Dear Parents, Carers, Friends, Parishioners and Community

The Holy Name Primary School Annual Achievements Report plays an important role in fulfilling our school’s commitment to accountability and transparency. The report details our achievements for 2012. This annual report also provides some information about our future direction. The report will be available either at the front office or on our website.

In order to meet our commitment to the environment, improved accountability and reduce publication costs, we have again significantly reduced the print run of the report and have published it on the school’s website.

In addition, I wish to draw to your attention the “Photo Gallery” Quick Link on the homepage of the school website (http://www.hntwb.catholic.edu.au/documents/photogallery.html). It is here in the photo gallery that the 2012 Achievements report is enhanced, capturing our students engaging in activities from ANZAC Day to raising funds for Breast Cancer. These photos showcase our school’s achievements.

I invite you to view the report, which is endorsed by the School Board and the School Development Committee, at www.hntwb.catholic.edu.au. You will find the Achievements Report under “Renewal & Reporting” (under “About Us” on the main menu). There will also be a special “Achievements Report Button” on the home page of the website for the next few months.

Holy Name Primary School continually strives to meet best practice, reporting and values the views of our families and community. You are invited to provide feedback on this report by either directing enquiries to The School Development Committee, PO Box 9412 Wilsonton QLD 4350 or via the Feedback link on the homepage of the website.

Should you have any enquiries about this report, please feel free to contact me directly on telephone 07 4632 4694 or via email at holyname@twb.catholic.edu.au.

I hope you find this report to be an informative and valuable resource.

Yours sincerely

David

David Adams-Jones
Principal

Let’s Journey Together! Let’s Make a Difference!
The 2012 Annual Achievement Report

David Adams-Jones

Let’s journey together! Let’s make a difference!
Our Achievements to Date – 2012 Annual School Development Plan

Five years ago our school developed a five year strategic plan covering all aspects of our six defining features as a Catholic School. Each year, in consultation with the renewal committee, we developed and presented an annual school development plan to the school community and the Catholic Education Office. To ensure quality assurance, the School Renewal Committee supported the notion to stay in contact with each other and to revisit our Annual School Development Plan every six months, expanding over the five year period. The rationale behind this process was that we could not only monitor and validate our progress to date but so we could also inform the school and parish community of our achievements. We are proud to present to you our Annual School Achievements Report to the community highlighting our success throughout 2012 under the headings of the Six Defining Features of a Catholic School.

Defining Feature: Attentiveness to the Life Giving Presence of God

Throughout the year our students and community actively participated in a range of activities where we all lived out the mission of the Catholic Church.

Staff attended Professional development sessions focusing on Religious Education. Alison Bates, Assistant Principal Religious Education provided sessions on Catherine McAuley, the Second Vatican Council—Fifty years on, liturgy and staff visits to the Resource Centre. The community also came together to celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Communion.

The school also continued in reflecting the Presence of God in life creation by ensuring our school grounds and gardens reflected the beauty of God’s creation. The maintenance plan was fully implemented with new garden beds, parent working bees and the early Years veggie garden producing some delicious vegetables.

The Garden of Feelings program continues to thrive in classrooms which have seen a positive outcome in student behaviour and student improvement. This year, the number of students visiting the Principal regarding behaviour issues or inappropriate behaviour has declined well below twenty visits. Principal visits to classrooms verified the positive behaviour of students. This “Catching Students doing the Right Thing” was followed up at weekly assemblies where students were acknowledge and received awards from the school community.

There were many times when the Principal was invited into classrooms to begin the day with morning prayer. Such sacred times, enable us all to gather in prayer, creating moments in being with God. In some cases the prayer times were led by students, followed by their attentiveness through various religious songs.
Defining Feature: Ministry within the Church

The school has played a vital role within the Church by actively participating in Holy Week activities, support for charities such as Project Compassion, refined the behaviour management plan that involved all stakeholders, engaged in First Friday and Family Sunday Masses, the involvement of the Principal in monthly meetings as the representative on the Parish Pastoral Council and the involvement of students in Mini Vinnies.

Throughout the semesters, Assistant Principal Religious Education and the principal met with Fr Keegan and Sister Margaret weekly. The APRE was also instrumental in her work by highlighting the sacramental program within the parish, with the celebrations of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Communion with Bishop Brian Finnigan and Fr Keegan.

In Term Three our community celebrated the Episcopal Ordination of Most Reverend Robert McGuckin as the new Bishop of Toowoomba. This was a momentous day where students watched on television screens the ordination of Reverend Robert McGuckin. The Bishop, highlighted in his address, a new beginning for us all as we continue to strive to live our baptismal call and to live in this world, the mission that Jesus entrusts to us.

Monthly meetings with the Parish Council occurred on the first Tuesday of each month. At these meetings, the various groups reported to Sister Margaret and Fr Tom Keegan the happenings around the parish and wider community. As part of my role as Principal, I submitted a monthly report to the parish and once every six months I cooked dinner for them. This is part of our ministry within a Catholic School and a very important part of the relationship

Throughout the year, Sharon Collins from the Catholic Education Office worked alongside the staff in building a Catholic Community by ensuring the story of Jesus is not only told but is part of our service today in Catholic Schools. Such sessions where reaffirmed to us, ensuring that we continue to carry out the Mission of the Catholic Church in our teachings and relationships with each other and our students.

Figure 4. Posters were displayed in all classrooms during Lent to raise awareness of Project Compassion.

Figure 5 Sharing a meal together, as Jesus did!

Figure 6 Sharon Collins, Catholic Education Officer, sharing and leading staff at a professional development session.
Defining Feature: Place of Learning
As part of our commitment to the defining feature, A Place of Learning, we continued to achieve our goals in professional development and the implementation of the Diocesan Learning Profile. Our focus in semester two continued with professional development in English and the planning, teaching, assessment and reporting in using the DLP. On October the 8th our staff participated with Mr Brett Rangiira, with staff from Holy Name sharing with teachers in Roma for the CTJ day. The teachers used the latest technology, to share dialogue around teacher judgement. In term four, our staff completed their History LAPS with the curriculum team endorsing them, in readiness for 2013. It is pleasing to see our school staff now ready to implement the first phase of the History Curriculum in 2013.

Our achievements in summary include:
- Successful NAPLAN results – above the National average.
- Staff attended Australian curriculum professional development workshops.
- Staff provided extra release time for working alongside the curriculum coordinator and TCEO staff.
- Staff conversations booked on calendar four times a term focusing on curriculum.
- In school audit on school resources – preambles for purchasing new resources aligned to Australian Curriculum in 2013.
- Successful reporting using the Diocesan Learning Profile.
- Focus strengthened on Australian Curriculum with the implementation of E-Staff Meetings.
- Japanese lessons implemented with support from St Ursula’s College and immersion program.
- Enrichment program implemented along with Science.
- New laptop program implemented from Yr 4 to 7, with 10 laptops in each room.
- Very successful dancing program with a concert to conclude the program.
- Implementation of MAGS Program (resource program for Maths.)

Term Two commenced with a professional Development day focusing on the Australian Curriculum. On Monday Holy Name staff participated in an Australian Curriculum workshop on History in Oakey. We were joined by colleagues from Sacred Heart, St Anthony’s, St Joseph’s Chinchilla, St Stephen’s Pittsworth and St Monica’s. The day was very informative and valuable as we gained insight into this new subject.

Once again the annual Reader’s Cup was held at Holy Name Primary School in the Mort Estate Activity Centre. Under the professional guidance of Jan Watkins, all schools in the Toowoomba and surround districts participated. Once again our students performed as fine ambassadors of Holy Name. This is the second time in a row! Our students did very well with Year Six and Seven being the overall winners in 2012 against six other Catholic Primary Schools in Toowoomba. This was a fantastic event and congratulations to all our students who represented Holy Name at this year’s Reader’s Cup.

Later in the semester, we welcomed two new staff to our community, with teachers accessing maternity and long service leave. The year concluded with the students celebrating their learning with a fun day held at Dreamworld and Sunset Bowling!
Our Fantastic Staff
Defining Feature: Community of Care
We are very grateful for the marvellous support from the Catholic Education Office, in providing resources and professional development as a vital resource to not only Holy Name but to other Catholic Schools in our Diocese. The weekly, What’s On with regular P&F articles, our monthly newsletters with year level reports, the school diary system for Years 3-7 and our school website with Facebook page summaries continue to promote effective communication links between the home, school and community.

This year we continued our, parent carer program and the school board has developed a policy on Education of the Marginalised at Holy Name Primary School and is currently working on the development of a school business plan. Our school finance committee continues to meet monthly and is currently in a very positive financial situation. Student safety continues to be paramount in everything we do, with the Safe Start program and the Volunteer Code of Conduct.

In Term Four, our students along with students from all Catholic schools across the Diocese attended an official welcome Mass at the Cathedral for our new Bishop Robert McGuckin. This was a fantastic opportunity where students from Holy Name gained an understanding that they belong to one big Catholic family in the diocese of Toowoomba under the leadership of our teacher, Bishop Robert McGuckin.

As a community of care, our students in Year One and Prep continued with their commitment in growing vegetables. With the help of parents and grandparents, students managed their veggie garden, supplying the tuckshop and homes with yummy veggies.

Each year in Australia, around 13,500 women are affected by breast cancer. It’s one of the most common cancers. This year Holy Name Primary School students raised funds locally through the Mini Vinnies Program. Many thanks to Mrs Norman, Mrs Bates and all the students involved in Mini Vinnies. It was a fantastic day for an important cause!

The year concluded with all the students bringing food items to school for those less fortunate than us at Holy Name. Mrs Bates promoted CARITAS Global Gifts – Become a part of the Global Village this Christmas.

Food Hamper for St Vincent de Paul Society – Each class had a basket or other container to collect non-perishable food for Christmas hampers. It was a fabulous response given so freely by our students for the needy. The food hampers were presented to the St Vincent de Paul Society at our final school Mass. We are truly a community of care!
Our Committed and Dedicated Parents and Friends
Defining Feature: Inclusive and Outreaching Culture

Our focus this year was clearly on inclusive practices that are marked by the acceptance and celebration of diversity in all aspects of school life. Throughout the semester, the school has welcomed new families and acknowledges the support provided by the school counsellor and curriculum team from the Catholic Education Office. The school also acknowledges the professionalism and commitment displayed by the staff, ensuring all our students receive the care and education they deserve.

This year we continued with the indigenous Pre-Prep program entitled Mini Murries. On behalf of the school community, I wish to acknowledge the Catholic Education Office for their support and the professionalism of the staff at Mini Murries who so freely provided. Next year the Mini Murries program will move to YCLC.

In Term Three our school hosted The Indigenous Cultural Activity Day. All our Prep to Year Three children attended, with over seven hundred students participating in various events and activities. I asked the children in Year Three to recount the day and this is what they said.

After lunch we spent time in the MEAC learning about traditional indigenous song, dance and musical instruments-didgeridoo, clap sticks and boomerangs.

Overall this was a fantastic day where the Catholic Education Office and the schools across Toowoomba championed the cause for acknowledging indigenous children’s day.

Catholic Education Week 2012 concludes with a Morning Tea

As part of our acknowledgement to people in our community and to the Catholic Education Office staff- we gathered together to celebrate Parish, community and School. This year our P&F invited the awesome team from the Directorate Office —at the Catholic Education Office and presented them with a trophy acknowledging the Spirit of Catholic Education. The Directorate team although small in number offer quality support to not only Holy Name but all our schools across the Diocese.

Our community also acknowledged Janette King who continues to be a great supporter of the students, staff and families at Holy Name Primary School. As a true ambassador and in the spirit of Catholic Education, Janette King was also presented with a trophy and flowers as a sign of our sincere gratitude and thanks. Our brilliant P&F and staff who provided the wonderful morning tea did a fantastic job. By being inclusive and outreaching we continue to walk humbly with our God, sharing the good news.

Figure 14 Mrs King receives an award from the P&F President as part of Catholic Education Week.

Figure 15 Visiting Directorate Team from Catholic Education Officer receive their award acknowledging the fantastic work they do for our schools.
Our Talented Students
Defining Feature: Continuous Improvement through Renewal

Early in Semester One, the school board embarked on a journey to develop a school business plan that will assist the planning and development for the future. The school has also developed a new master plan and school financial plan.

In Term Three, Pam Varcoe an external validator, visited our school to assist us in our journey for school renewal and accreditation with the Non-State Schools Authority. Throughout this successful process, Pam met with parent groups, staff, parish and school board representatives who were all asked to comment on areas of curriculum, the school goals, aims, student management, buildings, grounds, resources and their choice of school. The outcome of the report which is available on the school website was very positive. Pam Varcoe stated

“Holy Name is a school of high quality, with stable and capable leadership that is enjoyed by all who are part of its community, students, staff, and parents. The school is well positioned to implement the new Australian Curriculum and the Flying Start Initiatives by providing experiences for students as they journey together and make a difference.”

In Term Four, Chris Murray, Greg Taylor and the Principal continued to work on the new strategic plan and the annual plan. It is with great pleasure that the strategic plan is completed and the first draft of the annual plan now ready for implementation in early January, 2013. Throughout 2013, the Strategic Planning Committee will monitor the goals of the annual plan every three months and will report back to the parent and parish community. My sincere gratitude to all the support the parents, staff and board members for their commitment and dedication.

As we continued to journey together, this year for the first time our staff shared their planning, teaching, assessment and reporting with teachers at St John’s College Roma using the state of the art technology at the Consistency Teacher Judgement day. Through continuous improvement our staff now can communicate with other teachers across the thousands of kilometres in the diocese of Toowoomba without leaving the classroom.

In concluding our journey, I wish to acknowledge the support of the Catholic Education Office personnel, the dedicated parent body of Holy Name, the staff and the parish. We will continue to work hard in achieving our goals, seeking ways in which we can all participate in activities that improve outcomes for all.

Signed by

David Adams-Jones Julie Payne Ebonie Hockings

Principal Chair of the School Board P&F President