

ST PETER CHANEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

2012 ANNUAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY REPORT

YEAR 2012
SCHOOL NAME St Peter Chanel Catholic School
SCHOOL TYPE K-6
SUBURB/TOWN Smithton

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ACTING PRINCIPAL: Mrs Annette McCulloch

About this Report

In preparing this report, information has been gathered from various sources throughout the year. Information about the school's practices and student learning outcomes have also been analysed and from this, goals for the school's future development were determined.

This report provides board members, parents, friends and members of the wider school community with information about St Peter Chanel Catholic School activities and performances over the past twelve months. It highlights the school's strengths and will assist to set targets for improvements during 2012 and beyond.

School Profile

St Peter Chanel Smithton is a co-educational primary school located on the far North-West coast of Tasmania. Catholic education began in the town when St Attracta's School commenced on the 6th February 1951, at 98 Emmett Street by four sisters of St Joseph. The school was named after St Attracta – an Irish nun/saint and innkeeper. In 1977 land was bought on Tier Hill in Sampson Avenue. This land would allow enough space for a school, convent, presbytery, and church. With the assistance of a Federal Government Grant a new school was built in three stages. The school was renamed St Peter Chanel. Peter Chanel, a Marist priest, had been martyred on Futuna Island. He was called 'the man with the good heart.' School commenced on the 26th February 1979, with Sr Carmel Jones as Principal. The official blessing and opening was held on 18th March 1979, by the Vicar General, Monsignor Bernard Rogers and Mr Ray Groom, Minister for Housing and Construction.

St Peter Chanel is blessed with a dedicated and caring staff and parent base. It is a Christ-centred community where teachers, parents and students collaborate to provide an

environment where the worth and dignity of each person is acknowledged and appreciated.

St Peter Chanel is proud of the rich and significant heritage of the sisters of St Joseph with their charism: God's compassionate love; ordinary; practical; hospitable; humas (down to earth and of the earth). We are committed to ensuring that the valued traditions of the Sisters of St Joseph are promoted and preserved for future generations.

Our motto, 'We Seek The lord', is based on the badge of St Attracta. It encapsulates the charism of the Sisters of St Joseph and provides a visual link with the past.

St Peter Chanel offers quality Catholic education from Kindergarten to Grade 6 and has excellent facilities. These include: seven classrooms fitted with modern furniture; two well-resourced and modern Kindergartens with a spacious and upgraded play area; A renovated student resource space which has direct access to ICT with between 6-8 laptops in each class and 5 ipads; a staff work room with ample space for lesson preparation and meetings; an administration area that includes a front and back office work space, Principal's office and staff room.

All classrooms open into global learning spaces. This is common practice and class bi-fold doors enable this to regularly happen. External classroom doors also allow for student learning to flow into the natural environment.

With the weather we experience on the far North-West coast, the large internal multi-purpose area in the centre of our school, allows students to participate in outdoor activities when the weather is inclement. Glass operable walls allow greater visibility and function to this multi-purpose space.

Our school mini bus also provides greater access to student learning opportunities, camps and excursions. Learning experiences outside the classroom not only help consolidate learning but also breakdown the misunderstanding that learning only occurs within the four walls of the classroom.

CATHOLIC LIFE AND MISSION

Liturgical Prayer and Life

Regardless of Religious background all children are welcomed at St Peter Chanel Catholic School. We celebrate being a community of Faith where values for living have, as their root, the Gospel Values.

Our Catholic identity and ethos permeates all areas of school life – from the expectations of the way the school community interact to the writing of school policy.

The Sacramental Program is parish and school based. Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation are celebrated as a parish with parent, child, teacher, staff and parish involvement. In 2012 a number of our students participated in the Sacramental Program, culminating in a Mass celebrated by His Grace, Archbishop Adrian Doyle on 20th May. Students attended five one-hour sessions on Sunday mornings to prepare for the receiving of the Sacraments. All staff actively supported the Sacramental Program by assisting in the preparation of children through the sacramental unit located in the Tasmanian Catholic education Good News For Living Document.

Liturgical celebrations are held regularly. These are class driven and relate to specific themes throughout the year, such as Lent, ANZAC DAY, Grandparents Day, Mothers Day, Father's Day, NAIDOC Week, Remembrance Day and Advent.

The school Principal and/or the Faith Development Coordinator attend monthly Parish Pastoral Council meetings, giving an update on school events. This continues the strong partnership we have with the Parish. Invitations to attend functions held by the Catholic Women's League and Knights of the Southern Cross are welcomed and attended by staff wherever possible. Similarly invitations to school events are extended to parishioners and these are always warmly received.

Religious Education Curriculum

The Religious Education program is sequentially structured and based on the core Tasmanian Catholic curriculum document 'Good News For Living'. Staff undertake regular professional learning in Religious Education offered by the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office to ensure that the faith development of our students is delivered by staff who understand current thinking and best practice. 'Making Jesus Real' is a values program offered to grade 5/6 students by the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office and undertaken by students at St Peter Chanel. It enables students in very practical ways to explore Gospel values in their lives, the way this impacts on their choices and behavior and to discover a very real God in 'God moments' in daily life. 'Although making Jesus Real' is targeted towards the older students, all classes participate and live out this program, ensuring it is a whole school approach.

Faith Development Programs

All staff attend faith development opportunities throughout the year. Some of these are ongoing while others are part of a whole staff sequential approach. Through 2012 staff attended professional learning through Godly Play, Making Jesus Real, Josephite Colloquium, Caritas, a twilight session on our founding order and RE network meetings. Staff are encouraged to pursue professional development in Religion with some staff members completing post graduate work in Religion.

In 2012 the North West Tasmanian Catholic Religious Education Officer visited regularly to meet with the St Peter Chanel's Faith Development Coordinator as well as all teaching staff for support in planning and understanding, and delivery and reflection of learning experiences.

The school in the Life of the Parish and Diocese

Each term, classes celebrate the Eucharist on a regular basis. Students were actively involved by being altar servers, readers, bringing the gifts to Fr McCormack, looking after the music or being a 'buddy' to a younger child.

Fr McCormack regularly invites parishioners to participate with the students particularly on special occasions. Throughout 2012 each class took part in leading at least one Sunday Parish Mass. This was successful with high participation and engagement rates from families and students.

Special days were highlighted throughout the year with whole-school Masses or Liturgies being held. These included the feast day of St Peter Chanel, Holy Week, Catholic Education Week and NAIDOC Week. Parents and parishioners were warmly invited to attend.

To begin the year, staff and student leaders within the school, participated in a Commissioning Mass and were presented to the wider school and parish community. Students and teachers received badges and candles as a sign of their commitment to the school. This was followed with a “welcome back to school” sausage sizzle held in the school grounds. This was a great way to strengthen the parish/school partnership.

Assemblies were held fortnightly, with each class from kindergarten to Grade 6 leading the school in prayer. Our assemblies provided an opportunity for our parents, friends and grandparents to participate in prayer with our students. Staff prayer was held weekly and each staff member was given the opportunity to lead all staff in prayer.

Class prayer is an important tradition at St Peter Chanel Catholic School. The children are responsible for leading prayer, as is the teacher, the Faith Development Coordinator or the Principal.

To conclude the school year, an end of year Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated by Fr McCormack. This was a special event where we celebrated the successes and challenges of the year. Our Grade 6 students were formally recognised and had the opportunity to share a Graduation Prayer.

Community Participation and Christian Outreach

In developing a sense of a global community and social conscience students from Grades 3-6 were invited to be part of a ‘Mini Vinnie’s’ group. Mini Vinnies vision is to support the mission of the Society of St Vincent de Paul. Many students embraced this and meetings were held fortnightly. Students were involved in activities to help those in need in our community. One initiative of the Mini Vinnie’s group was to invite the school community to donate teddy bears to be given to sick children in the Northwest Regional Hospital.

Several of the students travelled to Burnie Hospital in the school mini bus to present these donated toys to the hospital staff. They then visited St Brigid’s Catholic School to discuss their experience and involvement in the Mini Vinnie’s Program.

Students from a variety of classes also visited Emmerton Park throughout the year. In November, Grade 5 students participated in the Caritas Leadership day. This day focused on social justice issues and helped Grade 5 students take a leadership role to create awareness at a school level and work towards supporting these causes.

Parent Participation

Parents are encouraged to become involved in all religious or faith development activities offered by the school, parish and Tasmanian Catholic education office.

Parents are always welcome and are regularly invited to join students at Liturgical events. They receive an invitation and notification when their child’s class is responsible for preparing Mass, a Liturgy or Assembly.

Parents are extremely supportive in our community and help prepare for special celebrations.

OUR LEARNING COMMUNITY

Learning and Teaching

At St Peter Chanel the integration of Catholic values into all areas of the curriculum is overtly evident in our curriculum documentation, policy and procedures. The learning experiences offered integrate the religious dimension and provide an opportunity for reflection as members of a Catholic community. As partners in Catholic education, we commit ourselves to our students by celebrating being Catholic in Australia, ensuring quality teaching and learning programs and inspiring hope, a love of learning and a positive vision for the future.

The staff at St Peter Chanel are experienced educators with a passion for delivering quality, engaging learning experiences that cater for all individual needs. All St Peter Chanel staff are fully registered with the Tasmanian Teachers Registration Board.

The staff are welcoming and supportive of student needs and work collaboratively to ensure that students are given opportunities to challenge their learning capacity. The staff actively seek ways to improve the learning pedagogy and reflect critically on their teaching practices in order to gain further insight into classroom integration. Staff are actively involved in professional development programs directly linked with the educational needs of the children and the educational focus of the school. We have regular staff and curriculum meetings which reflect both daily and longer term direction, as well as whole day professional development experiences.

Teacher Assistants at St Peter Chanel are dedicated and highly skilled. They are committed to upgrading their skill base and liaise closely with teaching staff, Tasmanian Catholic Education Office personnel and specialists on matters regarding students. They also actively engage in generating shared goals and shape the direction of the Individual Education Programs of the students in our care.

Some staff members are completing additional studies ultimately to enhance the educational experiences being offered to the students. There is a school-based fund for professional development encouraging and enabling staff to visit other schools and to attend professional development sessions that enable staff to strive for excellence in pedagogy and practice.

At St Peter Chanel pedagogical practices are implemented to cater for a variety of student needs. Within the classroom students are involved in individual, small group and whole class activities. Our approach to students with special needs is to identify those students of concern, involve specialists when necessary and prepare specific programs to address the needs of students. Our approach is inclusive and programs are overseen by the class teacher, Learning Support Coordinator, Principal and Tasmanian Catholic Education Office personnel. Parent input and partnership is seen as vital and the school regularly communicates with parents. Additional support enhances the teaching and learning program within the classroom and gives students the opportunity to receive one-on-one or small group assistance.

The students at St Peter Chanel are involved in literacy and numeracy testing. NAPLAN testing occurs in Grades 3 and 5. In addition, a range of whole school testing occurs which

is based on stages of development and syllabus guidelines. Ongoing assessment monitors progress throughout the year, in order to inform the best teaching practices.

Specialist programs offered include Music, Physical Education, LOTE (Italian), Library and Information and Communication Technology. These programs are offered to students from Kindergarten to Grade 6. A Perceptual Motor Program for students in Kindergarten to Grade 2, introduced in 2006, has continued. This program aims to help students develop conceptual language understanding and oral language confidence, as well as gross motor skills. Parents regularly assist in the delivery of this program, which is well equipped and thoroughly organised.

Targeted Programs

The funding for these programs allows the school to fund significant teacher assistant support in our classrooms based on the needs of the students. In 2012 the school invested in a 3 day a week Learning Support Coordinator who introduced, implemented and closely monitored specific intervention programs for students identified with low literacy skills. The school continued with a whole school approach to speech with a trained teacher assistant working with funded students and developing programs that both school and home are encouraged to support. This developed a clear and direct program for students who have specific speech needs. Teacher assistants take a significant role in supporting teachers with the implementing of Individual Education Plans for students with special needs.

The professional relationship which exists between teachers and teacher assistants has contributed in a significant way to the enhancement of student outcomes at St Peter Chanel Catholic School.

To enrich the learning opportunities of students in remote areas, students travelled outside Circular Head for excursions, Camps, Taster Days and performances. Students also had the opportunity to participate in sporting events such as the North West Catholic Schools Sports Association Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics Carnivals.

Student Performance

At St Peter Chanel we believe the learning process begins with assessment. This provides the basis for planning student learning. St Peter Chanel uses a wide variety of assessment strategies that include whole school standardised testing, informal assessment such as teacher observation, student self-assessment and anecdotal records. The school also has an extensive formal assessment structure that includes observational tests, running records, portfolios of student work and numerous other strategies. The combination of formal and informal assessment ensures that the learning needs of students are regularly identified and monitored and specific learning programs are developed. St Peter Chanel is actively involved in NAPLAN testing for students in Grades 3 and 5, PIPS testing (System requirement) in Prep and the Kindergarten Developmental Checklist.

NAPLAN Results

NAPLAN testing encompasses Reading, Writing, Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar, as well as Numeracy. In 2012 Grade 3 and 5 students sat NAPLAN testing in May. Results indicated that improvements are needed in spelling data. As a consequence, the educational focus area in 2013 will be spelling. Data collection and analysis will provide us with indicators of success.

At St Peter Chanel Catholic Primary School we have the following protocols in place for reporting to parents:

1. Formal reports are issued during the middle of Term 2 and the end of Term 3
2. Parent-Teacher interviews take place after the distributing of reports in Term 2.
3. An initial Parent-Teacher interview is held at the start of the year and is called a Learning Journey. Parents visit the classroom with their student and complete a '2 Stars and a Wish' form. This is premised around goal setting and creating greater understanding and ownership of learning for all key stakeholders.
4. Parents may request a meeting with any staff member at any time mutually convenient.

Other Achievements

St Peter Chanel participated successfully in many extra curricular programs. Students had the opportunity to participate in significant focus weeks that aimed to enhance students' knowledge and understandings about specific themes. These included National Literacy and Numeracy Week, Science Week, Children's Book Week, NAIDOC Week and Catholic Education Week. Students participated in a range of activities during these weeks at both a whole school and class level. At the end of the week students were able to share their learning with others.

One highly successful program which promotes a healthy lifestyle for students not involved in formal sport is the Active After School Program. This program is a government initiative and runs two afternoons a week for an hour. Student participation and enjoyment is clearly evident. This year St Peter Chanel was nominated for a 'Super Site Award' and presented with a certificate and trophy. During the school year, a Birth to 4 program runs called Learning Treasures. Learning Treasures provides a two-hour learning opportunity for pre-kinder age children and their families once a week. Sessions were facilitated by a Kinder Teacher and 2 Teacher Assistants and focused on literacy, music and movement, and motor skill elements. This was well attended each week.

Following our own school carnivals students compete in inter-school sporting carnivals. These include Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics. All school carnival events are also supported with training programs for our students leading up to these events. Hockey and soccer was offered across all age groups. The Learn to Swim program ensures all students are provided with essential skills for water safety, survival and stroke development. Qualified instructors ensure opportunities for all students to build on skills.

Our Learn to Swim Program also provided Grade 6 students with a development day and hands on experience of sailing. Students also participate in Daily P.E. to improve fitness levels and promote an active lifestyle. During 2011 St Peter Chanel became an accredited as a Move Well Eat Well school and this focus continues ensuring our healthy lifestyle approach is sustained within our whole school community and embeds an ongoing healthy lifestyle for all students.

In 2012 with the support and assistance of parents a school vegetable garden was established. Several out of school working bees were well attended by parents, students and staff to create this beautiful area located in the school playground next to the Kindergarten classroom. Two parents volunteered for a full day once a week and established a garden group. Every student had the opportunity to assist in the school garden throughout the year

St Peter Chanel is proud of its involvement in the ANZAC Day parade and service. School and class leaders from Prep to Grade 6 represent the school by marching and attending

the ANZAC Day service, laying a wreath and carrying one of the Service flags. Our whole school community shows its respect by holding a school-based ANZAC service.

Clean Up Australia Day begins in our own school grounds and develops stewardship amongst students. Each class is given an area of the school grounds to clean thus promoting current students as caretakers for future students and taking a pride in their school.

In establishing greater links, pathways and connections with Marist Regional College a transition program for Grade 6 has been established. These days assist students in experiencing what other secondary education options are available to them, as well as their parents.

PASTORAL CARE

The Mission Statement of St Peter Chanel states we are a 'Christ-Centred Community' in which students, teachers and parents collaborate to provide an environment where the worth and dignity of each person is acknowledged and appreciated.

We believe all children have the right to grow and develop in an atmosphere of love, belonging and security.

Teachers and parents sharing this vision, cooperate in a climate of mutual support and respect reflected in the respect and care shown for each person within our school community.

Our Mission Statement is reflected in many real and visual ways. We have an open-door policy whereby parents are always welcome to come and discuss the success and challenges of their children in an atmosphere of mutual respect. Students, teachers and parents speak and treat one another with respect. Staff build positive relationships with students.

Behaviour Support is premised by students being accountable for their own actions and choices. Out-of-school support for those students with ongoing challenges are set up, using local community expertise where possible. There is zero tolerance to fighting and bullying with set procedures and consequences. The staff at St Peter Chanel are committed to improving behaviour management strategies. A submission was made in November 2012 for St Peter Chanel Catholic School to become part of The Tasmanian Catholic Education Office 'School Wide Positive Behaviour Support' Program. This program will be implemented into the school through a 3 year plan starting in 2013..

ENROLMENT AND STAFFING

In 2012, at the time of the August census St Peter Chanel Catholic School had an enrolment of 177 students in K-6. Of these students 32 were indigenous - 20 females and 12 males.

Our school had 37 Kindergarten students who attended three full days of school weekly. Kindergarten days were Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in 2012.

Class grouping in 2012 were: 2 Kindergarten, Prep, Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3/4, Grade

4/5 and Grade 5/6.

Staffing in 2012 consisted of:

*11 teachers including full time and part time teachers

*The Leadership team included the Principal, the Assistant Principal/LT/SLN, the Faith Development Coordinator and the Aboriginal Key Teacher

*7 part time Teacher Assistants

*Specialist staff included: Information Technology support staff, PE teacher, LOTE (Italian) Teacher, Music Teacher

*3 part time Administration Support staff

*1 Part Time cleaner

*1 Part Time utilities officer

Fr Phil McCormack is our Parish Priest and is actively involved in all aspects of our school visiting on most days.

The School's Advisory Board of Management provides advice to the Principal and assists the strategic direction of the School.

Board of Management Representatives 2012:

Fr Phil McCormack	Parish Priest	Ex officio
Annette McCulloch	Acting Principal	Ex officio
Greta Kay	Chair Person	
Craig Dwyer	Deputy Chair Person	
Aaron Robertson	Treasurer	
Alison Nibbs	Secretary	
Denise Morgan		
Dean Sheehan		
Davis Emmerson (retired early 2012)		
Melissa Thorp (retired early 2012)		

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

St Peter Chanel works hard at building a school community that is welcoming to all. It strives to make the links between the local school community, other Catholic schools, public schools and, indeed, the wider community.

School Choir

Through the teaching and support from Music teacher Mrs Streat, students were provided with an opportunity to join the School Choir. Choir members worked with Mrs Streat once a week and participated in the Devonport Eisteddfod. They were provided with many opportunities to perform at school assemblies as well as perform for the residents of Emmerton Park.

Sport Program

Throughout 2012 students had access to a variety of different sporting opportunities and pursuits. Given the evidence of high drop out rates in organised sports in early High School and as part of our Move Well Eat Well Program, students experienced hockey, Australian Rules, Little Athletics activities, skipping, and soccer as clinics in Physical Education classes. These gave students a taste of what is on offer and an opportunity to

access within our community.

Grade 4, 5 and 6 Camp

Grade 6 students participated in their Grade 6 Hobart Camp in Term 1. Students stayed in Hobart and visited a variety of sights to assist in units of work that they were studying. Whilst on camp students visited a variety of locations such as Port Arthur, Mount Wellington, Battery Point, the Museum and Parliament House.

Grade 5 students participated in a West Coast Camp in Term 1. Students visited St Josephs in Rosebery and Queenstown, as well as the Zeehan Museum, Henty Sand Dunes, Strahan and Queenstown Mine. These learning experiences assisted classroom units of work.

Grade 4 students participated in the Grade 4 Camp to Hagley School Farm in Term 1. Students also visited the Museum at Inveresk while at Hagley.

Performances and Excursions

Students at St. Peter Chanel are actively involved in enriching their learning experiences and connections through performances and excursions. These have included visits from authors and illustrators, excursions to local destinations and along the North West Coast to complement class learning experiences.

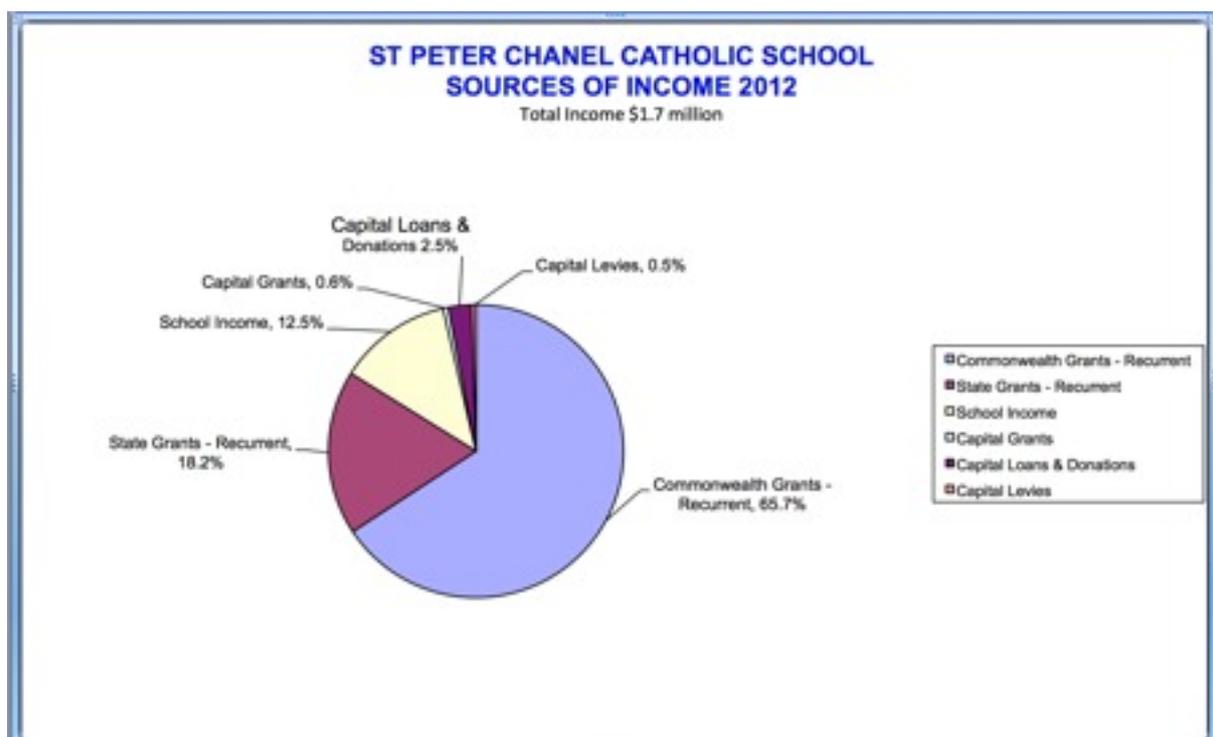
School Concert

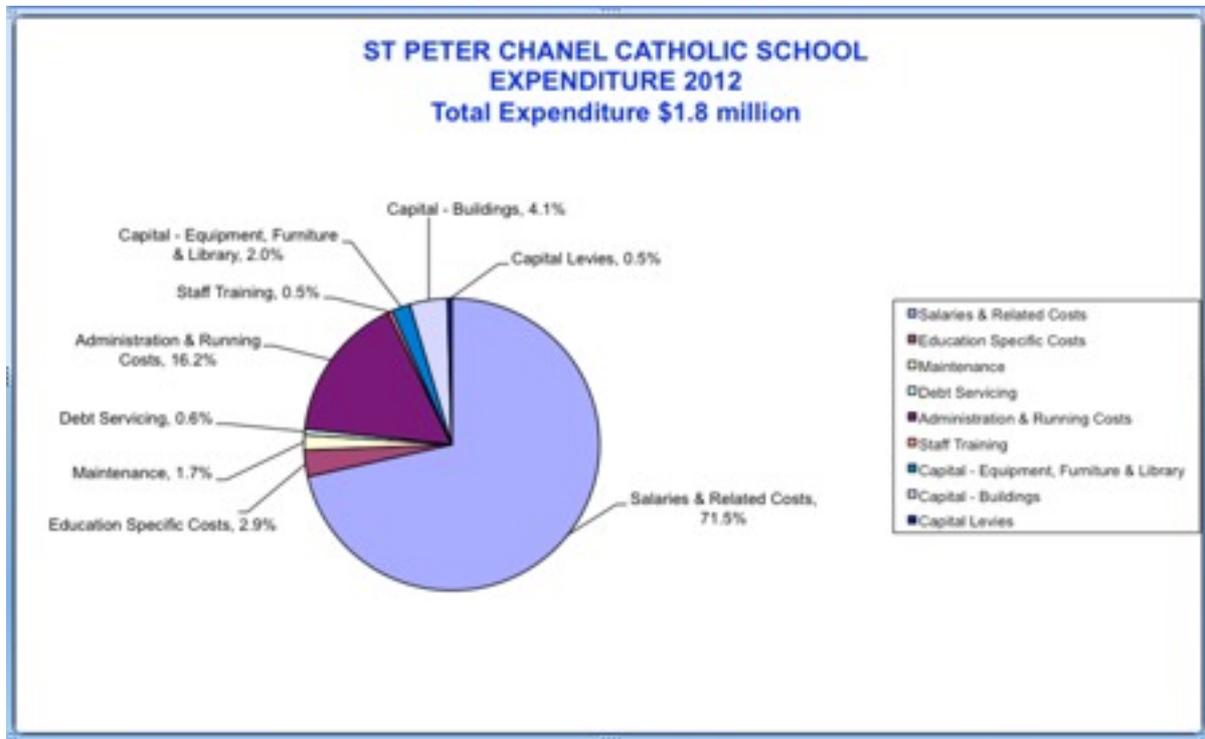
In 2012 the School Concert was held at the Christian Fellowship Centre. This venue allowed us to cater for all our families and provide the students with the best facilities for public performances.

Summary Financial Information

St Peter Chanel Catholic Primary School is a Systemic Parish School within the Catholic Education System of Tasmania. All Systemic Parish Schools operate under the authority of the Archbishop of Hobart.

Systemic Parish Schools are accountable to the Director of Catholic Education as an





agent of the Archbishop.

The Tasmanian Catholic Education Commission is a body commissioned by the Archbishop of Hobart to advise him on educational policy and issues in the Archdiocese. Curriculum development, employment of staff and the general organisation of the School are the responsibility of the Principal. The Catholic Education Office provides assistance through allocating the Northern region a Head Of Services officer. In 2012 this was Mrs Sandra Harvey.

THIS REPORT PREPARED BY: The Acting Principal, Mrs Annette McCulloch

SIGNED: *Annette McCulloch*

DATE: June 2013

