Performance Report for 2014

1. School Context

Antonio Catholic School, situated in the Catholic Parish of Morphett Vale, SA, is a community where members are active learners who are confident, compassionate and committed to quality in their faith, relationships and work. This faith-centred community of learners is committed to connected relationships with God, self and others. Learning is student-centred with a strong commitment to quality and self-management. Members of the school community are self-motivated, respectful and inclusive of others, and willingly meet the challenges of life-long learning. At Antonio everyone matters ... and matters absolutely.

The school achieves this mission by having a strong emphasis on developing quality relationships between all stakeholders. This enables a rigorous curriculum to be delivered with students engaged in their learning. Features of school life include a commitment to team teaching; the embedding of William Glasser's Choice Theory / Reality therapy in daily school life; and contemporary and relevant teaching methodology which is heavily influenced by the Walker Learning Approach. Our classes operate in flexible learning spaces with one or two teachers and often additional adult (ESO) support. Embedding Choice Theory into daily life at Antonio over the last 10 years has resulted in a positive climate in the school where relationships are nurtured and students feel valued. Connecting habits are explicitly taught resulting in a significant decrease in behavioural issues and in incidents of bullying and harassment. Students learn to understand their behaviours and to self-manage in order to achieve success.

The Walker Approach is the result of many years of research and practice in early childhood development, educational psychology and teaching and learning. The approach is already successfully implemented in many schools across Australia with Antonio being the first Catholic school in South Australia to access and implement these teaching and learning principles. The philosophy underpins intentional teaching across all aspects of teaching and learning throughout the day, week and year, and creates a platform for success in student engagement and the successful achievement of outcomes.

Teachers at Antonio actively engage in professional development and are committed to providing learning tasks relevant for students in the 21st century. ICTs are seen as a
valuable tool in this process and are integrated across all learning areas. There are also a variety of sports and physical education activities offered throughout the year for all year levels. There have been many successes at both State and National level in a variety of sporting endeavours, including Australian football, Netball, Cricket, Rugby League, Touch and Aerobics. Our full size gymnasium has ensured these activities are not dependent on weather. The gymnasium has also enabled the school to re-introduce weekly student led assemblies and is an outstanding venue for parents and friends functions, community events and programs for organisations in the wider community.

A high quality specialist program is offered with weekly lessons in the Visual Arts, Italian and Music.

In Art, our students are given opportunities to explore and experiment with a wide range of different art materials and tools. They are encouraged to express what they think and feel and convey their views using line, shape, colour, design, mass and texture. The visual arts program also aims to broaden children’s awareness of important artworks and art periods and to see art as an integral part of society.

The Italian language and cultural program prepares our students at Antonio to effectively participate in our culturally and linguistically diverse world. Italian is an accessible language for children to learn as it is phonetically based, and thus successfully sets our students up for greater language acquisition.

Our music lessons are about playing, singing, moving, having fun and performing. These performances involve every child, every term and are the highlight of school assemblies, functions and community gatherings. Students at Antonio have the opportunity to be members of Drumming Groups, the Antonio Band, Junior Choir or Senior Choir. They can also having individual music tuition on piano, guitar, flute, saxophone and clarinet.

2. Student Attendance.

The average student attendance for 2013 was 94%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reception</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>95%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>91%</td>
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<td>Year 3</td>
<td>93%</td>
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<td>Year 4</td>
<td>93%</td>
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<td>Year 5</td>
<td>93%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>94%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>94%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For non-attendance at school parents are asked to call by 9:00 am on the day of absence and if a call is not received office staff contacts the family.
### 3. Student learning Outcomes

Our students received the following results in the 2014 NAPLAN tests:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Persuasive Writing</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Grammar and Punctuation</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>334301 - 367</td>
<td>367340 - 394</td>
<td>359330 - 389</td>
<td>344309 - 379</td>
<td>357331 - 384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIM</td>
<td>407398 - 416</td>
<td>ALL418 - 400</td>
<td>SIM392384 - 402</td>
<td>SIM398390 - 407</td>
<td>SIM411401 - 421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>418392 - 400</td>
<td>ALL402 - 407</td>
<td>ALL414 - 401</td>
<td>ALL426 - 401</td>
<td>ALL402 - 401</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Persuasive Writing</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Grammar and Punctuation</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>439419 - 459</td>
<td>399380 - 418</td>
<td>445426 - 463</td>
<td>442421 - 464</td>
<td>443426 - 460</td>
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<tr>
<td>SIM</td>
<td>490481 - 498</td>
<td>ALL501 - 466</td>
<td>SIM458449 - 468</td>
<td>SIM485477 - 493</td>
<td>SIM490481 - 499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>501498 - 499</td>
<td>ALL504 - 484</td>
<td>ALL488 - 484</td>
<td>ALL488 - 484</td>
<td>ALL488 - 484</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Persuasive Writing</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Grammar and Punctuation</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>525508 - 542</td>
<td>514495 - 533</td>
<td>526508 - 545</td>
<td>510489 - 530</td>
<td>534518 - 551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIM</td>
<td>533526 - 540</td>
<td>ALL546 - 507</td>
<td>SIM499490 - 507</td>
<td>SIM531523 - 538</td>
<td>SIM529521 - 538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>546543 - 538</td>
<td>ALL546 - 539</td>
<td>ALL546 - 539</td>
<td>ALL546 - 539</td>
<td>ALL546 - 539</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With respect to the National minimal standard at:

Year 3: 10% of our cohort were below the national minimum standard for Spelling, 6% below in Punctuation and Grammar, 10% below in Numeracy, 0 below in Writing and 10% below in Reading.

Year 5: 13% of our cohort were below the national minimum standard for Spelling, 10% below in Punctuation and Grammar, 6% below in Numeracy, 10% below in Writing and 3% below in Reading.

Year 7: 5% of our cohort were below the national minimum standard for Spelling, 8% below in Punctuation and Grammar, 0 below in Numeracy, 5% below in Writing, and 3% below in Reading.

Importantly, there was significant growth for our Year 5s and Year 7s over the two year period since they last completed the NAPLAN.

Whilst these tests provide valuable information for our school community, there are many ways through which we assess learning and then communicate student performance to parents. During 2014 our students participated in PAT-R (Progressive Achievement Tests in Reading) and PAT-M (Progressive Achievement Tests in Mathematics) which provided
teachers with instant feedback on Reading and Mathematics. Other forms of assessment and reporting include parent teacher interviews, written semester reports and review meetings when required. Each parent receives their child’s NAPLAN report in Years 3, 5 and 7 which outlines very clearly what their child has achieved in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. At Antonio Catholic School we use this data along with our internal whole school testing in Term 4 and ongoing assessment to review how each child is progressing. We expect to see growth in each child’s learning. This work has also shaped teacher professional learning because as a staff we are always looking at ways to improve. Learning is complex and there are many factors that can affect a child’s progress at school including absenteeism, illness or family breakdown. We understand these factors but believe that each child can still learn and achieve. We have high expectations for reaching the set national benchmarks and learning outcomes.

Student learning is at the heart of what we do and we are committed to ongoing improvement. Teachers undertook research last year to improve student learning in their classrooms.

4. Staff Profile

The total teaching staff employed in 2014 was 21 which comprised 17 female and 4 male teachers. This includes full time, part time and replacement teachers. 3 permanent teachers were on leave during 2014.

The length of service at Antonio of the teachers ranges as follows:

1-5 years: 4
6-10 years: 7
More than 10 years: 10

Non-teaching staff totalled 18 comprised of 16 females and 2 males. Of these 6 were casual workers in OSHC.

No staff, teaching or non-teaching identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

At Antonio many of our teachers have two or more qualifications in Education. 33% have Masters Degrees, and another 5% are currently studying a Masters Degree. 78% have a Bachelor Degree and 17% have Diplomas of Teaching. Many teachers have undertaken units towards obtaining their Graduate Certificate in Religious Education.

5. Parent, Student and Staff Satisfaction

Students

For the 2014 school year the focus for our student survey was our Year 6/7 students. The following results indicate a high level of satisfaction within the student group:
Parents

A focus for our community in 2014 was Parent Engagement. This included both engagement in student learning and participation in scheduled community building and fundraising events. The parents were surveyed to assess the level of satisfaction with the events offered by the school. The school leadership team and Parent leaders summarised the survey as follows:

**School Fair**
69% believe the Fair should be annual, 27% prefer bi-annually

**Special lunches/recesses**
88% believe these are held often enough, 8% prefer more often, 4% no preference
100% thought the price structure was good
Subway Lunches
Comments included:
4% doesn’t like that it’s a multinational company that we support
Great promoting healthy eating
Great it supports a local business
Weekly service so that we don’t need to think about what week it is
Pricey but kids love it
Never know when it is on
1 would like to see foot long option for older children
More often would be good

Parent Workshops
100% believed these were valued and appreciated

Parent Only Events
Parents were asked to comment on the type of events, the acceptable cost, and what type of activities they would like to see. The responses have been considered by the PFC (Parents, Friends and Community) group. They were asked for and gave feedback on the following regular events:

Quiz Night
Antonio Movie Night
Carols Night
Mother’s Day/Father’s Day Stall
Easter and Christmas raffles

Staff
Surveys of teaching and non-teaching staff indicated a high level of satisfaction with their work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Able to develop professional skills</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>knowledge and understandings</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feel like a valued member of the school</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>community</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feel comfortable approaching my colleagues with questions or problems</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The school leadership listens to views of students, parents and staff and takes suggestions into account</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. School Finances

As a Catholic school we rely on the prompt payment of school fees to assist with the operation of the school.

The school receives its income from three main sources:

- Australian Government funding;
- Private income from school fees and levies;
- State Government funding.

The graph below shows that approximately 80% of our funding comes from the State and Australian government funding and the balance is from private income.

Without the payment of School Fees, the school would be unable to provide many of the resources that are currently offered. The school attempts to minimise the level of fee increases; however salary increases and demands for education resources mean that fee increases must occur each year. In 2013 the School Fees increased by 5%.

The school has a building fund and contributions to this fund are fully tax deductible. Contributions to this fund are used solely for capital purposes, as part of a capital project or the reduction of debt. Either way they greatly assist the school in being able to provide the resources and facilities it currently offers students.

7. Commentary re 2014 Annual Improvement Plan

Highlights of the school’s achievements with regard to school improvement during 2014 included:

- Continuing to work closely with CESA building and finance teams to ensure our Junior Primary Building project commences in 2015.
- The establishment of a new website and an ‘app’ to enhance communication structures.
- Further mentoring in the use of the Walker Learning Approach across the school from R-7. We have many teachers accredited and regularly host study tours for teachers from around the state.
- The use of ‘PAT’ (Progressive Achievement Tests) in Reading and Mathematics to provide immediate (unlike NAPLAN!) data on student learning.
- The continued implementation of reliable wireless technology and mobile devices (both laptops and iPads).
- Continuing to provide an outstanding sports program, and further success in district and state carnivals and competitions.
- Continuing to establish an outstanding Music and Specialist program to rival anything in the area, regardless of school size.
- Continuing to build the profile and membership of Parents, Friends and Community Group to the point where there were many highly successful events, both in terms of community building and fundraising.

‘Valued Added’ Programs on offer at Antonio Catholic School

Programs:
OSHC and Vacation Care, Adaptive and Special Education, Play Group, ‘Rainbow’ Reading, ‘Fast Forward’ Reading, Buddy class support, AFL Traineeship Program, Extended Pre-school Transition Program, Funtastics, Gardening, School Banking...

Regular Community Events

Catholic Culture:
Liturgies, Masses, Staff Retreat, Parish Sacramental Program including Retreat Days, Mini Vinnies including visits to Reynella Lodge, Project Compassion, Catholic Charities, Community Breakfast.

Extra Curricular (including Sport and Arts)
Senior and Junior Choir, Senior and Junior Band, Drumming Groups, Indigenous Immersion Days, Private Instrumental Tutoring, School performances, Sporting Carnivals, Clinics and Tournaments – cricket, football, handball, touch, rugby, swimming, athletics and netball; Tugra Shan (Martial Arts), Auskick, Have-a-Go cricket, Active After School Sports program.
CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT FOR 2014

Antonio Catholic School is a community of learners.

All of our teachers, assistants, administrative staff, students, parents, grandparents and friends, continue to learn and grow as we continually strive to make Antonio a fabulous place for our children to develop. We learn from the ever changing external environment and we recognize that learning, as us older parents knew it, is in some ways no longer relevant to today’s environment. To that end, Antonio strives to be forward thinking and to implement learning strategies that instill a love of learning in our young people.

I have been a Board member for a good number of years now, and have had children attending Antonio Catholic School for the past 11 years. From my personal experience since its inception, I can categorically say that the Walker Learning Approach really does make a difference to the enjoyment students take from their learning experiences. In fact, it brought a smile to my face only a few weeks ago, to see a small aspect of this type of philosophy adopted by a Government run high school, as they are coming to understand the success of this type of learning. During 2014 our school continued to embrace the Walker Learning Approach, and became a recognized national leader school.

During 2015 we will be commencing a restructure of the Junior Primary buildings which will further improve the learning environment for our younger learners, according to this Walker Learning philosophy. These building works will be funded through a Government grant and will mean a significant upgrade to the Junior Primary learning environment.

Our OSHC continues to provide an excellent before and after school care service, as well as vacation care. Without this service and the diligence of all staff involved, some parents would not be able to benefit from all the learning opportunities that Antonio offers. So again in 2014 we thank the OSHC team from the bottom of our hearts.

Antonio’s PFC (Parents, Friends and Community) and volunteers add another encouraging dimension to the Antonio Community. There are so many ways they make a difference to our school; helping in the classroom, school banking, BBQ, attendance and participation in Grandparents and Special Person Days. This is what makes a great community. Our Board PFC representative Monique Russell has I’m sure introduced herself to almost every single Antonio parent/carer, and is very keen to promote family involvement in your children’s education.

I would also like to take this opportunity to personally thank our Principal, Ray Higgins. The behind the scenes work that Ray does for the benefit of our students and his staff, is remarkable. Those who have volunteered on the school Board will definitely agree, Ray is always looking for opportunities to make Antonio the best possible learning environment in the region.

It seems appropriate to now move on to discuss our school’s finances as Ray himself has made a significant impact on what this school will now be able to achieve in future years.

Budget 2014 was always going to be tight with our cash reserves on the lower side, and student numbers declining due to huge year 7 graduating classes and other economic factors. But we have managed to finish the year off in a positive manner, with higher than expected
cash reserves, and the promise of upgraded facilities this year, funded through grant monies. This is in no small way attributable to Ray’s tireless lobbying for additional funds to benefit our students.

Added to these gains, our PFC and volunteers should also be recognized at this point, as their fantastic fundraising efforts throughout 2014 have resulted in close to $20 000 being raised for our school. This has been utilized for purchases which directly benefit the students, as outlined in Monique’s PFC report. These purchases simply would not be possible without the terrific efforts of the PFC.

On behalf of all those parents, grandparents and carers in our Antonio community, I say thank you to all the Antonio staff and volunteers, for caring for our children.

And in conclusion, I would just like to say there is no better feeling than investing in the future of our children. I encourage every parent, grandparent, carer, and wider Antonio community member to consider how they can make a positive difference to our Antonio learners. Your contribution, no matter how small, is helping to shape and improve the lives of the younger members of our community. The positive flow-on effect of even the smallest acts can be enormous.

God Bless

Carolyn Stevens, Chairperson of the School Board

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT FOR 2014

I think that as each year passes, I feel more and more convinced in my beliefs around effective schools and the learning of our most valued asset, the children. It is imperative that we value their independence and create learning environments which allow them opportunities to be comfortable in their uniqueness, to self-manage, and to teach them how to think rather than what to think. Underpinning this is the Antonio’s absolute commitment to developing and fostering positive and meaningful relationships. As educators and parents it is so important that, in helping prepare young people for today’s world, we are not limited by our own experiences of primary school and learning.

We began 2014 with a fantastic community event largely organised by our OSHC team. With the generosity of parents and staff we shared a meal with an international flavour, were entertained by many of our talented students and managed to squeeze in a pain-free Annual Community Meeting!

This was the first of many events throughout the school year, which proved that the wonderful community spirit in our school is very much alive and well. The Parents, Friends and Community group worked tirelessly throughout the year to engage families in the life of the school. Of course an added benefit of this was an outstanding fundraising effort.

I thank Fr Roman for his continued guidance and support of our Parish school. During the year we continued to work with Emmaus Catholic School to increase our sense of Parish belonging.
For this we thank the two school APRIMs, Lillian and Paul, whose commitment to strengthening and maintaining this link is most commendable. Fr Roman led us in class and whole-school masses as well as participating in liturgies in the school, for which we continue to be very grateful.

During 2014 I was privileged to work with an amazing staff. These are people who show compassion, a genuine commitment to their own learning, wonderful expertise in their chosen profession, and a generous willingness to help and support each other.

In my role as Principal, I was supported by a wonderful leadership team of Lillian, Tanya, Melissa, Michael and Stephen, and I thank them most sincerely for their wisdom, dedication and friendship.

The feedback from prospective families and other visitors to Antonio is that we are a welcoming, friendly community. I also felt an enormous sense of pride at the Year 7 graduation night in December when we thanked and farewelled a wonderful group of young people, who left Antonio well-equipped to move onto secondary school and community life. The parents of these graduating students were very vocal in their gratitude and praise for our school.

I offer my personal thanks to all students, families and staff for your support, friendship and assistance during 2014. As we launch into 2015, a year in which we celebrate 40 years as an outstanding provider of Catholic Education in Morphett Vale and its surrounds, I look forward to more exciting times for our unique and vibrant community.

Ray Higgins, Principal