Principal’s Message…

2007 was another successful year for Prescott Primary Southern.

The theme for the year was “Reach Out” and children were encouraged to reach out in many areas of their lives. This involved reaching up to God, reaching out to others and reaching within to achieve their personal best.

As a learning community children were supported in reaching out to each other in a caring and positive manner. The children continued throughout the school year to implement safe school practices and were provided with ongoing education in the area of social skill development as well as being assisted in accepting themselves as a unique and special individual with their own set of abilities. Students were also encouraged to look beyond themselves to the wider community and develop ways for making a difference for others.

The school council has continued its work in providing direction and guidance for the school community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gary Whyatt for his service to the school over the past seven years as council member and chairperson. His contribution has been greatly appreciated.

Our building program proceeded according to plan and we officially opened the new classroom in October 2007.

The school staff are to be commended for their commitment to the programs and the development of the students as learners within the school. I would like to thank them for their ongoing support and commitment to the school. Teachers are a significant influence on the outcomes of student’s education and it is great to have a team of professionals who are committed to making a difference for the children in their care.

As we reflect on 2007 we can look back and thank God for His ongoing love and support. As we face the future my prayer is that God will continue to bless our school community as we work together for the good of the children who are part of Prescott Primary Southern.

Mrs Christine Clark

Chairman’s Report…

It has been an absolute pleasure over the past 7 years to contribute in just a small way to the administration and governance of Prescott Primary, the last four years as School Council Chairperson.

It has been exciting to watch the progress the School has made during this time. To think that it was just 7 short years ago that I witnessed the installation of the PVC blinds in the colonnade, the removal of the old toilet block, the construction of the tennis court and the installation of the sunshade cover over the playground. I can recall back in year 2000, we had an enrolment of 177 students and an operating budget of approximately $750,000. In 2007 we had an enrolment of 229 and an operating budget of $1.73m. In 2000 we had no international students; in 2007 we had 15 international students attending our School from South Korea. Over this 7 year period and more so in the latter years, there have been at least 4 new classrooms built, another demountable classroom will be erected in 2008, and a further building project is scheduled for 2009.

Success and progress does not happen by chance. I would like to pay a special tribute to the Principal, Christine Clark and her very capable staff, for their clear vision they continue to offer and for promoting the distinct and defining attributes of our School. The School’s future I believe is in excellent hands.

As parents, students, teachers and support staff - you can all be very proud of our school and what it stands for; the first-rate education program it offers and the tremendous reputation it continues to have in our local community.

Many years from now, I trust that each student will return to this place to recall a feeling that filled their lives, intensified their sensibilities and gave them a way to contribute to the forward movement of society. I hope that as they retrace their steps here, they will have the satisfaction of knowing how privileged they were at attending Prescott Primary.

I wish Prescott Primary Southern every success for the future.

Mr Gary Whyatt
**School Profile**

Prescott Primary Southern serves the community in Southern Adelaide and is a coeducational school with students from Reception to Year 7. The school was founded in 1978.

**Student Data**

**Enrolments – July Census 2007**

![Enrolments Chart]

**Student Attendance**

In 2007 the average student attendance rate was 96.5%.

**Student Leadership**

Students had the opportunity to be involved in a range of activities involving leadership within the school community.

Peer Mediation by the Grade 7 students provided support to younger students in the school during the playtime. The Buddy system provided new children in junior years a person who could help them as they developed their own friendships.

Students from Grade 3 – 7 were selected to form part of our Student Representative Council. Under the leadership of Mrs Wendy O’Sullivan the children provided suggestions for various changes to the school as well as lead out in fundraisers for the community.

Class captains from the Grade 7 class had the opportunity to attend the Young Leaders Day where people who have achieved well in spite of adversity shared with them the beliefs they saw as significant for their personal success.

**Staffing**

**Qualifications and Attendance**

In 2007 the school had 15 teachers employed either in a full time or part time capacity making a total FTE of 12.1

Of the teaching staff:
- 12 had a Bachelor of Education or a Bachelor Degree plus Dip Ed
- 1 had an additional Graduate Diploma or Certificate
- 3 had additional Masters Degree
- Teaching experience ranged from 0-25 years with an average of about 8 years
- 79% of staff will be retained for 2008
- Attendance rate for teachers averaged 96%

The end of 2007 saw Mrs Lisa Lambourne and Mr David Warman take up other roles in teaching. Mrs Renee Possingham and Mrs Nicole Newbold took maternity leave from Term 3. We thank them for their contribution to Prescott during their time with us and wish them well for the future.

**Professional Learning**

Throughout the year staff within the school were involved in activities designed to develop their skill and understanding of education and develop strategies to improve overall school performance and associated student outcomes. Professional Development activities undertaken by staff included:

**External Workshops**
- Clay Animation
- Supporting Students with Special Needs
- Early Years Literacy Teaching Writers
- Neuroscience for Kids
- Eat Well Be Active
- Restorative Practice and Peace Building in Schools
- Teaching Strategies Asperger’s Syndrome
- Building Social and Emotional Competencies in the Early Years

**Staff Meeting Inservices**
- Behaviour Learning Theory and Practice
- Clay Animation
- Boys Education

School Visits
- 2 staff members were involved in visits to others schools for the purpose of observation

Key Teacher Programs
Staff attended the following professional development opportunities in their role as coordinators within the school:
- Indigenous Studies
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Special Needs
- Targeted Programs Day

There was an average of 2 Key Teacher days per year in each learning area as well as a Targeted Programs Day when leaders within the school gained information on funding for the following year and possible projects for implementation.

Professional Readings
Staff have access to a range of publications to assist them in gaining knowledge of recent developments in various aspects of education. These are housed in the school library.

A total of $9531 of school operating monies was spent throughout the year on professional learning. In addition to this various grant funds were also used for professional development.

Parent and Caregiver Involvement

The School Council meets each term to determine overall policy, direction and monitor school finances.

The following Reference Committees meet each term and make recommendations to the School Council on various matters. Committees for 2007 included:
- Fundraising
- Library
- Occupational Health and Welfare
- Out of School Hours Care
- Property
- Gifted and Talented

The Fundraising activities for 2007 included Mother and Father’s Day stalls, Chocolate Drive, Flowering Bulb Drive, Fundraising lunches, Entertainment Books and School Concert.

Prescott Primary Southern is fortunate to have a positive level of parent involvement within the school community. Parents are involved in a range of activities including listening to children read in the junior primary classes, working in the school library, assisting children with individual work and participation in school camps and excursions.

The willingness for parents and carers to be involved contributes significantly to the program we are able to offer at Prescott Southern.
Finance and Property Report

Overview

2007 was a positive year for the school financially with the school generating a small surplus by the close of the year. A balanced budget is projected for 2008.

School Facilities

2007 saw the construction of a new classroom. The classroom was funded through the Block Grant Authority and church loan.

Income

Fees
The basic fee structure remained unchanged from the previous year. Parents continued to take up the various electronic options for fee payments as well as through Centrepay.

The tuition fee recovery rate for 2007 was 98% with our debt for unpaid fees increasing by $8,000.

Operating Income

The following pie chart shows an overall summary of the sources of income received in 2006. A total of $1,728,282 was received for operating expenses.

Grants

Each year the school receives Special Projects Grants through making application to various government departments for funding. A total of $120,835 was received in 2007. The following graph shows the sources of grants received for 2007.

Fundraising Committee

This year was a very busy one for the Fundraising Committee as they worked towards raising funds. Digital cameras were purchased for each of the classrooms for use by students and teachers. Playground activities were added to, with the quadrangle being marked with a range of games and a large chess set being purchased for use at lunch times. A further contribution was made to the renovations of classrooms 3 & 4 as well as money being set aside for the purchase of an Integrative Whiteboard in 2008. The Kids Kanteen raised a total of $3100 towards this project. The committee raised a total of $13,610 in 2007.
Expenditure

Recurrent Expenditure

The School’s major recurrent expenditure in 2007 related to salary payments and allowances.

2007 was a challenging and busy year but the financial results were very satisfying. We are confident that we will again be in a favourable financial position by the end of 2008.

Operating Expenditure 2007

Student Progress and Achievements

Teaching and Learning

Once again the area of teaching and learning has been dynamic for Prescott Southern in 2007. The staff have worked together to ensure the development of all students in their academic development.

All staff have continued to implement the differentiated curriculum based on the Australian Union Conference and SA Curriculum Frameworks.

Significant grant monies were spent this year on the purchase of reading books and resources for classroom guided reading sessions.

This year all classes participated in a whole school Social Skills program “Friendly Schools and Families” focusing on the development of positive self esteem as well giving children strategies to use in the case of bullying within the school. The whole school approach meant that all children were being taught similar ways to maintain their feeling of being safe within the school.

Meeting the Needs of All Students

Learning Links once again continued to provide support for those children who required modifications to the regular curriculum and were given assistance by the Special Needs Teacher or School Support Officers. Rainbow Reading was offered to groups of children over the year.

Irlen Screening was provided to those students who appeared to show characteristics of Irlen syndrome and then were referred on for formal assessment as required. This enabled a number of children to be fitted with coloured glasses to assist them in their learning.

The SCAN C Assessment was given to a range of children in the school and as a result children were placed on the Listening Program. This is an auditory re-training program that assists children in developing their auditory processing skills.
Gateways continued to provide enrichment for a number of children in a range of curriculum areas. The school submitted 2 teams in Tournament of Minds and 3 teams in World of Trivia. Children in the junior and middle years had the opportunity to be involved in enrichment classes on a weekly basis.

Indigenous students once again received support in their area of need. The funds also enabled the school to purchase resources for the school to assist students in a greater understanding of Indigenous perspectives across a range of subject areas. A particular area of focus for 2007 was music and we purchased a number of musical instruments with grant moneys.

Expanded Learning Opportunities

Children continued to have the opportunity to engage in a range of activities outside of the classroom. Excursions were offered across the grades. Places visited included:

- Namu farm
- Urimbirra Wildlife Park
- Road Safety School
- Victor Harbour
- Museum
- Warrawong Wildlife Park
- Mt Gambier

Physical education opportunities included clinics being taught every week to instruct the children in a range of skills. Sports covered included:

- A learn to swim program which was offered in Term 1 with children in Reception to 5 participating at the Noarlunga Aquatic Centre.
- Children in Grades 6 & 7 participating in a range of Aquatics programs at the beach.
- Netball
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Tennis
- Football

In the Arts area students participated in the Annual Concert performance “Big Bad Wolf and Curly Pig”. Students were involved in this activity as part of their Music class and challenged all to look at the traditional tale of the Three Little Pigs from a different perspective.

The opportunity was available for children to be involved in Wakakirri, their performance winning the State finals in Division 2. This was an extra-curricular activity and involved 65 children from various grades.

The Senior Choir performed at the Junior Heads Association Music Festival at the Adelaide Town Hall, the Official Opening of Classroom 8 as well as at the Year 7 Graduation Program.

The Junior Choir performed at senior citizens homes and lead the performance for the Carols on the Lawn.

Student Welfare

This year has seen the ongoing implementation of a new Behaviour Learning Policy based on restorative practices. Restorative practices focus on the development of positive relationships and ways in which damaged relationships can be restored in a non-judgmental manner. They specifically focus on the behaviour and incidents without blaming and draws attention to ways that relationships can be restored. This approach has impacted on the way teachers deal with any conflict situation within the school. Professional Development in this area has assisted staff in better understanding the process and the importance of teaching children the skills to ensure ongoing positive behaviour change.

Student Achievement

The school uses a range of assessment strategies at various times throughout the school year. These include teacher observation, school-based assessments, standardized assessments, projects and presentations. The school also participates in Western Australian Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (WALNA) in Term 3. Information on student progress is communicated on a regular basis, with parents being invited for parent teacher interviews.

WALNA

The Commonwealth Government sets minimum desirable standards for reading, writing and numeracy at particular ages. These are referred to as national benchmarks.
Student performance in the Basic Skills Tests in our school is compared to these benchmarks. The percentages of our students achieving at or above these benchmarks are reported below.

There were 35 Grade 3, 20 Grade 5 and 24 Grade 7 students who were eligible to sit the WALNA in 2007. These numbers include children who did not sit the test but were withdrawn by their parents due to the child requiring a specialised curriculum. These children are shown as failing the benchmark. The following graphs show the learning gains for the various grades incorporating all children. The percentage of special needs students has been listed for your information.

Grade 3

- 23% of children were Commonwealth Funded Special Needs.

Grade 5

- 10% of children were Commonwealth Funded Special Needs.

Overall School Satisfaction

In 2007 the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about their satisfaction with our school.

Student

A survey of students in Grades 4-7 showed an overall level of satisfaction. The following points were agreed upon by 80+% of students.

- Teachers encourage me to reach my full potential
- Teachers consider my individual educational needs
- Sport programs encourage me to participate
- Students with learning difficulties get appropriate support
- There is an adequate gifted and talented program in place
- I feel included in my community
- Leadership skills are encouraged and developed in students
- Teachers reflect the Christian ethos of the school
- Teachers are approachable
- Office staff are friendly and helpful
- My parents feel welcome at the school
- Classroom discipline is usually fair
- Teachers encourage me in my personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- Staff have a positive and professional attitude towards their work.
- I respect the support staff of the school
- I wear my uniform with pride

Parent

A survey of parents showed a range of areas where 80+% of parents who completed the survey were pleased with the school program.

- English program
- Maths Program
- Learning Support Programs
Staff
A survey of staff showed a range of areas where 80+% of staff were satisfied within the school environment

Teachers are encouraged to grow professionally
Students are encouraged to achieve high academically
I am satisfied with my school experience at Prescott
Students relate well to teachers
Communication with administration is clear and concise
School grounds reflect the professional standard of the school
Progressive teaching strategies are used

Future Directions for the School

The following are the goals were chosen for 2008 as part of our Strategic Management Plan.

1. Promote and celebrate the Christian character of the school in the local and wider community.
2. Develop and implement strategies to assist students to be of service to those in need in the community.
3. Continue with the systematic implementation of a differentiated curriculum
4. Further support the development of the skills of classroom teachers in identification of the learning styles of all students and appropriate teaching strategies.
5. Develop shared understanding with parents, staff and students about the ethical use of information technology in learning and teaching.
6. Continue to develop and evaluate the outcomes of the Physical education and Health program and support students in their social learning.
7. Continue to develop effective and timely two-way communication with parents about student’s progress, attitudes and behaviours.
8. Continue to provide access to professional counselling and other appropriate support for students experiencing loss, grief, separation or other personal issues.
9. Continue with an induction and orientation for those new to the school community.
10. Continue to adopt ways to include and encourage volunteers within the school.
11. Continue to utilise technologies which link the school to the local, national and global communities.
12. Find further ways for the school to link with other schools in the surrounding area.
13. Develop an Information and Computer Technology master plan for the provision, maintenance and upgrade of all school technology.
14. Contribute to the development and implementation of a site, facilities and financial master plan for Prescott Southern that ensures the long term viability of the school and explores the possibility of R-12 provision on the site.