

ST FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

I am pleased to provide an overview of the 2007-year at St Francis Xavier. The school enrolment remains stable at 370 students. The 2006 - 2010 School Improvement Plan is in place and the 2007 component of the plan was successfully implemented. The annual plan concentrated on enriching and improving the Religious Education program in the school, continuing the full implementation of the Victorian Essential Learning Standards focusing on improving Literacy and Numeracy, developing student social skills, strengthening staff performance and ensuring a strong relationship with the school parent body.

I am proud of the academic standards reached by students at the school. In the 2007 state-wide testing carried out in Victoria at Year 3 and 5 levels, St Francis Xavier students performed well. No one test can give a complete picture of a child's learning, however, the *Achievement Improvement Monitor* (AIM) is one indicator, which tests a significant cohort of 59,000 students in Victoria. On that test students at St Francis Xavier performed on average above the average of all other Catholic schools in Victoria and above the average of state school students in *all* 10 areas of Reading, Writing, Spelling, Number and Mathematics at *both* Year 3 and Year 5. This is a great achievement for our students and our teachers.

Academic standards are paramount but they are not everything. Students have participated in a comprehensive range of extra curricular activities, which enhance student enjoyment of school, develop extra skills, consolidate on skills as well as build confidence, self-esteem, independence and teamwork.

The sacraments of Eucharist, Reconciliation and Eucharist were celebrated with students and family support. Staff members worked towards making these celebrations meaningful in the children's lives.

Attitudinal data was collected by surveying parents, students and staff on their level of satisfaction with the school. There has been a concentrated effort on putting plans in place to improve all levels of performance at the school i.e. there is a culture of continual improvement.

There has been a strengthening of the role of the Leadership Team, which is serving to raise the professional standards.

The annual school concert was again a highlight of the year.

It is planned that the new school building comprising five classrooms a library and a toilet block will be completed and ready to move into for the beginning of the 2009 school year.

My thanks go to the friars who are always there to support the school. I thank Fr Anthony, Fr Bob and Fr Ben for their continued support.

Carmel M Purdey, Principal