Principal’s Foreword

Introduction

Our school is situated in the inner northern suburb of Wilston, in Brisbane. Opening enrolments in 2013 were 565 students from Prep to Year 7. Enrolments have risen significantly in recent years as the inner suburbs of Brisbane grow. A significant feature of the school is its strong reputation in the local community as a school that provides a Christian education in the Catholic tradition, based on Gospel Values. We are committed to the spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional, cultural and physical development of the whole person. The school has a strong focus on the pastoral care of students, quality teaching and learning and the provision of a variety of extra-curricular activities.

Our school caters for the primary years from Prep to Year 7. There are currently 23 classroom teachers, numerous school officers (teacher aides), and specialist support staff.

St. Columba’s has significantly changed in the last few years with the construction of around seven million dollars of new buildings and facilities. These projects are part of a long-term strategy to meet enrolment demand and to continue to develop modern first-class educational facilities to meet the challenges that the 21st century will bring.

Today, St. Columba’s School, in strong partnership with the Parish Priest and parish community, is recognized for proudly offering a quality inclusive Catholic Education.

School Profile

St. Columba’s 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 565

Total Enrolment 565  Girls 306  Boys 259
Characteristics of the student body

In 2013, the student body of St. Columba's School could be characterised as a homogenous group. Although several students were born overseas, the majority of students were born in Australia and have English-speaking parents.

- Student comes from families who value education and have parents that are well educated themselves-high percentage with tertiary qualifications.
- *2013 saw an increase in the number of international students enrolled at the school who are on the Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457).*
- Overall our student cohort is made up of a high percentage of students who live in the local area-including the suburbs of Wilston, Grange, Windsor & Gordon Park.
- They are well prepared at time of enrolment having attended a quality Pre-Prep/Kindergarten programme.
- Students are extensively involved in extra curricular activities outside school hours including sporting & cultural pursuits.
- They are resilient and confident and are well regarded in the local community.
- Feedback received from local high schools indicates that the students leaving St.Columba's are well-prepared and have sound academic and social skills.

Our distinctive curriculum offerings

Religious Education and the Language other than English of Italian

- The Sports Program (where children may be involved in tennis, Aussie rules, T ball, touch football, volleyball, netball, soccer, athletics, swimming and cross country running. There are regular training sessions outside of school hours and the children compete in a variety of competitions at Zone and District levels.)
- In 2013, students in Years 5-7 participated in the Queensland State Volleyball Championships.
- The school's Physical Education and Music programs sees two (part time) Physical Education Teachers and three (part time) Music Teachers
- Our curriculum is also complemented by an extensive network of computers (In each classroom, a computer Lab and two banks of laptop computers available for student use). From 2013, a 1:1 Laptop programme was introduced to Year 4 and will flow through to Year 6.
Extra curricula activities

The school further offers the following extra curricular activities
- Debating, Drama, Chess and Science Clubs
- Choirs – comprising Junior and Senior Choirs
- Instrumental Music tuition
- *Camps in Years 4, 5, 6 & 7 (Students in Years 6 & 7 travel to Canberra biannually for an educational excursion to the Nation’s capital.
- Interschool sporting competitions
- Representative sport – Individual and team competitions
- Local Choir, dancing, speech and drama eisteddfods
- Maths, English, Science and Computer Skills Competitions
- Readers Cup

How Information and Communication Technologies are used to assist learning

St Columba’s School has dedicated IT staff employed to provide weekly ICLT instruction to students, as well as professional learning opportunities for all staff members. We have a computer lab, which is complemented by two banks of laptop computers that move around the school to support focused learning in classrooms. All teachers have access to a laptop computer to support their teaching and learning initiatives. Our school has developed a Prep - Years 7 development continua to support and imbed ICLTs into the curriculum. Since 2010 we have developed a school wide focus on Cyber Safety. The fee structure of the school includes an IT levy to off set the financial costs of the development of our wireless network, as well as the roll out of electronic white boards in classrooms. This is complemented by financial support from our Parents and Friend’s Association. I-Pads are progressively being used in classrooms from Prep to Year 7. In 2013, a 1:1 Laptop programme was introduced for all Year 4 students. This will eventually flow through to Year 6. Planning also commenced for our Roll-out of I-Pads for all students in Year 1. This will be introduced in 2014.

Social climate inclusive of pastoral care and our response to bullying

At St Columba’s we strive to create a school climate that addresses and respects the needs of the whole school community. Students are encouraged to accept that their rights are accompanied by responsibilities. Our school’s "Behaviour Support Plan", incorporating the "Bounce Back Program" outlines a whole-school approach to establishing and maintaining a school climate that is characterised by resilience, fairness, charity and a sense of belonging. The school's anti-bullying policy draws on the proactive approach of the Bounce-Back programme to implement our procedures. The following are some of the ways in which we have sought to develop pastoral care: • Celebrations of welcome, farewell and graduation mark the milestones of student participation in school life• Leadership opportunities, where Year 7 students are given the opportunity to take leadership roles. •Buddy Class System which support interaction and friendship across age groups within the school. • Presentation of 'Praise Notes', Achievement Awards, Principal's Awards, Special Awards and birthdays as a way of promoting self-esteem among students.
Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

In 2011 a major school survey was devised and implemented by the School's leadership team with involvement of the school board under the headings of Mission and Religious Education; Teaching and Learning; Professional Practice and Collaborative Relationships and Strategic Resourcing. From data gained by way of this survey, there is a high degree of satisfaction with the school across numerous elements. Strengths identified include; being a welcoming, inclusive and supportive culture with a strong community spirit; committed staff; interested and supportive parent body; an environment where children feel happy, safe, valued and respected; strong links with Parish; excellent facilities; willingness for staff and school leadership to listen; extra curricular activities; The feedback gathered has informed the strategic direction of the school. Our 2012-2014 Strategic Renewal Plan is informed by feedback provided in areas to be strengthened. A copy is available from http://www.stcolumbaswilston.qld.edu.au/Our%20School/Documents/April%202013%20Update%202012%20%20Plan%20with%20Goals%20Strategies%20Progressive%20Achievements%20for%20Pub

Parent involvement in their child’s education

Parent involvement in children's education, and the general life of St Columba’s School, is highly valued and viewed as a crucial component of the educational team working together for the education of each child. The school has an active P & F Association and School Board. Parents and teachers are encouraged to maintain honest and open communication. Parental involvement is welcome and encouraged.

The following strategies and activities provide opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's education: parent teacher evenings, meetings and interviews; participation in classroom activities; library support; attendance at celebrations of learning; participation in prayer gatherings and liturgies; P and F meetings; social functions; parent forums on topics of interest; regular communication with the child’s teacher; involvement in children's camps and excursions sports days/carnivals; cyclical review involving parent feedback. In addition, our P&F sponsors: Tennis, Tuckshop, Uniform Shop, PALS, working bees, and major fundraisers (e.g. Fete, Art Show, Read-A-Thon)

Staff Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workforce Composition</th>
<th>Teaching Staff</th>
<th>Non-teaching Staff</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headcounts</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>29</td>
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<td>Full-Time equivalents</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indigenous</td>
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Qualifications of all teachers

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<tr>
<th>Highest level of attainment</th>
<th>Percentage of teachers and leaders at the school attaining this level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctorate</td>
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<td>Masters</td>
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<td>Post Graduate Diploma/Certificate</td>
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<td>Bachelors Degree</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diploma/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 2013 was $50,607.
The major professional development initiatives were as follows:

During 2013, a significant amount of professional development funding was directed towards the implementation of the Australian Curriculum in particular Geography and History.
Other areas of Professional Development included:
• RE - New RE Curriculum
• Collaborative curriculum planning
• Consistency of Teacher Judgement
• First Aid
• Autism Friendly Practices
• Using Data to inform Teaching and Learning
• Special Learning Needs
• Vision for Learning and Pedagogy
• Gifted and Talented Education
• 21st Century Learning/ Technology in the classroom

School Income by Funding Source
School income broken down by funding source is available via the My School website at http://www.myschool.edu.au/.
To access our school income details, click on the My School link above. You will then be taken to the My School website with the following:
‘Find a school’ text box.
Where it says ‘Search by school name’, type in the name of the school you wish to view, and select <GO>. Read and follow the instructions on the next screen; you will be asked to accept the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy before being given access to the school’s My School entry web page.
School financial information is available by selecting ‘School finances’ in the menu box in the top left corner of the school’s entry web page.

Average staff attendance rate
The staff attendance rate was 97.36% in 2013.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year
From the end of the 2012 school year, 91% of staff were retained by the school for the 2013 year.

Key Student Outcomes

| Whole School Attendance Rate | 96% |
| Prep Attendance Rate | N/A |
| Year 1 Attendance Rate | 95% |
| Year 2 Attendance Rate | 54% |
| Year 3 Attendance Rate | 97% |
| Year 4 Attendance Rate | 97% |
| Year 5 Attendance Rate | 97% |
| Year 6 Attendance Rate | 95% |
| Year 7 Attendance Rate | 97% |
Policy and practice to manage student attendance

The school manages student attendance electronically by way of the school’s "Student Administration" system. Members of the school’s administration team monitor and check daily attendance reports that are generated by every class group. Parents are contacted if attendance is not regular or absenteeism not explained.

Student Achievement – NAPLAN for Years 3, 5, 7

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results – our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the relevant years.

Our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the relevant years are available via the My School website at http://www.myschool.edu.au/.

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