Annual Report 2012

St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School
Nauiyu Community Daly River
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VALUES: Service, Justice, Respect, Peace.

VISION

- Service- Through our teaching and learning we believe we have a responsibility to see that the needs of our students are responded to.
- Justice- Through our awareness of life in the community we believe in standing firmly for those who are not noticed because they are weak and have no voice.
- Respect- We will educate our students to recognise that each person has an intrinsic dignity that needs to be honoured.
- Peace – Through commitment to our Catholic Ethos we believe in celebrating difference, we are committed to teaching diversity that ultimately leads to peace.

MISSION

When we learn together, sharing + living the same language of learning, we will be empowered to create a new story for our future...

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE.

It gives me great pleasure to present the 2012 school report for St Francis Xavier Daly River.

In 2012 St Francis had a change of principals. After giving long and valued service Maj O’Neill resigned at the end of term 2 to return to Victoria. Maj had made a fantastic contribution to the development of the school over the last few years. She had experienced many trying situations especially with the floods. Maj never complained, but got on with the job in hand. As a community we are indebted to Maj for her wonderful service to the school and community.

After the bush holidays I Brian Wilkinson became principal for a six months period. At the end of that time Ms Jennifer Cole will become the substantive principal for the next few years.

2012 saw the school continue with two national partnership programs. These were Ngambari Fimityatit-Learning Powers and the PaCE program of community engagement. These programs were invaluable in two ways. One of engaging students in their learning and therefore leading to improved behavior and the second way of getting our community elders involved in the school. This involvement took the form of painting murals of the learning powers symbols and also being part of our cultural trips.

Our cultural trips were a highlight. All classes and the whole school as a group went out bush with the elders to explore various aspects of culture. These trips also included our Friday liturgy which was something special.

As the year progressed the school re introduced a school uniform. All students received a new uniform. The students look fantastic in them
We also trialed a new school timetable during the buildup. The school commenced at 8.15am and worked for a straight three hours then having a lunch break. The students then finished the school day at 1.45pm. I believed it worked well in that it gave a strong focus to teaching and learning plus cut back on behavior issues. In 2013 the structure will be reviewed and changes made if necessary.

STUDENT PROFILE

St Francis Xavier is registered for Pre School – Secondary classes. The school caters for the local Indigenous children who are mainly ESL learners with a variety of cultural knowledge and skills. 98% of the students identify as Aboriginal or Torres Straight Islanders. 18% are students with identified special needs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Enrolment by year level and gender</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

% Indigenous: 98.0%
% Special Needs: 18%

Average Attendance: 65.6%

Managing non-attendance: Short periods of non-attendance are followed up by the classroom teacher. Longer periods are followed up by a member of the school leadership team, with assistance from the school liaison officer.
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

School income is derived from a variety of sources and can be summarised as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australian Government</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Territory Government</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other sources</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SCHOOL PROGRAMS - TEACHING AND LEARNING

At St Francis Xavier we run a 2hr literacy lesson every day. The focus for our literacy is Accelerated Literacy with the students studying a book in depths for approximately 4 weeks. The students look at how an author develops the text. This allows for the students to gain a deeper understanding of text and the use of illustrations in the given text. Often this is also integrated in to other areas of learning.

Numeracy is taught 1hr per day with a focus on hands on skill development using the Count Me In Too program across the school. We are very well equipped with numeracy resource spread across all classrooms.

The students have 30 - 45 mins of Religious Education daily and celebrate the churches special days with Eucharist and liturgies in the church. Throughout the year saw the school celebrate Mass every second Friday and have a liturgy on the alternative Friday to celebrate our Catholic Identity and help the children have Christ as the centre of their lives.

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS: NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP PROJECT
In 2012 we introduced PaCE national partnership at the school. This was a time that the local Indigenous elders shared their knowledge and spent time with the staff, children and community members. They were heavily involved in our cultural trips. Each grade participated with the elders in experiencing different parts of their culture out in a bush setting. In Term 4 we also conducted two whole school bush cultural trips. The highlight of these was the bush liturgies.

These days were developed in line with our National Partnership Project. Our project is based on ELLI (Effective Life Long Learning Inventory). This project is all about how the children, staff and community learn. It is looking at the 7 dispositions of learning (learning powers) and how best to bring this into the school. We have activities every Friday to highlight the learning powers that have been focused on during the week. We are all about sharing our old stories and developing a new story.

The whole school developed metaphors for learning and worked on these throughout terms 3 and 4. The final metaphors were as follows

- Changing and Learning – Barramundi
- Resilience- Crocodile
- Learning Relationships- Green Ant
- Critical Curiosity – Turtle
- Strategic Awareness- Termite
- Meaning Making – Golden Orb Spider
- Creativity - Brolga
We also had a visit Dr Ruth Deakin-Crick from Bristol University in the UK. She shared her knowledge on the Learning Powers with us and contributed to the in-service of staff in using the ELLI to help us understand how we learn, which then lead on to understanding how our students learn. Having this knowledge has enabled the teachers to cater for the varying needs of the students and how best to cater for them. We also purchased resources to assist us in developing our teaching skills to cater for the needs of the students.

**STAFF PROFILE**

**Teacher Qualifications**

All teachers have a minimum of four years training and are registered with the NT Teacher Registration Board.

All staff – teaching and support staff - has a Northern Territory Working with Children’s Card.

**Summary of the qualifications of teaching staff in 2012**

1 Master Educational Leadership
4 Bachelor of Education
2 Bachelors of Teaching and Learning

**Staff Information**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>FTE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Teachers</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleaners</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grounds</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooks</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Liaison</td>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
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PASTORAL CARE AND WELLBEING
In 2012 a Pastoral Care and Well Being co-ordinator was allocated from the current teaching staff. The purpose of this role was to highlight the need for our school to show the importance of the link between school and a faith community.

At St Francis Xavier we value the importance of a partnership between parents, community and school. We have had meetings with the staff and parents along with key stakeholders in the community to best meet the needs of the families. These meeting were to come together to discuss issues arising in the community to work out the best way to meet the needs of the students. The people involved included the health centre, Red Cross, police, FACS, Rec Hall, school and any community member who felt they could contribute to the discussion.

In 2012 the school developed it’s student management policy which gives guidelines to staff when dealing with difficult situations. One of the key focuses of the management policy is the involvement of the local elders in assisting the student, parent and the school to resolve issues.

PARENTS AND COMMUNITY
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND RENEWAL

Teaching and Learning – Commendations

The information gathered showed the following as areas of strength – rated ‘achieving’, using the School Improvement and Renewal Framework:

- The community and school have developed a common philosophy about the need for education – through Learning Powers.
- Assessment tasks are varied, integrated and a basis for on-going learning,
- Prior learning is valued and acknowledged,
- Learning is valued and nurtured
- There are high expectations of students,
- Curriculum is inclusive,
- Students can see the evidence that they are learning and developing and have a clear understanding of the purpose behind their learning activities.
- We promote our identity as a Catholic school within a Catholic community.
- The school actively seeks ways to incorporate cultural processes in the life of the school through Deme Nayin.

Teaching and Learning – Recommendations

- Become more familiar with the Australian Curriculum
- More PD for staff on Behaviour Management
- Future PD on special needs EAP development.

Pastoral care - Commendations

- Being student centred - Understanding the students’ needs has helped us develop programs to suit the students.
- Students of the week awards

Pastoral care – Recommendations

- Source other programs that may help to enable parents in the early years of schooling.
- Continue close liaison with Red Cross and their youth program.

ENDORSEMENTS

Jennifer Cole  Principal

Miriam Rose Baumann, Community Member

Michael Avery, Director Catholic Education NT