td>
<td>477.6</td>
<td>568.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Average score for Australia in 2010 (Do not change)</td>
<td>399.2</td>
<td>487.1</td>
<td>544.6</td>
<td>564.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>97.9%</td>
<td>97.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>96.4%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>97.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Domain Measures

**Grammar and Punctuation**

- **Average score for the school in 2010**: 433.3, 491.9, 598.1
- **Average score for Australia in 2010** (Do not change): 416.9, 499.7, 535.1, 578.8
- **For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.**
  - **2009**: 98.1%, 97.9%, 94.9%, %
  - **2010**: 94.5%, 97.6%, 100%, %

**Numeracy**

- **Average score for the school in 2010**: 400.2, 487.1, 593.7
- **Average score for Australia in 2010** (Do not change): 395.3, 488.7, 547.7, 584.9
- **For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.**
  - **2009**: 98.2%, 97.8%, 100%, %
  - **2010**: 100%, 97.6%, 100%, %

### Attainment and Achievement – Year 12

**Apparent retention rates Year 10 to Year 12**

Year 12 student enrolment as a percentage of the Year 10 student cohort.

### Outcomes for our Year 12 cohort of 2010

(Data are available to schools from the QSA secure website using your existing security code)

- Number of students receiving a Senior Statement.
- Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate Individual Achievement.
- Number of students receiving an Overall Position (OP).
- Number of students who are completing/continuing a School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship.
- Number of students awarded one or more Vocational Educational Training qualifications.
- Number of students awarded an Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) Certificate II or above.
- Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education at the end of Year 12.
Number of students awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBD).

Percentage of OP/ IBD eligible students with OP 1-15 or an IBD. %

Percentage of Year 12 students who are completing or completed a SAT or were awarded one or more of the following: QCE, IBD, VET qualification. %

Percentage of Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) applicants receiving an offer. %

### Overall Position Bands (OP)

Number of students in each Band for OP 1 to 25

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OP 1-5</th>
<th>OP 6-10</th>
<th>OP 11-15</th>
<th>OP 16-20</th>
<th>OP 21-25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
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### Vocational Educational Training qualification (VET)

Number of students awarded certificates under the Australian Qualification Framework (AQF).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certificate I</th>
<th>Certificate II</th>
<th>Certificate III or above</th>
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### Post-school destination information

At the time of publishing this School Annual Report, the results of the 2009 Year 12 post-school destinations survey, Next Step – Student Destination Report for the school were not available. Information about these post-school destinations of our students will be incorporated into this Report in September.