

St Brigid's Catholic School

New Norfolk



**ANNUAL SCHOOL
COMMUNITY REPORT**

FOR THE 2011 SCHOOL YEAR

ANNUAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY REPORT

Year	2011
School Name	St Brigid's Catholic School
School Type	K – 6
Suburb/Town	New Norfolk

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Principal:	Ms Joy Matar

SCHOOL PROFILE

HISTORY, VISION and MISSION

Introduction:

The St Brigid's Catholic School Community takes great pride in the history of the school and the unique role it has played in Catholic education for the Derwent Valley. Our school is ever mindful of our rich and vibrant past and it endeavours to reflect many aspects of our history and charism in the present running of the school. In looking to the future we strive to continue to provide a valued and authentic educational alternative for Catholics families and the community of the Derwent Valley.

Where we have come from:

The present school property was originally known as "Corumbene", and was owned by the Shoobridge family, pioneers of the hop industry. Early in 1925 the Catholic Church bought Corumbene and in the same year Archbishop Delany approached the Sisters of Charity to administer a school to be developed on the site. Builders, made an immediately start on the construction of a modest two-classroom block.

The October 4th, 1925, setting of the Foundation Stone of the St Brigid's Convent School marked the beginning of Catholic Education in the Derwent Valley. His Grace, the Archbishop of Hobart, Most Rev. P. Delany, D.D. blessed the stone. He returned on December 27th, 1925, for the grand opening and blessing of the completed building and a week later, January 4th 1926, 80 students commenced their schooling at St Brigid's. The January commencement of the first term was necessary because at the time all hops in the valley were picked manually and the month of March was "Hop Picking Holidays". Classes were conducted in the two new classrooms as well as in the Convent itself (Cill Dara).

The first 25 years of St Brigid's School saw the Sisters of Charity at the helm. During this time the school was held in high esteem within the New Norfolk community and the Sisters won a place in the hearts of many.

In 1950, a new chapter in the history of St Brigid's began when the Presentation Sisters assumed the running of the school which catered for both secondary and primary students. Gradually new buildings

were added – an extension to the original classrooms and later the addition of two new brick classrooms in the early sixties. In 1966 it was decided that secondary students would attend Catholic Colleges in Hobart and that the school would cater for primary students only. This move was deemed necessary in order to meet the greater needs of secondary students in specialised subjects and made possible by improved transport options.

Further growth in school facilities commenced in April 1978 when under the guidance of the Parish Priest, Fr. Peter O’Laughlin two new spacious rooms with all the latest educational facilities were constructed. The classrooms were officially opened and blessed on Sunday, December 3rd, 1978. In 1984 the St. Brigid’s Building programme was extended with the completion of a new multi-purpose room, administration area and staff room. This was officially opened by Prof. Selby Smith and blessed by Mgr. Green on Sunday, May 20th, 1984. In 1987 a \$137,000 refurbishment and addition to the original school building, and a new toilet block were completed. This brought the facilities at St. Brigid’s up to a very high standard with the incorporation of a Special Education area and a new library.

In 1992 the Presentation Sisters ended their role as administrators of the school. Consequently, in January 1993, Mr Sean Gill (1993 – 2001) was appointed the first lay principal of St Brigid’s School. The changing emphasis in education and the drift of years had produced many developments at St. Brigid’s Catholic School, but the people of New Norfolk will long remember the warmth and dedication of the Sisters who followed their commitment to Christ while educating hundreds of students between 1926 and 1992. With the appointment of the first lay principal another important chapter in the school’s history began.

2000 saw the school administration area moved to historic Cill Dara, which had been extensively renovated to accommodate offices, a staff room, a meeting room and a staff preparation area. During 2001 application was made for a grant to build two new classrooms for Prep and Grade One, to refurbish the Grade Six room and to demolish two classrooms and renew this space as an outdoor assembly area. Work on the new building and refurbishment began in August 2001 and was completed in February 2002. The new classrooms were officially blessed and opened on May 22nd of that year by His Grace Archbishop Doyle and Senator Guy Barnett.

In 2002, Mr Peter McBain (2002 - 2007) commenced his principalship at St Brigid’s. Change, development and modernisation continued. The beginning of 2004 heralded the commencement of the first Kindergarten Class. The year 2006 saw the celebration of Eighty Years of Catholic Education in the Derwent Valley and also the 100th Anniversary of the Cill Dara building. In 2007, the Investing in Our Schools Program funding allowed the grass resurfacing of the oval and the bitumen resurfacing of the hardstand play area thus greatly improving the condition of play areas for the 200+ St Brigid’s Catholic School students.

In 2008, Ms Joy Matar assumed the principalship at St Brigid’s Catholic School. Throughout 2008 the focus was very much on improving educational outcomes for all students and, with the support of the school community and the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office, developing a comprehensive Capital Works Master Plan. This plan proved to put St Brigid’s in a very timely position when in early 2009 the Australian Government announced its Nation Building Economic Stimulus Package which included considerable funding for primary school capital works programs.

Mid 2010 saw the exciting completion of major capital works made possible through the Australian Government's Building the Educational Revolution (BER) program. \$2 420 000 allowed the construction of a multipurpose hall with kitchen, toilet, staging and storage facilities and an Early Childhood learning area, the extensive redevelopment and extension of three general learning areas and a new library area and associated groundwork, Kindergarten playground, courtyard and travel areas. The facilities provide modern learning areas, which foster current trends in learning and teaching and community involvement. The Australian Government's PRIDE in our Schools program provided funds (\$125 000) to establish double netball courts on river flats below the main school site and supported the installing of wireless technology throughout the school. Both BER and PRIDE works, which were official opened and blessed by the Director for Catholic Education, Dr Trish Hindmarsh and Archbishop Adrian Doyle DD on 8 April 2011, were welcomed by the school community.

Following the completion of the major works a Reconciliation Garden and Reflection Area was established at one end of the playground court area and students' vegetable gardens positioned at the other. The river flat area thus became a multiuse area catering for various aspects and a focus area for school learning programs.

During 2011 a State Grant of \$305,000 was utilised to complete the upgrading of the remaining general learning areas at St Brigid's. The Kindergarten / Prep classrooms were extended and modernized and the original 1926 school building underwent another transformation to establish it as the Grade 5 & 6 learning area.

The two years of facilities building and upgrades at St Brigid's Catholic School has matched and complemented the vision for a collaboration learning community, utilising spaces which are agile and transformable.

And so, while remembering and honouring the past the

St Brigid's Catholic School Community continues to look to the future with pride and confidence
as we realise our Vision and live out our Mission.

St Brigid's Catholic School Vision Statement

St Brigid's Catholic School is a faith filled community committed to the
example of Christ lived in the spirit of the charism of her founders,
the Sisters of Charity and the Presentation Sisters,
upholding the motto developed by them 'Virtue and Knowledge'.

Through virtue we aim to continue to develop the faith of
the staff, students and families supported in our parish.

We respect the dignity and uniqueness of every person in Christ,
and reach out in justice to those in need as we seek to share faith.

As seekers of knowledge we build a community of life long learners
who strive for truth through the pursuit of excellence in learning.
Each person is encouraged to be and do their best
as they fulfil their potential as members of the wider world.

October 2008

St Brigid's Catholic School Mission Statement

At St Brigid's Catholic School New Norfolk we strive to be a:

Community of Faith which

- * lives and bears witness to our Catholic Tradition and the values of our founding orders
- * develops in all, an understanding of the teachings of Christ and the gift of faith as the foundation of our whole school community.

Community of Integrity which

- * reveals the Christian message not only by word but also by actions and deeds
- * respects and acknowledges the worth and dignity of each individual
- * assists students to recognise that they are called to be a living witness to God's love
- * acknowledge the rights and responsibilities of all within the school community

Community Seeking Life Long Learning which

- * recognises and supports parents as the first and foremost educators of their children as they guide and nurture their religious growth, values and attitudes to learning
- * supports and encourages the development of the whole child with the aim of enabling them to meet their potential in all areas of school life including their spiritual, social and emotional growth and their intellectual, physical and artistic abilities
- * contributes to an environment where education is inclusive and provides a meaningful, relevant and appropriate curriculum which promotes life long learning

Community which Embraces the Future and

- * contributes positively to the personal development of students by educating them for a healthy and ethical life style as they grow to be responsible members of society.

This Mission Statement guides our community in its work and decision-making.

It provides a focus for the ongoing development and commitment of the whole school community.

April 2008

GOVERNANCE

Catholic Education

The Archbishop of Hobart has ultimate responsibility for Catholic Education in Tasmania. The Archbishop receives policy advice from the Tasmanian Catholic Education Commission (TCEC). Policies approved by the Archbishop are enacted by the Director of Catholic Education. At the local level, the Principal is responsible for the leadership and management of the school, in accordance with overall Archdiocesan policy objectives and the advice of the Board.

Systemic Catholic Schools Governing Council

The SCSGC governs the System of Catholic Schools in collegial partnership with the Director of Catholic Education, Principals and Boards. The Council assumes final responsibility for all decisions and actions of members of the System of Catholic Schools acting on its behalf.

The Council's role is primarily one of overseeing, supporting and monitoring the operation of the System of Schools.

Tasmanian Catholic Education Office (TCEO)

The Tasmanian Catholic Education Office, under the guidance of the Director, implements the policies developed by the Tasmanian Catholic Education Commission and the Systemic Catholic Schools Governing Council. The Office also provides a wide range of professional and management services to all Catholic schools, including Archdiocesan and Congregation Colleges. These services are provided generally using Commonwealth recurrent and targeted funds, or through levies contributed by all Catholic schools. They cover a range of areas including Catholic Culture and Ethos, Learning and Achievement, Curriculum and Pedagogy, Learning Environment and Leadership. The Tasmanian Catholic Education Office is the contact point for a range of Tasmanian and Australian Government and education agencies.

School Leaders

The Archbishop of Hobart appoints the Principals of Systemic Schools on recommendation of the Director in collaboration with the recommendation of an Appointment Panel.

Leadership within the school:

School Principal

The overall leadership and management of St Brigid's Catholic School have been entrusted to the school Principal, Ms Joy Matar.

School Leadership Team

Membership of the 2011 School Leadership Team was Ms Joy Matar as Principal, Mr Marty Ogle as Assistant Principal Learning and ICT Coordinator and Mr Ryan Kinder Assistant Principal Religious Education.

School Board

St Brigid's Catholic School Board members, under the leadership of Board Chair, Mr Andrew Denholm, acted as advisers to the School Leadership Team. The Constitution, Section 3.4, states that the responsibilities of the Board are:

- to advise on and assist with the formulation of policy for the conduct of the School in line with TCEC/TCEO policies and Governing Council directives;
- to co-operate with and support the Principal in maintaining the School as an institute of Catholic Education;
- to contribute and assist, where possible, on matters regarded as major initiatives and/or changes;
- to liaise with the local Parish Priest/s and/or Parish Pastoral Council/s, in matters of mutual concern to the School and Parish/s;
- to participate in, and co-operate with, the School on the planning, research, development, implementation and evaluation of the School's Strategic Plan;
- to contribute to the planning and management of maintenance and building programs necessary for the recurrent and long-term welfare and effective development of the School; and
- to oversee the finances of the School and the prudent use of funds, according to the provisions of this Constitution and the directions of the TCEO.

NATURE OF THE SCHOOL

St Brigid's Catholic School, New Norfolk, is a co-educational school catering for students from Kindergarten to Grade 6.

New Norfolk is a semi-rural community and the student profile reflects this. Slightly over half of the student population live in New Norfolk. The remaining students come from areas and townships (20 in total) surrounding the town eg Lachlan, Hamilton, Dromedary, Bushy Park and Gretna. St Brigid's Catholic School is serviced by contract buses from the following areas: Magra, Gretna, Plenty, Lachlan, Ironstone Gully and Lower Swamp Road.

SCHOOL'S INDEX OF COMMONWEALTH SOCIO-ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE (ICSEA) 965

2011 COMMENCES

The commencement of 2011 saw staff ready and enthusiastic for the return to school with class siting reflecting the pattern of both late 2009 and 2010 as four classes of students were initially housed in temporary sites. 21 April 2011 was the final moving day allowing for a fresh start in settled environments following the Easter break. An added bonus of the ongoing building and redevelopment was the Multipurpose room - a space which has since provided an area for a multitude of student and staff uses from a meeting room to a dressing room for the cast of the school play, to a safe environment for special learning need motor skills programs.

New and returning children and families across all grades including Kindergarten settled well to the 2011 year as did new staff, full-time teachers Mr Ryan Kinder, Miss Chloe Wilson and part-time staff Special Learning Needs Teacher, Mrs Maree O'Byrne, ICT Aide Mr Scott Boucher, Library Technician, Mrs Trudi Fielding and Teacher Assistant, Mrs Gail O'Neil. Mrs Carolyn Jeanneret (Counsellor Advocate) also commenced her year at St Brigid's. Staff continued the focus on improving educational outcomes for all our students with established and new programs and a strong focus on exploring and utilising the Australian Curriculum.

NUMBERS OF STUDENTS (July 2011)

GRADE	ENROLMENT NUMBER	BOYS	GIRLS
Kindergarten	29	15	14
Prep	29	15	14
Grade 1	24	14	10
Grade 2	26	9	17
Grade 3	29	13	16
Grade 4	26	9	17
Grade 5	20	10	10
Grade 6	24	14	10
TOTALS	207	99	108

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE RATE

The average attendance rate for students in 2011 was 95%.

ST BRIGID'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY

RATIONALE

All students at St Brigid's Catholic School will attend school as required by Government Legislation for Australian School Age Children.

AIM

To ensure that attendance at school is a regular and ongoing part of School life for all students enrolled at St Brigid's Catholic School.

IMPLEMENTATION

Attendance

Once a student is enrolled at St Brigid's Catholic School:

- The parent of that student must ensure that the student attends school each day as required.
- The Principal must ensure that a register of absences is kept.
- If a student is absent and no notification has been received by 9.30 am, the school office then calls the parent/carer to ascertain the reason for the absence.
- If absenteeism continues for no valid reason, the Principal then contacts the parents/carers to discuss the continuing absences and to try to resolve issues to the satisfaction of all parties.
- If the absence continues and the parents/carers are aware of their obligations under the Education Act, then parents will be informed that legal proceedings will be pursued if they continue to ignore their obligations. Procedure in this case will follow those recommended by the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office.
- The Principal will inform the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office and will follow legal instructions given from the Office.

Keeping Records

- All class teachers are issued Weekly Attendance Sheets for the daily recording of absences.
- By 9.30 a.m. attendance lists of students absent, and reasons for absence if known, are recorded and sent in the message bag to the office. (see Absentee Record proforma)
- If reason for absence is unknown the administrative assistant calls the students' parents/carers and seeks further information.
- Records of all absentees and reasons for absence are recorded and kept on file in the student database.

POST GRADE 6 DESTINATIONS

SCHOOL	NUMBER	SCHOOL	NUMBER
Dominic College	11	Ogilvy High School	1
St Virgil's College	8	New Town High School	1
St Mary's College	1	New Norfolk High School	1
Interstate	1		

STUDENT OUTCOMES

REPORTING TO PARENTS

During 2011, the reporting system consisted of the following components:

1. Parent Information Evening and Information Sheets

Week 3, Term 1, Tuesday 22 and Thursday 24 February.

Teachers discussed with parents details of curriculum, programs, activities and general information concerning the class.

2. Compulsory Parent/Teacher Consultations with Checklist

Tuesday 12 and Thursday 14 of April between 3.15pm and 6.45pm.

3. Written Reports + Optional Parent/Teacher Consultations

Comprehensive written reports issued to parents on Thursday 28 July.

Optional Parent/Teacher Consultations Thursday 9 August.

4. End of Year Report + Optional Parent/Teacher Consultations

End of Year written reports issued to parents on Tuesday 13 December.

Optional Parent/Teacher Consultations Wednesday 14 December.

PIPS and NAPLAN data is distributed to parents.

PIPS

For the Prep class of 2011, Start of the Year PIPS results indicated a gain in average student achievement levels particularly in Phonics, which could be attributed to the adoption of the Letters and Sounds Program in Kindergarten. During 2011 extensive support was given to those Prep students identified as 'at risk', ie 7% in phonics, 11% in Mathematics and 18% in Reading and enrichment initiated for those students in the higher range, ie 34% in phonics, 26% in Mathematics and 17% in Reading. End of Year PIPS results indicated that 22% of 2011 Prep students exceeded expected learning gains in Numeracy and 14% did so in Literacy..

NAPLAN REVIEW

2011 My School Data from the website www.myschool.edu.au/

Comparatives for like schools -

	READING	WRITING	SPELLING	GRAMMAR and PUNCTUATION	NUMERACY
GRADE 3 ST BRIGID'S	410	409	407	402	386
GRADE 3 LIKE SCHOOLS	395	399	388	398	383
GRADE 5 ST BRIGID'S	524	504	496	516	500
GRADE 5 LIKE SCHOOLS	470	464	466	479	471

Percentage of Students At or Above Benchmarks for 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011

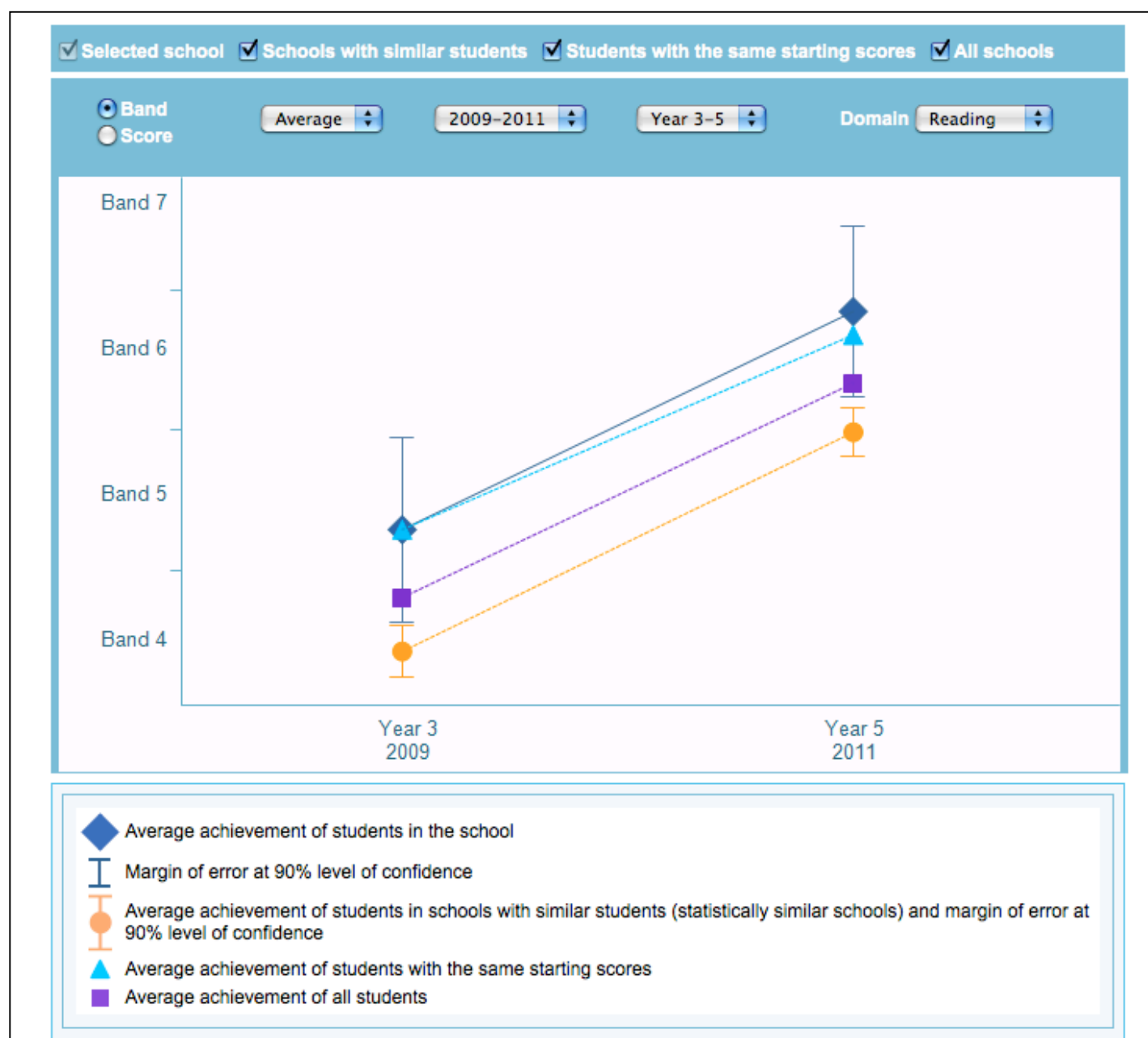
	2008 READING	2009 READING	2010 READING	2011 READING	2008 GRAMMAR and PUNCTUATION	2009 GRAMMAR and PUNCTUATION	2010 GRAMMAR and PUNCTUATION	2011 GRAMMAR and PUNCTUATION
GRADE 3	93%	100%	100%	96%	93%	92%	100%	86%
GRADE 5	100%	96%	89%	100%	90%	88%	93%	100%

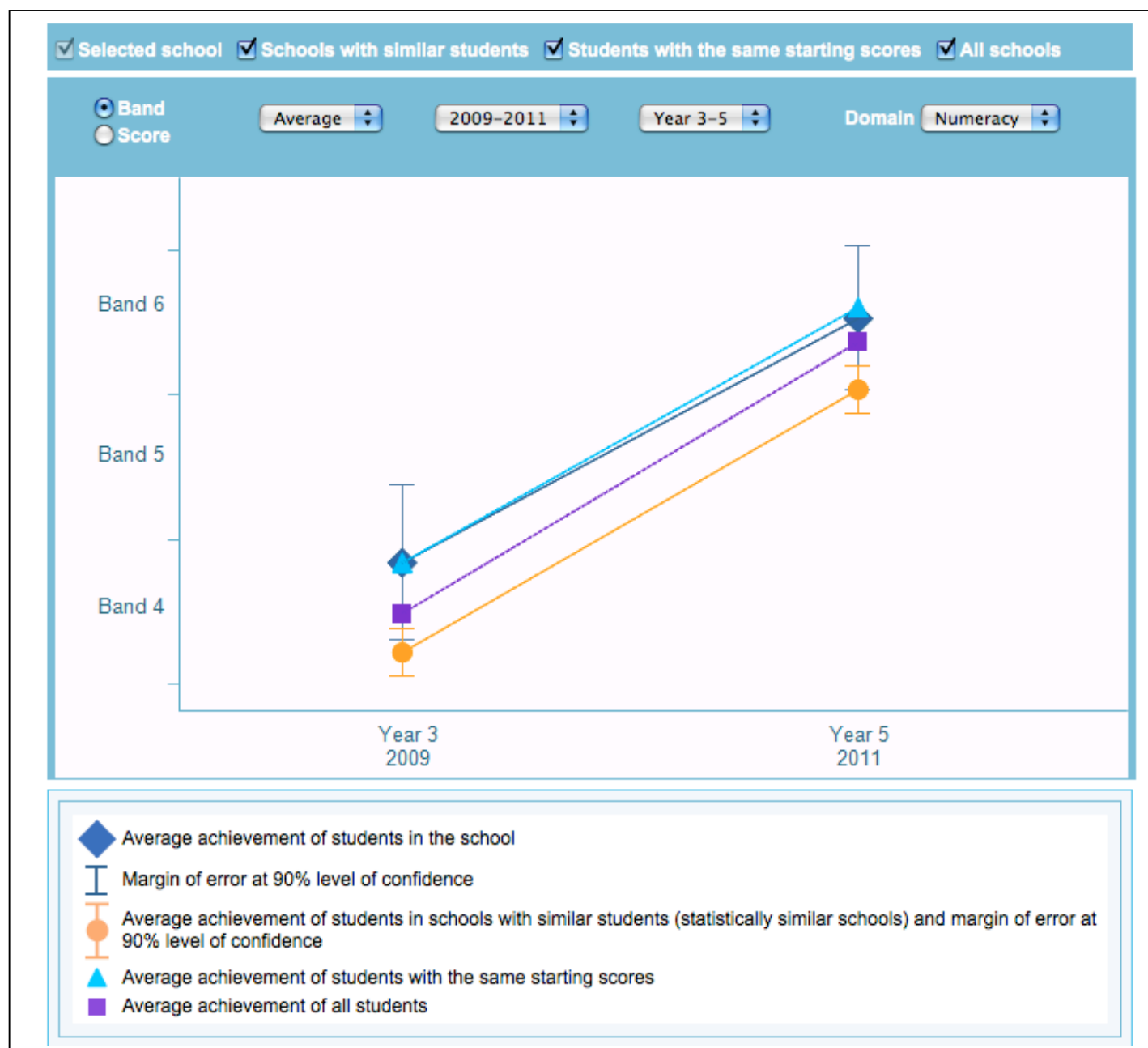
	2008 WRITING	2009 WRITING	2010 WRITING	2011 WRITING	2008 NUMERACY	2009 NUMERACY	2010 NUMERACY	2011 NUMERACY
GRADE 3	100%	100%	100%	100%	93%	100%	97%	96%
GRADE 5	100%	88%	96%	100%	100%	96%	93%	100%

	2008 SPELLING	2009 SPELLING	2010 SPELLING	2011 SPELLING
GRADE 3	93%	100%	100%	89%
GRADE 5	90%	96%	93%	100%

Grade 3 to 5 Gains

See diagrams below.





STAFF

STAFF NUMBERS

No of 1.0 FTE Teaching Staff	No of Part-time Teaching Staff	No of Ancillary Staff
8	6	14

TEACHING STAFF QUALIFICATIONS

Masters	Degrees - 5 yrs	Degree - 4 yrs	Degree/Diploma <4 yr
1	2	10	1

NON-INDIGENOUS TEACHERS 100%

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Professional learning for staff in 2011 commenced in Week 0 and was a regular part of the meeting and learning schedule throughout the year. It reflected the system's and school's priorities and individual needs and included: Myers Briggs with St Margaret Henderson, MJR with Peter Mitchell, Presentation Schools Conference in Perth WA, Empower Me Conference - Gifted and Talented Conference, World Youth Day in Spain, OH&S workshops, Godly Play, Asthmas Awareness, First Aide, Australian Curriculum, Network meetings for; Aboriginal Education, ICT Special Learning Needs, Library, Assistant Principals, the Principal and Grade clusters, Kidsmatter and Circle Time PL, ICT - including iPads, Induction of New Employees, Autism Spectrum Disorders, Beginnings in Religious Education, Rainbows, Letters and Sounds and Spelling Mastery, Spelling and Handwriting.

AVERAGE EXPENDITURE ON PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR TEACHERS

Outlay of an average of at least \$970.00 per teacher.

PLUS - Some PL including Australian Curriculum, Rainbows, Kidsmatter and ICT workshops were conducted on site utilising TCEO expertise and were cost neutral.

- For some other courses relief teaching was covered internally and therefore course cost was the only outlay.

Ancillary staff were also involved in ongoing professional learning.

CAPITAL WORKS

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

St Brigid's Catholic School is set on 3-hectares of land bordered by Montagu Street and the Derwent River in New Norfolk. New Norfolk is a semi-rural town 35 kilometres northwest of Hobart, with a population of approximately 9000.

The configuration of the St Brigid's Catholic School site is elongated and land includes areas zoned as flood plain. The layout of the school has therefore been somewhat restricted by suitable accessible, flat land.

CAPITAL WORKS IN 2011

Mid 2011, saw the completion of two years of major capital works made possible through the Australian Government's stimulus package - Building the Educational Revolution or BER program, The Australian Government's PRIDE in our Schools program which provided funds to establish double netball courts on river flats below this main school site and supported the installing of wireless technology throughout the school and in 2011 itself, a Tasmanian Government Grant.

All new facilities and redeveloped facilities have been developed in response to contemporary and collaborative rationale for learning and teaching. Spaces have been created that are flexible, aesthetically appealing, open and generous. Spaces have strong connections to each other, outside areas and the school site

YEAR	PROJECT	SCOPE
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January to April 2011	Kinder/Prep Block and Grade 5/6 Block	\$305,000 for: * Extension and redevelopment of Kindergarten and Prep block * Extension and redevelopment of Grade 5/6 block * Refurbishment of the multipurpose room and TA / support area
June 2011	Painting	* External painting - seating, poles. * Painting of upstairs in Cill Dara * Maintenance painting around the school
Throughout the year	Student Garden Project	* Responsibility of the Student Parliament - especially the Minister for the Environment * Water tank and garden beds. * Additional beds in Kinder playground
Throughout the year	Seating	* Additional seating was placed around the school

CATHOLIC LIFE AND MISSION

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, SPIRITUALITY AND LITURGIES AND CELEBRATIONS

At St Brigid's Catholic School our Religious Education Program is seen as the most important aspect of the School and permeates the culture of the School Community. Unfortunately the Central Tasmanian Parish did not have a resident priest during 2011 but the school received considerable support from visiting priests and in the later part of the year, Father Mike Delaney. Religious Education was lead by our Assistant to the Principal – Religious Education and 'Good News for Living', continued as the core document used by teachers in Religious Education learning and teaching. In 2011 Making Jesus Real was again a major focus for the Grade 6 class and St Brigid's hosted a gathering of teachers from around Australia at an MJR conference facilitated by Peter Mitchell. The teachings in this program underpinned learning and the development of positive relationships and skills for our student leaders - the Grade 6 students.

As a Catholic School we celebrated as a prayer community at various events including Ash Wednesday, Lent and Holy Week, our Beginning of the Year Mass Commissioning Service, St Patrick's Day Celebration, Lent and Holy Week liturgies, Mothers Day Catholic, Catholic Education Week events and celebrations, the Assumption Mass, Presentation Day Mass and Morning Tea, Remembrance Day, the Blessing of our Advent Wreaths and our End of Year Thanksgiving Mass. Students attended the Project Compassion Launch, Nano Nagle Mass at the Cathedral for St Mary's College Feast Day and St Virgil's College's Edmund Rice Mass. Grade 6s remembered and celebrated their journey through primary school at the regional Grade 6 Leavers Mass and the St Brigid's Catholic School Grade 6 Graduation Mass.

Celebrations highlights included the extremely well attended Fathers Day barbecue, games time and assembly, when many special men and their children joined together for a focus on 'Dad' and 150 + guests attended the assembly. At the Presentation Mass in November, Presentations Sisters and parishioners were

our guests at Mass and morning tea. Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist were celebrated on September 4 at St Peter's Church and were followed by a morning tea in the Presentation Centre. This celebration provided the community with the opportunity to present Archbishop Adrian with a 75th birthday present and retirement gift from the Parish.

THE SCHOOL IN THE LIFE OF THE PARISH

Sacramental programs are parish based. Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation were celebrated as parish events with parent, child, teacher and parish involvement.

Throughout the year students attended Parish Masses and parishioners were invited to school liturgical celebrations. A focus event was a Parish Healing Mass and luncheon which was attended by a group of senior students.

Sr Janet Sexton continued to be a great asset to our community as a colleague, a pastoral worker and a very regular attendee and supporter of all our school events.

OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The emphasis for 2011 within our Annual Plan for Catholic Culture and Ethos was to strengthen further the place of St Brigid's Catholic School as an integral part of the Central Tasmanian Parish through liturgical celebration, relationship building, evangelisation and support for families. And to forge stronger links with the local community through engagement and promotion and to engage in outreach programs which offer community service and support to others.

The Parish Community were invited to all our liturgical celebrations, our students attended special Parish Masses.

Outreach included support for community events and fundraising for Caritas, Horn of Africa Appeal, Queensland flood victims, Legacy, Pink Ribbon Day, The Archbishop's Samaritan Fund, October fundraising for Missions. Our families were very generous in their support for fund raising and the students enthusiastic and proud of their efforts. Funds raised for the Queensland flood victims were actually delivered to Our Lady Of Lourdes School in Queensland by travelling Grade 6 teacher Mrs Mary-Anne Ford. Students were able to have contact with the children at the flood affected school and find out first hand of their experiences.

St Brigid's School students were involved in community events, including The Royal Hobart Show, The Derwent Valley Autumn Festival - where they gained first prize in the banner competition, Carols by Candlelight and had representation at the New Norfolk Anzac Day parade. As a school community we applied for and received a Derwent Valley Council Community Grant of \$500 to support the purchase of a table with seating for the playground.

Part of our involvement with the broader community is welcoming work experience students on to our site. In 2011 we had students from Dominic College spend time with classes and gain a hands on first look at teaching as a career option. We also had a work experience student undertaking Disability Teacher Assistant Certificate 4 complete a placement at St Brigid's.

Contact with our Catholic colleges as a process to supporting the orientation and transitioning of our students to secondary school included programs for Grade 5 in secondary schools, Dominic and St Virgil's, and orientation and transition for Grade 6 students.

OUR LEARNING COMMUNITY

CURRICULUM

Teaching and learning is always the main focus for our organisation. During 2011 many programs were consolidated and the major focus for all teachers was the gradual adoption and utilisation of the Australian Curriculum in the areas of English, Mathematics, Science and Maths. A very visible aspect in classroom programming and operation was greater collaborative planning and learning across class clusters. This was strongly supported by the physical layout of classrooms and the willingness of teachers to plan, work and support learning together. Significant purchases throughout 2011 included computers and iPads, a new piano and ongoing commitment to new literacy and numeracy resources. Social and Emotional learning was a major focus in 2011. Kidsmatter and Circle time PI continued, the Bounce Back program was purchased to support social and emotional learning in the early years and You Can Do It and MJR continued to be foci in the Primary years. ICT hardware and learning options continued to expand and diversify incredibly. Catholic Education Week and Book Week were celebrated with special learning programs.

PERFORMANCE TIME - 'WHAT ABOUT ME' - OCTOBER - A celebration of Performing Arts - Drama, Singing and Dance. In October students staged the performance 'What About Me' which was written and directed by St Brigid's teacher Mr Marty Ogle. Costuming, staging, lighting, acting, singing and dancing engaged many students in a fun and enriching experience which was greatly enjoyed by an appreciative audience.

EXTRA CURRICULA SUBJECTS

At St Brigid's Catholic School in 2011 we offered the extra curricula subjects Choir, Music, Drama, Dance and Physical Education.

The School choir led singing at our liturgical celebrations and always received high praise. Our students were very eager to attend their weekly Drama, Dance and Music lessons.

Physical Education and sports are an integral part of the school culture. Students participated enthusiastically in our sporting carnivals throughout the year - Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country and represented our school at the Southern Catholic Primary Carnivals. Senior students were involved in football and netball games with other schools during Term 2. A cross country team ventured to Symmons Plains for the Tasmanian Primary Schools Cross Country Carnival and students participated in two Hobart fun runs. All children Prep to Grade 6 participated in a one week swimming program in Term 3.

Local excursions and excursions to destinations outside the New Norfolk area and also camps were part of our learning and teaching program. Molesworth Environmental Centre excursions for all classes and a series of trips to the PCYC at Bridgewater for primary students which focused on team building and the development of cooperation, trust and thinking skills, were highlights for our students.

Excursions and camps included trips to the Tasmanian Museum, Royal Hobart Hospital, Farm excursions, the Botanical Gardens, the Royal Hobart Show and Christmas pantomime. Grade 3 enjoyed a long day excursion to Port Arthur and Grade 5 ventured to Launceston. Grade 4 had a two-night camp at The Lea and visited various sites, and for Grade 5 and 6 the excitement of a wonderful trip to Canberra. Our special learning needs students were involved in the Special Olympics Day and excursions with students from other

schools. Grade 6 went to surf school and Grade 5 & 6 challenged St Cuthbert's for the Presentation Cup - a day of quizzing, sport and fun.

Incursions covered many areas of learning including well-being, sport and theatre: The Family Life program, Cinderella performance, Milo Cricket Clinics, photography workshop, New Norfolk High Concert Band performance and MJR days were included on class agendas. Other fun events were the Times-table-a-thon and Footy Colours day.

Student Leadership with the School Council and MJR as foci continued as an important component of schooling for senior students. Sports leaders, school councillors and the St Brigid's Catholic School Student Parliament provided opportunities for involvement, a student voice and the development of leadership skills. The student gardens were a large focus for the Environmental Committee within the 2011 Student Parliament.

TARGETED PROGRAMS

Students with disabilities and funded students were supported via 1:1 and small target group learning. Included were numeracy and literacy, motor skills, speech and life skills programs. Students from aged 7 requiring Literacy support were placed on the MultiLit program. Differentiation within the classroom and in small group learning teams supported and enriched learning program for higher achievers. Learning support was provided in all classes through the utilisation of Teacher Assistants, Parent Help and one part-time teacher. A whole school testing program and screen testing were conducted in October. Along with PIPS, NAPLAN and Numeracy Interviews, they provided data to assist with identifying students learning needs, trends in classroom learning and whole school learning.

Transition programs for SWD and orientation programs for Kindergarten students were conducted.

For students who have experienced grief through death, divorce or separation the Rainbows program, conducted in Term 2 and 3 offered the opportunity for learning and support.

COMMUNITY LEARNING

Parents were involved in learning sessions throughout the year eg the well attended 'Strong Partnerships Between School and Home evening, MultiLit and Family Life information session. Class information sessions, a New Parent Orientation Evening and Parent-Child sessions were a part of the annual program.

From March until October the Parent Child playgroup for children 0 to 4 ran for an hour and a half on a Friday morning. This program was staffed by our Kindergarten teacher and largely self-funded. Up to thirty participants, parents and children shared play and social time together and this formed a natural transition for many children enrolled for the 2012 Kindergarten into the Parent Child pre Kinder sessions which were held in the latter half of Term 3.

THE PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

As well as parents, carers and friends being involved in educational programs at the school, a core of parents contribute greatly to fund raising efforts which support projects within the school. 2011 saw funds allocated to purchasing 20 iPads for student use. Major events for the P&F were fund raising chocolates, raffles, special days for students eg barbecues, Milkshake Day, student events eg Sock Dance and Halloween Social and the successful November School Fair.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOALS FOR 2011

The School Improvement goals for 2011 were derived from the St Brigid's Catholic School Strategic Plan 2010 - 2014. For all targeted goals, a variety of actions had been undertaken by December 2011 and many success indicators were in evidence.

CATHOLIC CULTURE AND ETHOS

COMMUNITY

- i) To strengthen further the place of St Brigid's Catholic School as an integral part of the Central Tasmanian Parish through liturgical celebration, relationship building, evangelisation and support for families.
- ii) To forge stronger links with the local community through engagement and promotion and to engage in outreach programs which offer community service and support to others.

STUDENT LEARNING AND ACHIEVEMENT

LEARNING SUPPORT

To strengthen the home school partnership and the role parents/carers play in student learning by broadening the contact of parents with the school through day to day involvement, parent learning and communication.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

PARENT/SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

To forge strong parent/school partnerships which are based on respect, trust and a commitment to students and which celebrate and promote the good of our school community.

CURRICULUM AND PEDAGOGY

LEARNING AND TEACHING PROGRAMS

To further develop learning teams and collaborative planning structures which utilise the emerging Australian Curriculum, K to 6 scope and sequences and use authentic data to drive planning for learning pathways and emphasise educational excellence for every student.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- (i) To ensure that the Good News for Living is central to Religious Education planning and learning, is supported by professional learning and dialogue and that there is a focus on pedagogy and thinking.
- (ii) To grow the school's role as an integral member of the Parish community through welcome, word, wisdom and worship.

LEADERSHIP

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

To foster leadership structures which build the capacity of staff to be educational leaders, promote distributive leadership, build staff teams and advance professional relationships with the Northern cluster of Catholic schools.

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ST BRIGID'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEW NORFOLK

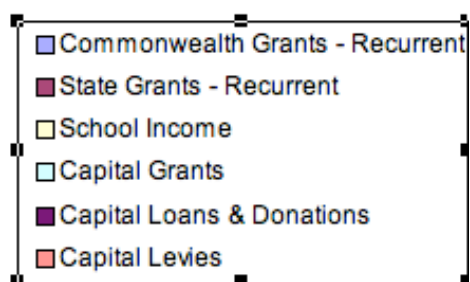
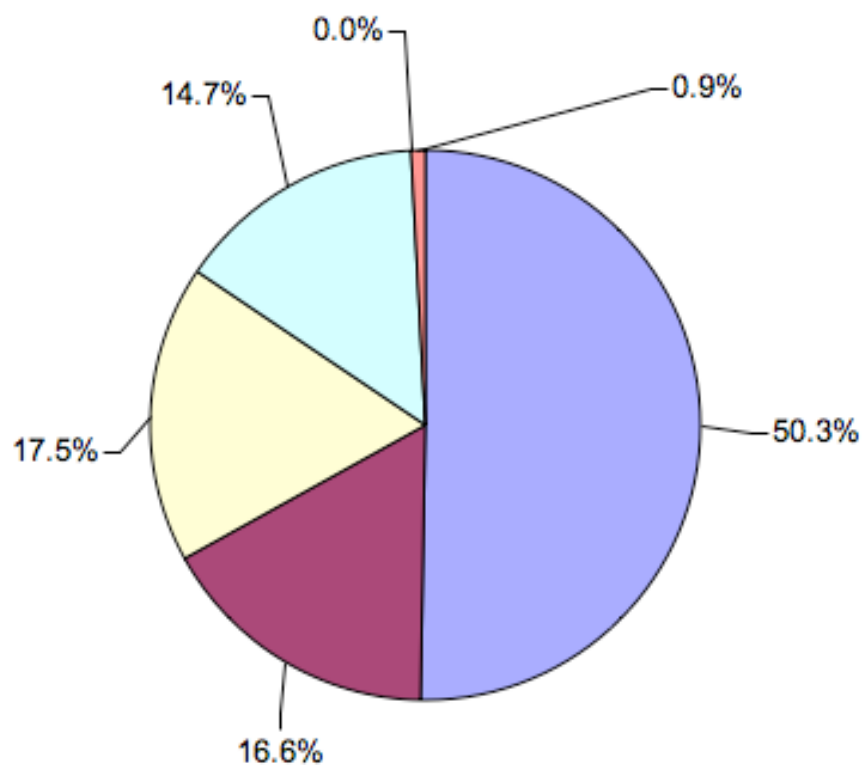
SOURCES OF INCOME 2011

Total Income \$2.3 million

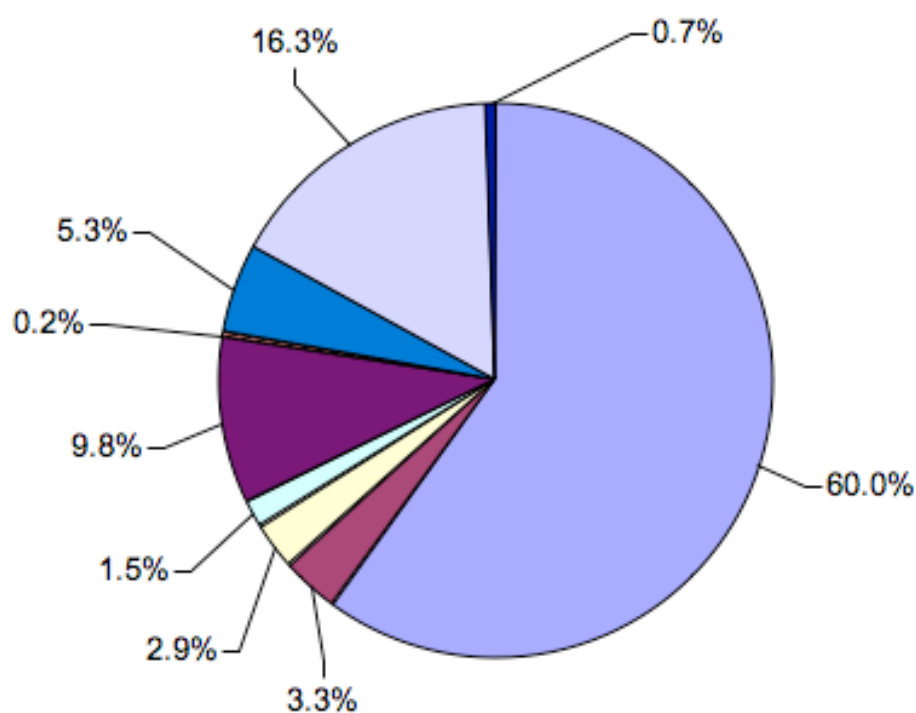
(Ms) Joy Matar

PRINCIPAL

DATE 12 April 2012



ST BRIGID'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEW NORFOLK EXPENDITURE 2011



FINANCIAL INFORMATION from the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office