1. PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

2006 has been a significant year in many ways. I believe all our achievements are a direct result of the development of an ethos that promotes a positive learning and caring family environment at our school where parents, students and staff work cooperatively in partnership to build a strong educational community.

During 2006, with the assistance of the ‘Investing in our Schools Program’ the school was able to make some significant acquisitions. This included air-conditioning all classes within the school, purchasing a bank of lap top computers, wireless classrooms and installing four interactive whiteboards. The school actively participated in community events and continued to enhance its outstanding reputation within the general community.

Congratulations to the children on the way they lived out our motto during the year “With Heart and Pride” by striving to do their best in the spiritual, relational, academic, cultural and sporting aspects of school life.

I thank all members of the school community for the very tangible support and spirit of cooperation that exists here. Your significant contributions are very much appreciated. On a more personal note, I sincerely thank the staff and school community for the support and friendship you have offered me in my first year as Principal of Mt St Patrick Primary School.

Brian Laybutt
Principal.

2. THIS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

FAITH and MISSION

School Profile

Mt St Patrick Primary School is situated in the township of Murwillumbah which is on the Far North Coast of NSW approximately 15 kms inland and 15 kms from the NSW/QLD border at Tomewin. The town is situated in the Tweed Shire which takes in the whole of the Tweed River Valley and Tweed Coast. The economy of the township is based on agriculture (mainly bananas, sugarcane and small crops) rural commerce, transport and tourism. Students attend the school from many outlying towns, villages and hamlets in the Shire.

Features

Mt St Patrick Primary has a total staff of 26 personal. Nine classes currently operate. This includes:

- Kindergarten
- Year 1
- Year 2
- Year 3
- Year 4
- Year 5
- Year 6

The school has a large and well resourced library, a specialist music/art room and a number of small withdrawal rooms that are used for small group withdrawal, Reading Recovery, Counselling etc. All classrooms are technologically well equipped and are air-conditioned. The school has a large basement area that is used for Monday morning assemblies, Infants eating area and as a covered play space. An additional covered area is also available for students from Yrs 3-6. The school has access to a Parish hall that is used for Friday assemblies and special events. The play area for the students is very expansive and provides a very safe environment which allows students to participate in a myriad of games/activities.

The site of the school is shared with the College, although both schools are run separately. Students from each school do not interact during recess and lunch breaks, however the Primary School does have an excellent relationship with the college and as such we often avail ourselves of various facilities and resources e.g. Science labs. In addition to this the Parish Church is also located on site.
School Mission

Mt St Patrick Primary School is:
- an integral part of the Sacred Heart Parish and the wider community;
- a community where the Gospel values of Jesus are lived and encouraged;
- a partnership between the students, parents, teachers, priests and parishioners, where each person is accepted and takes responsibility to care for each other and to build a strong educational community; and
- a place where quality opportunities and resources are provided for each child to develop their full potential through balanced Catholic, Christian, education programs.

Our mission statement is a description of how we plan to achieve our vision through the way we do things and the manner we relate to each other.

This is formalized in curriculum programs, school procedure policies and management plans. All policies have to be relevant to the environment we create (vision), the people we serve (profile) and based on how we believe knowledge is transferred (learning beliefs) in order to be valid. The implementation of these policies then becomes our mission.

Faith Purposes

The staff and students in 2006 were provided with many opportunities to deepen their faith awareness. The Religious Education Curriculum Coordinator and Religious Education Ministry Coordinator attended conferences and seminars during the year and staff were kept up to date at regular staff curriculum meetings through the year.

The involvement of Sr. Karan within the Parish and as a spiritual advisor to the staff has allowed teachers to further develop their own personal spirituality.

The students were provided with many experiences appropriate to their age level for sacramental programs, major liturgical feasts and for the liturgical seasons of the Church such as Easter and Christmas.

As well, the students were given ample opportunities to celebrate, worship and pray in stage masses and liturgies as well as whole school masses and class liturgies during the course of the year. The school also combined with the College to celebrate the Assumption.

Students and parents also celebrated special occasions by gathering together at the Eucharist for the induction of School Captains at the beginning of the year, as well as a Thanksgiving Mass and a Year 6 Graduation Mass at the end of the year. The introduction of a Mothers, Fathers and Grandparents Day was very well received and highly successful.

Students were also given the opportunity to attend retreat days, facilitated by Fr Colin Reinhard P.P., before the reception of the Sacraments of Confirmation, Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Parents also attended information evenings in preparation for these Sacraments.

Students are also made aware of the needs of the wider community by holding fund-raising days for the Catholic Schools of Innisfail that were devastated by cyclone Larry. Also the students donated cans of food to the St Vincent de Paul Society at a Poor Persons Mass on the Feast of the Sacred Heart. Funds were also raised for Caritas and through Project Compassion.
Religious Education

Each class receives formal religious instruction daily from teachers trained in Religious Education.

The To Know, Love and Worship text books were fully implemented within Years 3 – 6. In addition to this a Staff Development Day was held that reviewed current teaching practices and resources were provided that allow for a more contemporary approach to teaching Religion.

Members of staff work in close liaison with our Parish Priest. Religious instruction and values are given side by side with, as part of, the other key learning areas. This incidental teaching of Christian values takes place so that students are educated in a Christian context. We are striving then not merely to impart information but to bring the students to live the Christian way of life here and now.

As Christian educators, the teachers realize that the students entrusted to their care are intended to grow to maturity in a community of faith.

Community Involvement

Community involvement continues to be an area of focus for our school, with students participating in various activities:

- **Anzac Day.** Many students represented the school in the ANZAC DAY march. The school captains laid a wreath at the cenotaph;
- **A Remembrance Day Ceremony** was held on the eleventh of November to commemorate all who had lost their lives in wars defending our freedom;
- **The annual Christmas Tableau** gave us the opportunity to present the Christmas story to our school, parish and the wider community.

CURRICULUM

At Mt St Patrick Primary, we follow the various curricula authorized by the NSW Board of Studies. To facilitate the implementation of these curricula, a variety of texts and approaches are used by the class teachers. Staff meetings are held each Monday afternoon. At these meetings professional readings are shared, general business is attended to and significantly areas relating to curriculum are addressed.

Mt St Patrick Primary School ensures that the following Curriculum areas are taught as laid out by the Board of Studies. The curriculum areas are:

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education is the *raison d’être* of our Catholic School. Students are exposed to the Good News, that the Kingdom of God is among us.

While Religious Education stands alone as a KLA, it is implicit in all other KLA’s. Religious Education involves students examining Scripture in the light of their own life experience and being encouraged to make decisions after reflection on what Scripture and their own experience suggests to them.
**ENGLISH**
English is the Key learning area where students develop knowledge, skills and understandings about English language and literature. English also has a wider role as a means of learning in all KLA’s.

**MATHEMATICS**
Students in mathematics learn to analyse and solve problems in the areas of number, patterns and algebra, measurement and data, space and geometry and working mathematically.

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**
Science and technology provides opportunities for students to learn about natural and made environments by engaging in scientific and technological activity. Science and technology involves students in investigating, designing and making and using technology.

**CREATIVE ARTS**
The creative and practical arts KLA includes the art forms of dance, drama, visual arts and music.

Learning in these art forms provides opportunities for students to develop their abilities to make works and appraise their own works and the works of others.

**PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION**
The personal development, health and physical education KLA helps students develop self-esteem, social responsibility personal fitness and the ability to make informed decisions about health and lifestyle matters.

**HUMAN SOCIETY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT**
This area deals with the interaction of people with one another and with the social, cultural and physical environments as they attempt to meet their needs. This Key learning area also includes two elements of language – learning about languages and learning a language.

Significant programs were implemented throughout 2006. These included:

- Reading Recovery Program
- Reading Intervention Program for students in Yrs 2, 3, 4 and 5
- Individual Education Programs (IEP’s) are implemented for students with learning difficulties. These programs are developed in consultation with respective parents.
- Jolly Phonics program in Kindergarten and Yr 1
- Extension and Enrichment program combining with six neighbouring Catholic Schools, involving students from Yr 1 through to Yr 6 across all curriculum areas.

We are proud of our special education program that caters both for the gifted and talented and those with learning difficulties. This year six children attended Diocesan Gifted and Talented Camps held at various locations. In addition to this Mt St Patrick Primary hosted an Extension and Enrichment program that involved six Catholic Primary Schools from the Tweed Region. Workshops were offered in Art, Drama, Science & Technology and Computers. Some 250 students from Yrs 1 through to 6 across six schools took part.
In 2006, six integrated students were enrolled in the mainstream at Mt St Patrick Primary. These students have an Individual Educational Program (IEP) developed. This is done in consultation with classroom teacher, parent and special needs teacher. A minimum of two meetings are held each year with the parent to discuss the IEP. In addition to this thirty-three other students with learning difficulties have been identified.

The school employs a part-time Special Education teacher and four general assistants to cater for integrated children and those with special needs. There is a strong emphasis on communication between parents, teachers and therapists for the full benefit of each student. Students with special needs are identified by the classroom teacher or parent. They are assessed by the Special Education teacher and referred on if necessary. The teachers are provided with a program to support this child’s learning if needed.

**ICT**

In addition to a designated computer lab, a bank of computers in each class and data projectors mounted in each class significant ICT acquisitions were made in 2006. These included the purchase of 4 Interactive whiteboards, a bank of mobile lap top computers and wireless access for primary classes.

This was complimented with a Staff Development day that focused on developing skills in the usage of the Interactive Whiteboards.

The introduction of lap top computers allows students to access the internet from their classroom / desk. This alleviates unnecessary movement and classroom disruptions. The Interactive Whiteboards enable teachers to integrate technology across all aspects of the curriculum.

In addition to this the school Finance system now operates within the SAS operating framework. This resulted in an updated server being purchased and two new office computers.

**EXTRA CURRICULA PROGRAMS**

Mt St Patrick Primary offers a significant amount of extra curricula activities. These include:

- **Banana Festival.** The school entered a float in the Murwillumbah Banana Festival. The school won the category of Best School, a wonderful achievement by students and parents.
- **The Festival of Performing Arts.** The school entered the festival again this year with the following results. Stage 3 Action choir – 2nd, Stage 2 Junior Primary Choir – Highly commended.
- **Public Speaking Competition.** The students from Years K-6 each prepare a speech. Six students were then selected to represent the class. From these students, two are then selected from each stage to represent the school at the Inaugural Catholic Schools Public Speaking Competition. Congratulations to our Stage 2 students who were successful in winning their division.
- **Meet the Authors Program.** Fifty students were able to attend the Byron Bay Writers Festival. Popular Australian children’s authors imparted writing and story telling tips and encouraged the children to write about their emotions, feelings, and past experiences. They autographed several of their books for our library.
- **Tweed Shire Council Centenary Celebrations.** Mt St Patrick Primary School was the only Murwillumbah School to participate in this significant event. Students and Staff from the school dressed in period costume and participated in the parade.
- **Murwillumbah Show.** The parents from the school collected a variety of work completed by the students and created a magnificent display at the show.
- **Little Shamrock.** Little Shamrock is a drama group that meet once a week after school. Students develop speaking and acting skills. At the conclusion of each semester the group put on a performance for the parents.
School Band. The school has an extensive music program whereby students can learn a wide array of musical instruments. Students who learn instruments are encouraged to participate in the newly formed school band, which rehearses every Friday.

Easter Bonnet Parade. The school had an Easter Bonnet Parade for students in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2. The parade was very successful and extremely well received.

Catholic Schools Week Spectacular. Both Primary and Secondary Schools of the Tweed Cluster came together at “Salt” to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. This “spectacular” involved some 500 students in a lavish production which included mime, recitals, combined choirs, solo performances and bands. Over 3000 people attended this wonderful event.

Book character parade during Book Week. In conjunction with Catholic Schools Week the school conducted a Book Fair. This was a wonderful event whereby students dressed as their favourite book character

St Patrick’s Day. The school celebrated St Patrick’s Day with a Mass followed by a picnic day at Murwillumbah Pool. On the following Saturday night, students from the school took part in the Irish Festival held by the Parish.

Year 6 Overnight Excursion. Yr 6 attended ended a three day excursion to Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast.

Year 5 Camp. Yr 5 attended a five day camp at the Sport & Recreation Centre at Lennox Head

Speed on Tweed. Mt St Pat’s had a stall at the Speed on Tweed racing event held in Murwillumbah. The stall allowed for exposure and promotion of the school.

School Disco. This was held during Term 1 and coincided with the Dance unit that was taught in Physical Education.

Christmas Family Picnic. A family picnic / sausage sizzle was held towards the end of the school year. This provided an opportunity for families to come together and an opportunity for Santa to pay the school a visit.

SPORT

The Mt St Patrick sport program this year has seen all students participate in various skill development activities, as well as participating in trials, carnivals, elective sports and fun sport days. All students were able to participate in non competitive events. Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 attended an athletic carnival with St Joseph’s South Murwillumbah, Stage 2 had a fun sports day with St Joseph’s and Stage 3 participated in a zone gala sports day. All students participated with great enthusiasm.

Competition also has its place in sport. Great success was achieved in the following:

- The Secretary’s Mile Relay Race at the Tweed Agricultural Show was won by Mt St Patrick for the sixth consecutive year. The prize money was used to purchase sport equipment.
- The school, in its inaugural year, won the Baxter Cup. The Baxter Cup is a Rugby Union carnival in which 14 schools across the North Coast competed.
- The school was also victorious in winning the Paul Wilson Cup. This competition is a soccer carnival conducted amongst the six primary Catholic Schools on the North Coast. Mt St Patrick Primary has won the trophy six of the seven years it has been contested.
- Northern Rivers Rugby League Carnival. Mt St Patrick Primary were runners up in the open age division.

In addition to competitive successes the school has also undertaken a number of skills and development programs. These have included sports such as hockey, Australian Rules and Rugby League.

This year saw the re-introduction of a swimming program. The 10 day intensive swimming program was for Kindergarten, Yr 1 and Yr2.

This year Mt St Patrick Primary School has been well represented in Zone and Diocesan sports, including swimming, cross country, athletics as well as various team sports.
**PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

As educators, we recognize the parents’ right and ultimate responsibility for the education of their children. This school moves to assist them in every way possible in this education. At Mt St Patrick, we believe the education of each child is greatly enhanced by forming a close partnership and maximum co-operation of all involved.

Thus, we endeavour to foster a meaningful and helpful liaison with parents by providing many opportunities for contact between the school and home. There is a meeting early in the year between the class teacher and parents.

Parents are also invited to:

- attend whole school assemblies every week;
- participate in Parish School Forum
- help in the classroom with reading, spelling, art, gross motor and computer
- attend all school religious, sporting and social events
- assist in community events – ANZAC Day, Banana Festival

This year also saw the introduction of:

**Family Picnic Days** – these were held across the grades on a Sunday. The provided an opportunity for families and students to come together on a social basis.

**Father / Son Camp** - some 35 fathers and their sons attended this inaugural event. It was extremely well received and provided a wonderful opportunity for fathers to spend ‘quality’ time with their sons.

**Golf Day.** The Inaugural “Paul Hookway Charity Golf Day” was held. This was a great social event whereby money was raised and donated to a trust account to support the ongoing education of our Kenyan Student.

**Mum’s Night Out.** Dinner was organized by mothers from the school. The night provided a time to socialize and make new friends

**Play Group.** A pre-school play group commenced whereby parents from the school pre arranged a play group at a local park once a month.

**REPORTING TO PARENTS** – reports go home to parents twice a year – at the end of Semester 1 and Semester 2. Individual parent-teacher meetings are held at the end of Semester 1.

Regular meetings with parents are called whenever the teacher feels the need to discuss a child’s progress. Parents are also encouraged to meet with the teacher to discuss concerns.

**3. PERFORMANCE IN STATEWIDE TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS**

**BASIC SKILLS TEST (LITERACY AND NUMERACY RESULTS)**

All students in NSW sit for the Basic Skills Test in Years 3 and 5. The tests assess skills in literacy and numeracy. Student results are reported in skill bands. These bands range from Band 1 (lowest band) to Band 5 (highest for year 3) or Band 6 (highest band for Year 5). These skill bands indicate increasing levels of student ability in literacy and numeracy as measured by the test. Skills typical of each band are described in the report to parents.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>YEAR 3</th>
<th>LITERACY</th>
<th>NUMERACY</th>
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<tr>
<td>SCHOOL</td>
<td>STATE</td>
<td>SCHOOL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total % of students in bands 3,4 &amp; 5 (top 3 bands)</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>74%</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 3</th>
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<td>SCHOOL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total % of students in bands 1 &amp; 2 (bottom 2 bands)</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>26%</td>
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<th>YEAR 5</th>
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<td>SCHOOL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total % of students in bands 4,5 &amp; 6 (top 3 bands)</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>79%</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 5</th>
<th>LITERACY</th>
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<td>SCHOOL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total % of students in bands 1,2 &amp; 3 (bottom 3 bands)</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>21%</td>
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From the information above our results are quite pleasing. Overall Mt St Patrick Primary performs at approx 20% above the state average in Literacy (top 3 bands) and in Numeracy within the top 3 bands, the school performs at approx 5% the State average.

The Commonwealth Government sets minimum desirable standards for reading, writing and numeracy at particular ages. These are referred to as National Benchmarks. Student performance in the BST is compared to the National Benchmarks. The percentages for Year 3 and 5 are reported below.
Percentage of students in Year 3 in our school achieving at or beyond the National Benchmark in 2006 and a comparison to last year.

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage in 2006</th>
<th>Percentage in 2005</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>READING</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>96.7%</td>
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<td>WRITING</td>
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<td>NUMERACY</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Percentage of students in Year 5 in our school achieving at or beyond the National Benchmark in 2006 and a comparison to last year.

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<tr>
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<th>Percentage in 2006</th>
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<tr>
<td>READING</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>95.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>WRITING</td>
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<tr>
<td>NUMERACY</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>93.75%</td>
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The results from 2006 clearly indicate that students are achieving above the required Benchmark standard.

4. TEACHING AND SUPPORT STAFF.

- This year the classes were organized into nine groups as follows: K, Yr 1, Yr 2, three Stage 2, one Yr 5 and two Yr 6 classes. In 2006 their will be a reduction of one class to nine hence we will be losing one teacher from the staff.
- The staff consists of a Principal, an Assistant Principal, nine full time teachers, five part time teachers [three of whom are specialist teachers in the areas of music, library, creative and practical arts], a school counselor, ITC support person, four part time general assistants, a secretary, a cleaner and a groundsman.
- From 2005, the only additional staff change was the appointment of a new Principal.
- At the conclusion of 2006 two staff members will be taking 12 months leave.
- All teaching staff have teaching qualifications from a recognized higher education institution.
- The average attendance rate for teachers across the reporting period for Mt St Patrick Primary is 97.26%
- Throughout 2006 a number of Staff Professional Development Days were held. Areas addressed were:
  1. Religious Education
  2. Plain English Reports
  3. School Based Curriculum
  4. Technology
• **Average expenditure per teacher on professional learning**, at the school level for this school is **$2945.49**.
• In addition to Staff Development Days other significant Professional Development included:
  - Anaphylaxis Training
  - Updating CPR qualifications
  - Plain English Reporting
  - Assessment Tasks & Criteria
  - Reflective Teaching
  - Foundation Statements
  - School Based Policy Review
  - Developing 2007 Scope & Sequence
  - Testing & Tracking Procedures
  - Develop Programming Strategy for 2007

• Specific Staff attended various Professional Development Training days that included:
  - Analysis of Basic Skills Testing Data
  - Plain English Report Seminars
  - Writing In-service
  - Curriculum Conference
  - Special Needs Workshop Days
  - Technology – Interactive Whiteboards
  - Jolly Phonics Seminar
  - Seasons Connection workshops

**5. STUDENT INFORMATION AND RETENTION RATES.**

![Enrolment Trends for 2002-2006](image).
ENROLMENT TRENDS

MT ST PATRICK PRIMARY MURWILLUMBAH

Enrolments

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As indicated from the above data, school enrolments have declined over recent years. This is primarily due to the increased number of new primary schools established in the area.

The average student attendance rate for 2006 was 12.2 days absent per child. This figure is an overall figure which includes extended absences due to holidays, hospitalization etc.
6. POLICIES ENROLMENT, STUDENT WELFARE, DISCIPLINE

At Mt St Patrick Primary we have a large number of policies which are available at the office on application. These policies include those already mentioned as well as *Supervision* policy, *First Aid and Health* policy, *Internet Student Use* policy, *Canteen* policy, *Pastoral Care* policy, *Dealing with Harassment* policy, *Student Safety in Schools* policy, *Chemicals in the School* policy, *Critical Incident* policy, *Excursions* policy etc. As well as these policies there are several appendices such as *Accident management*, *Safe Sport, Care and Supervision of Students*, *Use of the Library, Family Law and the School*, *Exclusion periods – Communicable Diseases, Head Lice* etc. The school reviewed and implemented policy changes regarding school swimming program, parent teacher meetings, reporting, technology and school assemblies.

In addition to this the school has a comprehensive *Parent Handbook* which outlines procedures and policies within the school. This was reviewed during 2006.

The school in reviewing policy and/or procedural changes actively seeks input from the school community. In 2006 this was carried out through relevant surveys and in addition to this opportunities were made available for input at school Parent Forum Meetings that were held twice a term.

POLICIES REGARDING ENROLMENTS

A Catholic School is one in which Christian attitudes and values take precedence over all else. Mt St Patrick School is a Christian community made up of pupils, parents, priest, principal and teachers centered on the person of Christ.

In considering enrolments of students to Mt St Patrick’s School, the following has to be taken into consideration. It is assumed that parents who enrol their children at Mt St Patrick Primary are fully aware of, accept and support the standards expected by the school and that they also recognize the need for co-operation between school and home in maintaining those standards. School enrolment is dependent on the availability of appropriate classrooms, space and resources. Where classes are full, applicants are welcome to go on a waiting list until a place becomes available;

Kindergarten enrolments are generally taken during and after the month of May. During May the school conducts an open day, enrolment packages are made available for the following year. Once an enrolment form has been completed and lodged at the Office, parents are contacted and an appointment is scheduled.
At the meeting the prospective student and family are asked a series of questions and in the case of a kindergarten child they are also given some minor tasks to complete.
Following this an offer of placement may be sent to the family. If the family accepts the position they are asked to complete a *Terms of Enrolment Form* and return it to the school. Once this is received the student’s enrolment position is secured.

If a position is not available a child may be placed on a waiting list. The student’s enrolment form is kept on file and if/when a position is made available the school will contact the family and inform them of a vacancy.
PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral care is love in action and, as such, underpins the school’s policies and curriculum statements, procedures and organizational structures. It brings the school’s vision to life in a practical and tangible manner.

Other additional pastoral care programs that have been implemented in our school include the Virtues program the Season for Growth program (a grief and loss program).

In addition to this Parent Programs were conducted throughout 2006 that included:
Robert Pereira – Bullying
Michael Gross – Skilling Parents
Kevin Bulbeck – Magic 1, 2 & 3

Mt St Patrick School, Murwillumbah provides a safe educational environment for students and staff. Student safety is aided by having all teachers trained in the protocols and programs concerning the Child Protection legislation. This includes defining school regulations and rules as well as various policies such as the Anti-bullying policy, the Seasons program and a Virtues program.

Occupational Health and Safety is constantly being reviewed in order to provide a safe and secure environment for students and staff. Detailed duty rosters and aspects pertaining to duty and care of students are outlined in Staff and Parent Handbooks. At each Staff meeting OH&S is raised as an agenda item and the school has a comprehensive policy that is available from the office.

Discipline

At Mt St Patrick Primary when we speak of discipline, we are referring to the means of bringing the children to practice self control. We are aiming to lead the children to regulate their conduct according to Christian ideals, values and standards.

While we strive to use a positive approach to discipline by rewarding good behaviour and effort, the school also has a program of disciplinary action which takes into account the nature and severity of transgressions of basic school rules; is sequential; is co-coordinated across the school and is consistently applied to boys and girls.

Consistent non-conformity to the school rules, particularly in serious matters, may result in a student’s continued enrolment being reviewed.

In accordance with the Education Act 1990, Section 47 (f), and the School’s Discipline Policy the corporal punishment of students is not permitted under any circumstances.

Policies dealing specifically with Pastoral Care including the Discipline and Anti-bullying Policies are available on application.

The school has also secured the services of a school counselor one day a week. The counselor is funded through the Catholic Education’s Well Being Program.
COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCE RESOLUTION  POLICIES

Complaints/grievances are to be made to the teacher involved and then referred to the Principal if the situation cannot be resolved. The principal and teacher will then seek to investigate the complaint and follow up with meetings with the parents involved in accordance with the *Complaints and Grievance Procedures* policy. This is also made available for parents in the *Parent Handbook*.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2005

Major achievements were:
- the celebration of our centenary;
- the successful implementation and maintenance of our interpersonal programs such as the Virtues program, the Seasons program, You Can Do It! program and Anti-bullying program;
- participation in a wide variety of activities in the wider community;
- the erection of a shelter for the Stage 2 and Stage 3 lunch area;
- installed fixed digital projectors in 8 of the 10 classrooms; and
- the continued implementation of the new Mathematics curriculum. We also planned the implementation of the new Religious Education Curriculum to be introduced in 2005.

The children have again excelled in the spiritual, academic, cultural and sporting aspects of school life. Congratulations to all staff and students on the year’s work.

GOALS FOR 2006

2006 has allowed for a number of new programs to be implemented and significant changes to occur. The implementation of a School Management Plan has resulted in the following goals being achieved. The School Management Plan is available on request from the school office and it is also presented to the parents at the second Parent Forum Meeting of each year.

These goals are placed under four main headings:

**INSTRUCTIONAL**

- Implementation of Plain English Reports
- Implementation of legislated timetabling requirements
- Focus on upgrading technology within the school
- Curriculum focus on Foundation Statements and linking these with assessment tasks
- Review schools performance in BST results
- Review student performance levels
- Extension & Enrichment program
- Book Week Celebration
- Introduce K-2 swimming
- Introduce student portfolios
- Introduction of Diagnostic Testing for all new students
- Staff Development Day on Religious Education
- Literacy Program implemented
• Promote visiting speakers – CARITAS
• Visiting Artist to have a religious focus
• Formulate a programming strategy to be introduced for 2007
• Evaluate effectiveness of teaching and learning strategies implemented across the school
• Introduction of professional readings within staff meetings

**CULTURAL**

• Introduce Mothers & Fathers Day Mass
• Celebrate the significance of Catholic Schools Week
• Participate in community events
  - ANZAC Day
  - Tweed Shire Centenary
  - Banana Festival
  - Murwillumbah Show
• Introduce Easter Bonnet Parade K-2
• Introduce a Grandparent Mass & Visit
• Introduce class masses each Friday
• Implement that Liturgical cloths be presented to classes for the use on class prayer space
• Initiate and participate in the Inaugural Catholic Schools Public Speaking Comp.
• Conduct a School Open Day
• Move to weekly assembly Friday afternoon

**INTERPERSONAL**

• Increase school involvement within the community
• Make personal contact with all pre-schools
  - Introduce school social occasions: Father /Son Camp
  - Year Group Family Picnics
  - Golf Day
• Season’s Program
• Virtues Program
• Student Leadership – speakers & SRC
• Promote a more interactive relationship with the College
• Initiate a more comprehensive interview procedure for prospective student enrolments

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

• Review administrative procedures within the school
• Evaluate & refine filing system
• Revisit school based policies
• Review assembly procedures
• Conduct weekly Executive meetings
• Upgrading school facilities – air conditioning
• Introduction of SAS finance system
• Fundraising activity
• Enhance record keeping procedures
• Install new school server
• Develop publicity posters, pamphlets and brochure
2006 has been a very rewarding year. The impetus of this will continue; listed below are a number of goals and priorities that the school will be focusing on in 2007.

**INSTRUCTIONAL**
- Review Literacy within the school
- Staff Development Day on Guided Reading
- Introduction of Reading groups
- Develop a shared pedagogy as to how students best acquire literacy
- Introduction of a Middle School concept
- Streaming in Mathematics – Middle School
- Introduction of diagnostic testing procedures
- Participate in External Tests
- Introduction of a tracking proforma
- Introduction of COGS K – 6
- Introduction of new programming proformas
- Introduction of new programming format
- Introduction of a literacy committee
- Refine assessment procedures
- Ensure ongoing staff professional development
- Ensure professional readings are an integral part of staff meetings
- Upgrade of Resources – Literacy focus
- Professional development focus on IT
- Focus on Interactive whiteboards
- Focus on Differentiating the Curriculum through technology
- Continuation of interschool Extension & Enrichment Program
- Review School Policies – Discipline, Literacy

**CULTURAL**
- Develop and support Staff Spirituality Team
- School participation in World Youth Day Cross celebrations
- Staff Development Day devoted to Staff Spirituality
- Combined Celebrations with College – St Patrick’s Day & Assumption
- Paint large aboriginal mural within the school
- Maintain school involvement within the community
- Evaluate effectiveness of the School Forum in its present format
- Further enhance student participation within prayer
- Ensure new RE documents and guidelines are being implemented

**INTERPERSONAL**
- Develop planning strategies and professional development opportunities with Sth. Murwillumbah
- Maintain strong relationship with the College
- Maintain parent participation within the school
- Introduce a School Bush Dance
- Attend eucharismatic service- World Peace Day
- Celebrate World Teachers Day
- Further develop relationship with local pre-schools
- Maintain positive relationship with Parish Priest
ADMINISTRATIVE

- School to undertake School Review through the COMPLIANCE WORKBOOK
- Re-define roles of Teachers Assistant
- Reorganise Office and Staffroom areas
- Attend to compliance issues within the school
- Review Staff Handbook and Parent Handbook
- Introduction of After School Care
- Implement AGQTP initiative
- Coordinate Interschool Extension & Enrichment Program
- Newsletters to be sent home fortnightly not weekly
- Review enrolment procedure

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

2006 Income - Mount St Patrick Primary School - MURWILLUMBAH

- Grants-Commonwealth Govt: 59%
- Grants-State Govt: 23%
- Other Private Income: 3%
- Fees: 11%
- Govt.Capital Grants: 3%
- Other Capital: 1%

2006 Expenditure - Mount St Patrick Primary School - MURWILLUMBAH

- Salary & Related Expenditure: 81%
- Other Expenditure: 15%
- Capital Expenditure: 4%