1. A MESSAGE FROM KEY SCHOOL BODIES

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Throughout the course of 2007 we have much to celebrate. Through the dedication of a committed and professional staff the school has set many new directions, particularly in the area of teaching and learning.

Significantly the school has developed a whole school approach to literacy acquisition, implemented the Connected Outcome Groups (COGS) units of work across all classes and introduced new programming procedures throughout the school. This coupled with revised assessment procedures and comprehensive portfolios the students at Mt St Patrick Primary are being presented with a highly effective and contemporary approach to education.

Importantly the school underwent an external Compliance Audit, conducted by the Catholic Education Office. The school has highly successful and found to be compliant in all areas.

Mt St Patrick Primary continues to promote a positive learning and caring family environment where parents, students and staff work cooperatively in partnership to build a strong educational community.

Throughout 2007 with the assistance of the ‘Investing in our Schools Program’ the school was able to make some significant acquisitions. The school now has interactive whiteboards in every classroom.

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.

Brian Laybutt
Principal.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Our role as School Captains was varied, and in many, ways challenging. As school leaders we were also members of the Student Representative Council (SRC) that met on a weekly basis to discuss issues related to the school and coordinate Friday afternoons school assembly.

The year of 2007 presented us with lots of different experiences. These varied from overnight excursions to Brisbane, winning the Tweed Shire Schools Debating competition, participating in external exams, performing at local eisteddfods, painting aboriginal murals within the school and of course sport.
Our sporting successes throughout the year were many and varied including the zone athletics and cross –
country championship.

Our community involvement included visiting and performing at nursing homes, participating in the world
prayer day at the Presbyterian Church, involvement in the Murwillumbah Show and presenting the annual
Christmas Tableau to the community.

Over the year the school came together and celebrated various school masses that included Mothers, Fathers
and Grandparent masses. We also combined with the college to celebrate significant events, such as St
Patrick’s Day.

2007 was an enjoyable year that presented us with responsibility and opportunities to make choices;
importantly it gave us experience as leaders.

Jordan Way and Riley Chaffer
SCHOOL CAPTAINS 2007

PARENT REPORT

Mt St Patrick Primary School offers a positive and welcoming environment for parental involvement
within the school as well as an active Parent Forum which meets four times a year at the start of each
term. These meetings are usually well attended and the members are becoming more involved in the
planning for school social events, fund raising and general issues regarding the welfare and safety of
the students. This year there is a focus on restructuring the Parent Forum to promote greater
participation. This includes the election of an executive committee which will hopefully provide an
avenue for an increased parental voice within the school.

In addition to the Parent Forum there are many other opportunities for parental involvement within
the school including: class helpers, sporting events, open day, assemblies, mass, family picnic days,
fund raising events e.g. bush dance, Christmas picnic etc.

In my role as a Parent Assembly Representative as well as being an actively involved parent of the
school, I am impressed with the overall feeling of contentment among students, staff and parents
with regard to the standard of education, learning support, behaviour management policy, as well as
the extensive extra-curricular opportunities provided for students. The school also provides a
nurturing, friendly environment where the students feel safe, accepted and included, regardless of
their background.

During my time at Mt St Patrick Primary, I have found all the staff members to be extremely
approachable, caring and supportive which contributes to the success and excellent reputation of the
school as a whole.

Mrs. Alice Withers
PARENT FORUM REPRESENTATIVE
GENERAL OVERVIEW

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 all Curriculum areas are taught as laid out by the Board of Studies.

This year saw the introduction of COGS (Connected Outcome Groups). These are integrated units of work that use outcomes from all KLA’s. At Mt St Patrick’s we operate on a two year cycle whereby all outcomes will be covered over that period of time. Although at times integrated into the COGs units Religious Education, English and Mathematics are taught separately.

Significant programs were implemented throughout 2007. 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.
- Streamed Mathematics in Stage 3
- Streamed reading Groups in Stage 2
- The implementation of Guided and Instructional Reading programs from K – 6.

We are proud of our special education program that caters both for the gifted and talented and those with learning difficulties. This year seven 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, Mathematics, Public Speaking, Tournament of Minds and Computers. Some 250 students from Yrs 1 through to 6 across six schools took part.

In 2007, eight 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-five 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 2007. This included the purchase of 2 more Interactive whiteboards. At the end of 2007 Mt St Patrick Primary had 6 interactive whiteboards for the nine classes with three more on order to be installed in the Christmas holidays. This will result in every class having an interactive whiteboard.

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.

**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 unfortunately the carnival was cancelled due to the weather conditions.

**The Festival of Performing Arts.** The school entered the festival again this year with outstanding results in choir and individual performances.

**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 Catholic Schools Public Speaking Competition. Congratulations to our Stage 3 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.

**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 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.

**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.

**Stage 3 Overnight Excursion.** Stage 3 attended ended a three day excursion to Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast.

**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 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 seven of the eight years it has been contested.
- Northern Rivers Rugby League Carnival. Mt St Patrick Primary were runners up in the open age division.
- Zone X-Country and Athletics Champion School for 2007

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.

Unfortunately the school swimming program could not take place this year due to the refurbishment of the Murwillumbah Pool complex.

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.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kindergarten</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Stage 2 Classes</td>
<td>3 Stage 3 Classes</td>
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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, Counseling 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. This year a new landscaped area was created that now allows for increased shaded seating for students.

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.

The document CATHOLIC EDUCATION in the DIOCESE of LISMORE FOUNDATION BELIEFS AND PRACTICES – THE ESSENTIAL FRAMEWORK was introduced throughout the school. This document also reflects the Australian Government Values Framework. It is the intention of the Catholic Education Office that this document will be the underlying principle statement linked to all aspects of school life. The staff at the school have viewed the DVD outlining the framework and it is the intention of the school that this framework will be fully explored and further implemented in 2008.

**Faith Purposes**

The staff and students in 2007 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 and St Patrick’s Day.

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. Once again the Mothers, Fathers and Grandparents Day Masses were 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.

**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.

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. This year a Staff Development Day was held that focused on spirituality and was facilitated by Sr. Karan Varker.

**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.
- **Murwillumbah Show.** This year Mt St Patrick Primary was awarded the most successful school with students participating in a wide variety of activities.
- **St Patrick Day Concert.** Students from the school took part and performed in the parish St Patrick Day Concert.
- **Nursing Home Visits.** Throughout the year students from Yrs 2 through to 6 visited various nursing homes to perform.
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, meetings held four times a year
- 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:

**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 40 fathers and their sons attended this event. It was extremely well received and provided a wonderful opportunity for fathers to spend ‘quality’ time with their sons.

**Golf Day.** The “Paul Hookway Charity Golf Day” was held, again this was a great social event

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

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.

In addition to this a comprehensive portfolio was sent home with all students illustrating sample pieces of work and assessment tasks.

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.
### YEAR 3

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<th>LITERACY</th>
<th>NUMERACY</th>
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<td>SCHOOL</td>
<td>STATE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total % of</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>77%</td>
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<td>students in</td>
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<td>bands 3, 4 &amp; 5</td>
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<td><em>(top 3 bands)</em></td>
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### YEAR 3

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<td>24%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>29%</td>
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<td>students in</td>
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<tr>
<td>bands 1 &amp; 2</td>
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### YEAR 5

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<td>bands 4, 5 &amp; 6</td>
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<td><em>(top 3 bands)</em></td>
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### YEAR 5

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<tr>
<td>bands 1, 2 &amp; 3</td>
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<td><em>(bottom 3 bands)</em></td>
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From the information above our results are quite pleasing. Overall Mt St Patrick Primary performs at approx 16% above the state average in Literacy (top 3 bands) and in Numeracy within the top 3 bands, the school performs at approx 3% above 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 2007 and a comparison to previous years.

**YEAR 3**

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<thead>
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<th>Percentage in 2007</th>
<th>Percentage in 2006</th>
<th>Percentage in 2005</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>READING</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>96.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>WRITING</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>NUMERACY</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</table>

Percentage of students in Year 5 in our school achieving at or beyond the National Benchmark in 2007 and a comparison to last year.

**YEAR 5**

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage in 2008</th>
<th>Percentage in 2006</th>
<th>Percentage in 2005</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>READING</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>95.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRITING</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>95.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUMERACY</td>
<td>89.5%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>93.75%</td>
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</table>

The results from 2007 clearly indicate that students are achieving above the required Benchmark standard.

**PROFESSIONAL LEARNING and TEACHER STANDARDS**

- This year the classes were organized into nine groups as follows: K, Yr 1, Yr 2, three Stage 2 and three Stage 3 classes.
- All teaching staff have teaching qualifications from a recognized higher education institution.
- Throughout 2007 a number of Staff Professional Development Days were held. Areas addressed were:
  1. Religious Education
  2. Literacy
  3. School Based Curriculum
  4. Technology
  5. Compliance Audit
• **Average expenditure per teacher on professional learning**, at the school level for this school is **$2345.49**.

• In addition to Staff Development Days other significant Professional Development included:
  - Updating CPR qualifications
  - PEEL
  - Plain English Reporting
  - Assessment Tasks & Criteria
  - Compliance Audit
  - Literacy / Reading Policy
  - School Based Policy Review
  - Developing Scope & Sequence
  - Testing & Tracking Procedures
  - Develop Programming Strategy for 2008

• Specific Staff attended various Professional Development Training days that included:
  - Analysis of Basic Skills Testing Data
  - ELLA Marking
  - Writing In-service
  - Curriculum Conference
  - Special Needs Workshop Days
  - Technology – Interactive Whiteboards

**TEACHER ATTENDANCE and RETENTION**

• 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.

• In 2007 Mr. Brendan Ryan was acting Assistant Principal and later in the year appointed on a permanent basis

• With one teacher on 12 months leave (later resigning), Ms Carly Spetch was employed as a temporary teacher for 2007 and was later employed on a permanent basis.

• **The average attendance rate** for teachers across the reporting period for Mt St Patrick Primary is **97.09%**
### STUDENT INFORMATION AND RETENTION RATES.

**MT ST PATRICK PRIMARY MURWILLUMBAH**

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<th>K</th>
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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 11.5 days absent per child. This figure is an overall figure which includes extended absences due to holidays, hospitalization etc.
6. ENROLMENT POLICIES and PROFILES

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 enroll 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.

Applications for enrolment at Mt St Patrick Primary School for Kindergarten will be considered by the school provided the Kindergarten student will turn 5 on or before the 31st July on the year of commencement.

In 2007 Mt St Patrick Primary School had a school population of 221 students with a Kindergarten enrolment of 27 students. The school has an average class size of approx 25 students. There are 8 indigenous students present at the school and the school has less than 3% of its population as ESL students.

SCHOOL POLICIES

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 all policies in accordance with the Compliance Audit conducted.

In addition to this the school has a comprehensive Parent Handbook which outlines procedures and policies within the school. This was reviewed during 2006 & 2007.

Handbooks and policies are also available of the school web page.

The school in reviewing policy and/or procedural changes actively seeks input from the school community. In 2007 an external Compliance Audit was carried out by the Catholic Education Office. The school was deemed to be compliant in all areas.

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).

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. These policies were totally reviewed in 2007.

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 and on the school Web Page*.

**SCHOOL DETERMINED IMPROVEMENT TARGETS**

2007 has been a very rewarding year; listed below are a number of goals and priorities that the school focused on.

**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
- Review of the 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 euchemical service- World Peace Day
- Celebrate World Teachers Day
- Further develop relationship with local pre-schools
- Maintain positive relationship with Parish Priest

**ADMINISTRATIVE**
- School participated in a 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

**2008 Goals:**

In addition to maintaining the initiatives and developments from 2006 and 2007, the school will endeavour to work on the following goals:

**INSTRUCTIONAL**
- Through an Australian Government Quality Teaching Program Grant (AGQTP) the school will be focusing on Numeracy. This will involve effective and contemporary teaching strategies, assessment and student learning.
- Ongoing professional development within Technology – Interactive Whiteboards
- Participate in external testing procedures – Maths Olympiads. World Maths Day etc

**CULTURAL**
- School participation in World Youth Day Cross celebrations
- Staff Development Day devoted to Staff Spirituality
• Combined Celebrations with College – St Patrick’s Day & Assumption
• Evaluate effectiveness of the School Forum in its present format
• Further enhance student participation within daily prayer
• Format a School Mission Statement that reflects the CEO Foundation Statements and Beliefs

**INTERPERSONAL**
• Maintain parent participation within the school
• Introduce a School Bush Dance
• Celebrate World Teachers Day
• Further develop relationship with local pre-schools
• Maintain positive relationship with Parish Priest

**ADMINISTRATIVE**
• Ongoing development and maintenance of the School Review through the COMPLIANCE WORKBOOK
• Review Staff Handbook and Parent Handbook
• Implement AGQTP initiative
• Coordinate Interschool Extension & Enrichment Program

**RESPECT and RESPONSIBILITY**

The school through its revised school Discipline and Pastoral Care policies implements and encourages the following:
• Anti Bullying Policy
• Class rules are negotiated each term and rules are clearly displayed in all classrooms
• Clear step by step discipline policy
• Extracts from discipline policy are periodically placed in the newsletter
• School Counselor employed in the school
• Students participate in various community events e.g. ANZAC Day ceremony
• SEASONS program used within the school
• Virtues program implemented
• Students pray daily and attend liturgical celebrations on a regular basis

**PARENT, STUDENT, TEACHER SATISFACTION**

At the end of 2007 a survey was sent to all new families who had joined the school in 2007. This included students who commenced in Kindergarten or had transferred for another school. In 2007 this totaled to over 26 families (approx 46 students). The purpose of the survey was to ascertain their thoughts on the school. Questions asked included:
• *What have you liked most about Mt St Patrick Primary?*
• *Are you satisfied with the education provided at the school?*
• *What areas would you like to see improved within the school and/or recommendations do you have?*
• *On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being the lowest, 10 being the highest) what score would you give the school?*
• General Comments

The feedback from the survey was extremely encouraging. The new families to the school were very satisfied with the school, highlighting community spirit, sound educational standards, professional approach and children were happy.

On a scale of 1 to 10 the averaged rating was 9.3, which again highlights the level of satisfaction of parents new to the school.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION
2007 Income - Mount St Patrick Primary School - MURWILLUMBAH

- Grants-State Govt: 23%
- Grants-Commonwealth Govt: 61%
- Other Private Income: 7%
- Fees: 8%
- Govt. Capital Grants: 6%
- Other Capital: 1%

2007 Expenditure - Mount St Patrick Primary School - MURWILLUMBAH

- Salary & Related Expenditure: 84%
- Other Expenditure: 15%
- Capital Expenditure: 1%