

Live in Faith
Grow in Wisdom
Seek Peace

St. Columba's School Bayswater



32 Roberts Road Bayswater WA 6053 PH: (08) 9271 7181 Fax: (08) 9370 3985
P.O. Box 61, BAYSWATER WA 6933 Email: admin@stcolumbas.wa.edu.au



School Performance Data - 2008

SCHOOL'S VISION STATEMENT

St. Columba's Primary School aims to foster the total development of each child within a caring community that is totally committed to supporting the Catholic principles and ideals.

'Faith, Wisdom, Peace'

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24th June, 2008

St Columba's School Bayswater School Performance Data Report 2008

Dear Members of St Columba's School Community,

The Australian Government accountability regulations require schools to report information on school performance to their community. The information below is provided to the school community to reflect the school's performance in the 2008 academic year as mandated by the Australian Government.

As a school we are continuously striving to improve our school through seeking to improve children's learning and enhancing teacher instruction. This means working towards developing higher quality teaching and promoting more effective learning.

This data presented is accurate and reflects what can be measured in terms of what the school is achieving. Although we, as a school, are proud to stand by this data we know that there are many important aspects of our school and what children learn that cannot be readily measured. Below are our details.

Professional Engagement:

1. **Staff Attendance.**

In 2008, the average number of days attended, per staff member, was 95%. This figure includes staff away on Sick Leave, Personal Leave and Professional Development.

2. **Staff Retention.**

The proportion of teaching staff retained at St Columba's School in 2008 was 85%.

3. **Teacher Qualifications.**

Qualifications of Teaching Staff at St Columba's School Bayswater	
Qualifications	Number
Certificate of Music Teaching	1
Diploma of Teaching/Education	5
Diploma of Religious Education	1
Graduate Diploma in Education	1
Bachelor of Education	8
Bachelor of Arts in Education	2
Master of Religious Education	1

4. **Expenditure on Professional Development and Professional Learning Opportunities for Teaching Staff.**

Over the year all teachers attended courses in a number of learning areas. Some of these learning areas were Literacy, Numeracy, Religious Education, Curriculum Professional Development, Early Childhood Pedagogy Network Meetings, networking sessions on Literacy (RAISE), Drug Education, Faith Development, Environment Studies, RAISE and Professional Learning Community meetings, NuLit Data meetings, School Report meetings, Religious Education network meetings, Kindergarten conversations and Curriculum Issues for Primary Leaders and Religious Education Accreditation courses at the Catholic Education Office, Perth.

Our aim in 2009 is to continue to inservice all staff on the core educational and spiritual areas of the school's curriculum.

A total of \$9,456.82 was spent in 2008 on Staff Professional Development. The average expenditure, for professional learning per teacher, was \$630.45.

Key Student Outcomes:

5. **Student Attendance.**

The average attendance rate for the 2008 gazetted school year, for students in Years 1 to 7, was 95%.

6. **Proportions of Years 3, 5 and 7 Students Meeting National Reading, Writing, Spelling and Numeracy Benchmarks and Changes in Benchmark Results From The Previous Year**

In 2008, the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy tests were administered throughout all Australian states and territories. More detailed information can be located at the NAPLAN website www.naplan.edu.au

I wish to point out to parents a few key facts about these tests in comparison to the previously used WALNA tests.

- First, the WALNA (Western Australian Literacy and Numeracy Assessments) were always conducted in early August. These tests were conducted in early May, 2008.
- Our West Australian Year 7 students are nearly one year younger than their Eastern states counterparts who are all in their first year of secondary school. In August, the **average** age of a Victorian Year 7 student is 13 years and their length of schooling is 7 years and 7 months. The **average** age of a WA Year 7 student is 12 years and 2 months

and they have had 6 years 7 months of schooling. (data from the National Report on Schooling in Australia 2007). Also the Yr 3 & Yr 5 cohort is on average 6 months younger than the Eastern States students. Obviously this will affect the national averages in all three grades.

- Year 3 students in New South Wales and Victoria have had three and a quarter years of **formal** education as opposed to two and a quarter years for Western Australian children. Please also remember that the writing test disadvantaged the more thoughtful and reflective young writers whose output was limited by the time permitted.
- The NAPLAN does not measure creative thinking, collaborative abilities or emotional intelligence.

These NAPLAN tests form only one part of the many assessments that take place right throughout your child's primary schooling. At St. Columba's School, we have a wide range of assessment measures that begin at Pre-Primary and continue until Year 6.

ST COLUMBA'S SCHOOL 2008 NAPLAN RESULTS COMPARISON

The data below indicate students 'On' or 'Above' the Minimum Standard in NAPLAN and 'On' or 'Above' the benchmark in WALNA. These figures have also been compared to all other Australian Schools in 2008. Please take note that it is not a direct comparison as the children tested are not from the same cohort and the tests have changed from WALNA to NAPLAN.

Year 3	Learning Area	Year 3 (NAPLAN 2008)	Year 3 (WALNA 2007)	Year 3 (NAPLAN - Australian Schools: 2008)
	Numeracy	100	100	90
	Reading	97	100	90
	Spelling	100	89	90
	Grammar & Punctuation	100	N/A	90
	Writing	100	93	90
Year 5	Learning Area	Year 5 (NAPLAN 2008)	Year 5 (WALNA 2007)	Year 5 (NAPLAN - Australian Schools: 2008)
	Numeracy	96	96	90
	Reading	96	100	90
	Spelling	96	91	90
	Grammar & Punctuation	96	N/A	90
	Writing	96	96	90
Year 7	Learning Area	Year 7 (NAPLAN 2008)	Year 7 (WALNA 2007)	Year 7 (NAPLAN - Australian Schools: 2008)
	Numeracy	100	90	90
	Reading	100	94	90
	Spelling	97	97	90
	Grammar & Punctuation	97	N/A	90
	Writing	100	97	90

7. Value Added activities at St Columba's School in 2008.

Throughout the year, the students at St Columba's School were involved in a variety of activities, incursions and excursions, which helped their development and added value to their learning. Below are some examples.

Excursions/Incursions/Extension Activities

- Schoensatt Shrine Visits
- Years 6 & 7 Camps
- Gymbus
- Ten Pin Bowling (Perth)
- Scitech (Perth)

Curriculum

- PIPS (Progress Indicators in Primary Students).
- NAPLAN Testing (Years 3, 5 & 7).
- Friendly Schools & Families Programme.
- National Safe Schools Framework.

Religion

- Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation Sacramental Programmes.
- Whole school masses.
- Class masses.
- Weekend Parish Celebrations.
- Sacramental Parent Information Sessions.
- Feast Day Celebrations.
- Sacramental retreat days

Performing Arts

- School Choirs.
- End of Year Christmas Concert.
- Class Assemblies.
- Arts Night

Sport

- Swimming Lessons.
- Faction Swimming & Athletics Carnivals.
- Interschool Athletics Carnival.
- Eagles Cup Football.

Community Activities

- Missions.
- ANZAC Day.
- Book Week
- Open Day

8. *Post-School Destinations.*

Our Year 6 & 7 students high school destinations are as follows:

Destination Schools	No of Students
Chisholm College	37
Mercedes College	12
Swan Christian College	1
Aranmore College	1
La Salle College	1
Ballajura Community College	1

9. *Parent, student and teacher satisfaction*

Having completed Kindergarten and prospective student interviews late last year and this term, it is great to be able to report to you the high opinions held by the outside community toward St Columba's School. This is supported by the high number of applications seeking enrolment into the school in the junior year levels. There were also many positive comments and feedback from parents with children currently in the school.

I am proud to state that we are providing many opportunities for the students and parents to grow in their faith through liturgical and sacramental celebrations, sacramental meetings, faith development days and evenings for the students, staff and parents.

Along with incidental discussions I have had with students, teachers and parents, both before school and during the day, there is a high degree of satisfaction with the school. General concensus is that St Columba's School is a great school.

Student Surveys: Summary

Total number of student who took part in the survey (Years 1-6):

153

Tick the answer which best suits you		Agree (Yes)	%	Disagree (No)	%	Not Sure	%
1	I like school.	119	78%	6	4%	28	18%
2	I like being with the children in my class.	130	85%	3	2%	21	14%
3	My belongings are safe at this school.	92	60%	21	14%	41	26%
4	The rules at this school are clear.	132	86%	4	3%	17	11%
5	Most school lessons are interesting.	120	78%	7	5%	26	17%
6	My teacher explains things clearly.	130	85%	2	1%	21	14%
7	Doing school work is important.	133	87%	6	4%	14	9%
8	I am proud of the work that I do at school.	126	83%	5	3%	22	14%
9	My parents think that this is a good school.	125	82%	3	2%	25	16%
10	My teacher cares about the way I am feeling.	116	76%	3	2%	34	22%
11	Most of the students of my year level are very friendly.	122	80%	10	7%	21	14%
12	School work is usually dull and boring.	19	12%	110	72%	23	15%
13	Teachers at this school make most subjects interesting.	124	81%	5	3%	24	16%
14	At this school, students are carefully supervised.	111	73%	11	7%	31	20%
15	Most teachers at this school try to make difficult things easier to understand.	121	79%	8	5%	24	16%
16	I usually find school work difficult.	30	20%	83	54%	40	26%
17	Students are usually kept well informed about what is happening at the school.	108	71%	13	8%	32	21%
18	At this school most teachers are willing to help Student's with work problems.	135	88%	5	3%	13	8%

Staff Survey: Summary

Total number of surveys issued (to all staff members):

22

Total number of staff who took part in the survey

17

77%

	Statements	Strongly Agree	%	Agree	%	Disagree	%	Strongly Disagree	%
1	I feel that St. Columba's has a very friendly and caring environment.	12	71%	5	29%	0	0%	0	0%
2	I am happy coming to work at St. Columba's.	10	59%	8	47%	0	0%	0	0%
3	I am supported by my peers/colleagues at school.	7	41%	10	59%	0	0%	0	0%
4	My opinion and concerns are given proper attention by the Leadership Team, even if I don't always agree with the decision.	12	71%	5	29%	0	0%	0	0%
5	I believe that St. Columba School is a safe place for students to go to school.	14	82%	3	18%	0	0%	0	0%
6	The Leadership Team supports and encourages my professional growth.	11	65%	6	35%	0	0%	0	0%
7	Collaboration between staff is encouraged.	8	47%	9	53%	0	0%	0	0%
8	Collaboration between staff is being fulfilled.	6	35%	11	65%	0	0%	0	0%
9	I am satisfied with the quality of communication amongst the staff at St. Columba's.	7	41%	9	53%	1	6%	0	0%

Parent Survey: Summary

Total number of surveys issued (to all families):

163

Total number of parents who took part in the survey

72

44%

	Statements	Strongly Agree	%	Agree	%	Disagree	%	Strongly Disagree	%
1	We believe that St. Columba's provides our children a Catholic education where the values of the Gospel are lived.	45	63%	26	36%	1	1%		0%
2	We believe that through the teaching of the Catholic Education Units of Work, our students are developing a sound knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith.	45	63%	26	36%	1	1%		0%
3	We are happy with the educational opportunities our children are offered at St. Columba's.	38	53%	31	43%	3	4%		0%
4	Parental involvement in the school is encouraged	40	56%	31	43%	1	1%		0%
5	Parent's complaints and inquiries are followed up and acted on.	30	42%	36	50%	4	6%	1	1%
6	My child is receiving a quality education at this school.	36	50%	33	46%	2	3%		0%
7	I receive information regarding the school in a timely manner.	35	49%	34	47%	2	3%	1	1%
8	This is a safe place for students to go to school.	39	54%	33	46%		0%		0%
9	I feel welcome when I come to this school.	43	60%	26	36%	3	4%		0%
10	I would recommend this school to other parents.	42	58%	27	38%	3	4%		0%

Parents' Comments:

Positive Feedback

- We are much happier with the school this year. Many positive changes have been made.
- We are very happy with the school's early intervention in regards to literacy and numeracy. We believe that staff/parent correspondence has improved greatly in recent years. Loved the 3-Way Interviews and options program. Thank you!!
- Great teachers, great kids, great school! Keep up the great work!
- Wonderful school, no complaints whatsoever! Our children are happy and receiving a positive, well-rounded education, and learning to be the best people they can be – we can ask no more!
- We are very impressed with St Columba's and fell very fortunate that our son is part of such a caring community.
- Things are finally happening at the school, I.T. Lab, options programs, etc. My children are being given so many opportunities to learn, to grow and to develop as a whole human being.
- Great admin team, great staff – Excellent school! I wouldn't send my children anywhere else.
- Our school has a wonderful community feel. Children are friendly and well known. It would be nice to see as much "investment" as possible in providing resources and opportunities for our children in practical up to date classroom facilities/resources.
- I feel that the change in admin team has helped to improve the school greatly.
- Keep up the great work! Well done to our lovely staff and school.
- Great school – everyone is so approachable and there are always things happening at the school. The school is so alive.
- Having transferred from another school a few years ago, I would like to state that St Columba's is fantastic. The school offers the students a variety of educational experiences and the people are so friendly.

Other Feedback

- **Re Statement No 7:** Sometimes it would be helpful to have more notice re pupil free days, changes to policies, etc.
- This is not a complaint but more of a request: that families are advised in regards to the start of the year stationery list. What items are to be labelled/covered, remain in the possession of the student and what is handed to the school.
- Would like for Columba's to be a little more innovative. It has a really accepting parent body, great kids and small. More programs that challenge **ALL** kids more.
- Survey terms were very subjective (eg "Quality", "Sound", "Timely") making definitive categorization difficult. P&F should be more encompassing, focusing on developing the school "community", in line with the ideals outlined in the school vision, rather than the apparent sole-focus on fund-raising. Based on observed instances, P&F and school Board seem elitist, rejecting outside suggestions and offers of assistance, resulting in a reluctance to contribute further. Reporting (newsletters, etc) could be framed to specifically reflect evidence of actions in support of the school's ideals and vision statements.
- **Re Statement No 7:** Sometimes I don't receive information. This survey was not received until Wed 8th (the day it was requested back). **Re Statement No 8:** Some exceptions - ad hoc cooking class with allergy children without parents being advised.

- There seems to be a lot of time and energy devoted to children in the 'Talented and Gifted' groups (Literacy and Numeracy). These children will surely succeed anyway without too much intervention. Also time and resources are given to the strugglers and that's great! **But** what about the average kids? Maybe if some attention and encouragement was devoted to them they could possibly improve and achieve better results in Literacy and Numeracy and this in turn would improve the school results.
- Questions regarding education and opportunities are relative so afraid difficult to answer. Working within financial constraints though, I believe the school does well in these areas, so if I take this into consideration, I'd have to say 'agree'. Sorry a little long winded. Also depends on teachers – this year's are effective and encourage learning and development.
- I don't disagree regarding Q7, but I don't really agree either. Some information/communication is very good, particularly now that the website is in place, but there are other times when not enough notice is given to allow parents to organise to be present for things like assembly presentations.
- St Columba's is a great school for our children. We acknowledge the limits arising from a very crowded curriculum and other educational needs, but we ask that the school increases its focus on maths and science. These subjects always seem to be down played in the school's statements to reading and literacy, and religion/social development.
- I think that there is too much emphasis on NAPLAN testing and performing well in the test.