Prescott Primary
Southern Annual Report
2008
Annual Report 2008

Prescott Primary Southern is an independent coeducational Adventist Christian school with an enrolment in 2008 of 229 students. The school is set in spacious grounds in the southern suburbs of Adelaide.

The Annual School Report provides the school community with fair, reliable and objective information about school performance measures and policies, in accordance with the Federal Government requirement to publish information about school performance. The Report also outlines information about initiatives and developments of major interest and importance to the school community during the year and the achievements arising from the implementation of the School’s Strategic Management Plan.

The Report will be available on the school’s website by 30 June 2009. Further information about the school or this report may be obtained by contacting the school.

Principal’s Message…

2008 was an exciting and fulfilling year for Prescott Primary Southern.

The importance of values based living has been central to the program at Prescott Southern in 2008. Children have been supported to recognise their own intrinsic worth as well as see the importance of integrity and the need for peace and justice in our world. The everyday life of the school has seen children working hard to further their knowledge and developing their skills to relate to the world around them.

The School Council and the various Reference Committees have continued to provide leadership in the administration of the school. The willingness of parents to be involved at this level is greatly appreciated. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of Sean Carroll in his leadership of the school Council in 2008. His commitment and leadership provided a direction that enabled further developments both educationally as well as in facility improvements.

The new transportable provided an opportunity to extend the enrolments of the school and provided much needed space within the school. Planning continues to progress for the construction of additional permanent classrooms in the new year.

Many volunteering hours have been put into the school over the year with parents and friends giving of their time in a variety of activities aimed to support children in their learning. Volunteers have contributed and supported the school as classroom helpers, excursion assistants, sporting events helpers, and fundraiser lunch helpers. We are very thankful for the sense of community we enjoy and the commitment of volunteers within our school.

As an Adventist Christian school, Prescott teaches Christian values and nurtures within the students the concept of faith, responsible citizenship and service to the wider community. We have been blessed again this year and as we face 2009 we look forward to God’s continued presence in our school.

Mrs Christine Clark
Chairman’s Report…

On behalf of the Prescott Primary Southern School Council, I have the privilege of presenting to you the 2008 Annual Report, and I would like to thank my fellow council members for their contribution throughout 2008.

It would be remiss of me to not acknowledge the contribution of our immediate past Chair, Mr Gary Whyatt. For the past 7 years Gary has shown a tireless dedication to our school and in conjunction with our Principal, Christine Clarke, and her staff, they have played a significant part in shaping our school into the successful place that it is today. We wish Garry the very best in his future pursuits.

We can be proud that Prescott Southern delivers an excellent education program that caters to the needs of each of our children as individuals. I say this because it is recognised by our peers, our local community and at an international level. This however does not exempt us from the pressures faced by many independent schools, and as a community we need your continued support.

As our government struggles to deal with the impact of the global financial crisis I cannot stress enough the importance of maintaining, if not increasing, independent school funding for both recurrent and capital works. This funding is critical to the survival of our schools, and our efforts to keep fees at an affordable level. Parents, your support when called upon is vital.

Moving forward Prescott Southern is constantly striving to achieve its Strategic and Master Plan –

- A new transportable classroom was delivered in 2008 to accommodate a new class of Receptions.
- Interactive whiteboards installed in classrooms 6 & 7, with another in classroom 5 to be installed by the commencement of 2009.
- The relocation of 2 transportable buildings to make way for the construction of two new permanent classrooms in 2009.
- Construction of an undercover play area due to be completed by the commencement of 2009.
- Reading books and additional computers have also been purchased to provide for the growing needs of our school.

However, our movement forward cannot be without the God’s guidance and to Christine, and her staff, I thank you all for the dedication and enthusiasm you continue to give to our school. With this being another busy and demanding year, you are to be congratulated for the vision and direction in which you have led, and continue to lead, our school.

To the staff who are leaving us this year, we wish you a safe journey. And to the staff who are joining us in 2009 we extend our welcome. I hope that you will continue to give your time and energy to support our school as your ongoing contribution is invaluable.

Finally I would like to thank, and acknowledge, our parents who continue to entrust Prescott Southern with the education of their children. It is a significant trust that comes with a significant financial investment, one of which Council is constantly mindful of in all of its decisions and responsibilities for today, and in the future.

Sean Carroll
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 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internationa</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Enrolment: 229</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student Attendance

In 2008 the average student attendance rate was 95.5%

International Students

Prescott Primary Southern enrolled 15 Full Fee Paying overseas students in 2008.

Student Leadership

Students had the opportunity to be involved in a range of activities requiring 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

The school has a staff of 28. There are 20 teachers who work for a total of 12.2 FTE. The school Leadership Team consists of a Principal and Deputy Principal. Five teachers are specialist support teachers in the areas of Special Needs, ESL, Music/Science, Japanese and IT.

The Administrative Staff consists of three School Support Officers (Administration) FTE 1.9, and five School Support Officers (classroom support) FTE 2.3.

The average daily staff attendance rate for teachers in 2008 was 95.26%.

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
- 4 had additional Masters Degree
- Teaching experience ranged from 0-25 years with an average of about 10 years
- 99% of staff were retained for 2008

The end of 2008 saw Miss Dee Chapman and Miss Sara McLean move interstate. Sara was married in the school holidays and took up a teaching position in Tasmania. We thank them for their contribution to Prescott during their time with us and wish them well for the future.

Professional Learning

Professional learning opportunities are highly valued at Prescott. During 2008 school personnel undertook a range of professional learning activities related to improving student outcomes. These included:

- Whole staff development day on Behaviour Modifications for Special Needs students
- Whole staff training on Anaphylaxis
- First Aid Training or Updates as required
- From Assessment to Reporting
• Fun Friends Program
• Relationships First
• First step in Mathematics
• Early Learning Curriculum
• Comprehension Strategies
• Seasons for Growth
• Developing Students as Writers
• Managing Children’s extreme behaviours in the JP Classroom
• Eat Well Be Active Fit to Lead
• OHS Committee Training
• Understanding NAPLAN

**Staff Meeting In-services**
- Interpreting the NAPLAN results

**School Visits**
- 2 staff members were involved in visits to other 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
- Special Needs
- Safe Routes to Schools
- 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.

School based expenditure on professional learning in 2008 was $13,415. This is in addition to expenditure on professional learning opportunities provided through grants.

**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 2008 included:
- Fundraising
- Library
- Occupational Health and Welfare
- Out of School Hours Care
- Property
- Gifted and Talented

The Fundraising activities for 2008 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

2008 was a challenging year for the school financially with the school generating a deficit by the close of the year. This was partly due to a change in our expected level of Government Funding. A balanced budget is projected for 2009.

School Facilities

2008 saw the construction of a new transportable. The classroom was funded through a church loan. The costs involved have been included as part of our capital expenses for 2008.

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 2008 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 2008. A total of $1,860,501 was received for operating expenses.

Operating Income 2008

Grants

Each year the school receives Special Projects Grants through making application to various government departments for funding. A total of $116,843 was received in 2008. The following graph shows the sources of grants received for 2008.

School Grants 2008

Fundraising Committee

This year was a very busy one for the Fundraising Committee as they worked towards raising funds. Our main goal was to purchase as many interactive whiteboards as possible for the classrooms. The Kids Canteen raised $2948 towards this project. The committee raised a total of $16,500 in 2008. We also raised funds for a number of community projects including Jump Rope for Heart.
Expenditure

Recurrent Expenditure

The School’s major recurrent expenditure in 2008 related to salary payments and allowances.

2008 was a challenging and busy year with the financial results being in an overall deficit due to capital expenditure including the construction of a transportable classroom. We are confident that we will again be in a favourable financial position by the end of 2009.

Operating Expenditure 2008

Student Progress and Achievements

Teaching and Learning

Once again the area of teaching and learning has been dynamic for Prescott Southern in 2008. 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 SA Curriculum Frameworks and integrated Adventist Christian themes.

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.

All teachers received training in meeting the needs of the special needs child as part of their professional development for the Prescott School System CASE/CAPE Program.

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. Our students in World of Trivia achieved well with the Grade 4 students winning the State Finals, our Grade 6’s coming 2nd and our Grade 7’s coming 3rd. 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 2008 was literature and we purchased a number of books aimed at providing knowledge for children in this area.
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:

- Kangaroo Island
- Central Markets
- Museum
- Parliament House
- Riverland
- Art Gallery
- State Library
- Tailem Bend
- Monarto Zoo
- Old Tailem Town
- Aldinga Beach
- Planetarium

Physical education opportunities included clinics being taught every week to instruct the children in a range of skills. Kate Irvine, a qualified sport's coach, took the lessons each week.

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
- Gymnastics
- Lacrosse
- Broomball

Our students also took part in the Jump Rope for Heart Guinness World Record. This involved children practising their skills then joining in the jump off along with 59,000 other Australian students. The event called for tenacity and effort, which was evident by the number of children who participated.

In the Arts area students participated in the Annual Concert performance “The Knights of Prescott”. Students were involved in this activity as part of their Music class and challenged all to look at what is really important in this world.

The opportunity was available for children to be involved in Wakakirri, their performance winning silver in the State finals in Division 3. This was an extra-curricular activity and involved 85 children from various grades.

The Senior Choir performed at the Adelaide Town Hall with three of our children winning places in the string ensemble. This was an exciting opportunity for these students as they performed with groups from other schools. The choir also performed at Grandparents Day and 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

Prescott Southern has a range of programs and initiatives in place to care for the welfare of students.

The focus on school awards is an example of the commitment the school has to recognizing the good behaviour of students. Good behaviour and good effort is recognized daily through Principal’s Award and each fortnight students have the opportunity to receive an Assembly award. The students continue to enjoy this positive encouragement.

The school has policies and structures in place that support the National Safe Schools Framework. Our goal is to assist all children in ensuring they feel safe at school and know there are processes and policies in place to deal with events that cause them upset.

The employment of a school counselor, Mrs Kathryn Drillis, through the National Schools Chaplaincy Program continues to provide support to the students and families of the school on a weekly basis.

Community outreach is an important part of Pastoral Care at Prescott. This year the school supported charities through participation in Jump
Rope for Heart as well as sponsorship of our Asian Aid student. The students also made donations for Christmas hampers.

**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 NAPLAN Assessments in Term 3. Information on student progress is communicated on a regular basis, with parents being invited for parent teacher interviews.

**NAPLAN**

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 25 Grade 3, 22 Grade 5 and 19 Grade 7 students who were eligible to sit the NAPLAN in 2008. 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 percentage of Special Needs children has been outlined under each graph.

**Overall School Satisfaction**

In 2008 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 with average positive indicators being achieved 83%.

**Parent**

Our parent survey satisfaction results reflected very positively on the school. On each indicator parents reported how important they believed this aspect of the school was to them personally and then responded as to how appropriately they believed the school was performing in this area. A scale of 1-5 was used with 1 being poorly and 5 being very well.
The total average positive response was consistently high with the average rating for most areas being above 4.0 even though the respondent may not have seen the areas as important.

As a school we were able to identify areas of improvement from the survey and include them in the Strategic Management Plan.

Staff
The School staff survey produced similar results with high levels of satisfaction across a range of indicators. Once again the total average response was high with positive indicators being achieved 82% of the time.

Future Directions for the School
These goals were chosen for 2008 as part of our Strategic Management Plan.

1. Continue to provide contemporary resources for the teaching and learning of the Christian Faith Development Program.
2. Develop in students a practical response to their stewardship of the local and global environments.
3. Continue to develop the school’s outcomes-based programming and assessment and reporting.
4. Maintain procedures for monitoring the quality, effectiveness and relevance of the school’s teaching program.
5. Continue to build a culture of whole-school success and achievement by finding further ways for all students to experience success, both in learning and other dimensions of human endeavour, and receive appropriate affirmation and feedback for their efforts, progress and achievements.
6. Continue to explore viable options for extra curricular and community activities.
7. Continue to develop effective and timely two-way communication with parents about student’s progress, attitudes and behaviours.
8. Regularly evaluate all aspects of pastoral care to ensure the inclusion of major social issues of concern, personal management skills and the social skills program.
9. Provide opportunities for students to learn through the formal curriculum the knowledge skills and dispositions needed for positive relationships.
10. Take action to protect children from all forms of child abuse and neglect.
11. Further develop the use of facilities and resources of the wider community in the school’s curricular and extra-curricular activities.
12. Continue to develop the out-of-school facilities for children within the school and local community.
13. Continue to implement the maintenance plan for the on-going maintenance and provision of school facilities.
14. Work cooperatively with Prescott Schools Board of Management to ensure funds available for ongoing capital development.
15. Maintain the priority for high quality, highly identifiable Prescott Schools signage, publications and stationery.
16. Enhance the profile of Prescott Southern in the local and wider community through celebration of successes, achievements and profiling students and staff.