



Corpus Christi Catholic School St Ives

2007 Annual Report



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1. Message from Key Groups in Our School Community

1.1 Message from the Principal

Our school continues to enjoy a strong and enviable reputation in the area and this year has seen an increase in enrolments for 2008 that includes a larger cohort of boys and girls choosing to stay and continue their Years 5 and 6 primary education at Corpus Christi. The high level of professionalism amongst the teaching staff together with a new strategic plan that has curriculum teaching and learning as a major priority has ensured quality education is at the forefront. The role of parents in promoting the school has also been a significant factor in increasing enrolment numbers.

A number of initiatives shaped by the 2007-2010 Strategic Plan have continued to enhance teaching and learning this year. The Boys' Education Project continued to develop with a number of new goals being addressed. Professional development of staff became a priority, a boys' education committee was formed and an education policy was drafted. Teachers are also employing a wide variety of strategies to cater for the different learning styles of boys and girls. They have included the use of Blooms Multiple Intelligences. Two teachers are also being trained in the Rock and Water leadership course and many boys in Stage 2 and 3 have participated in this ten-week course.

A language project facilitated jointly by the school's learning support teacher and resident speech pathologist was run during Terms 2 and 3. Results of this project showed improvement in targeted students' use of vocabulary, punctuation and spelling. Results from the survey that was administered to teachers involved in the project indicated a general improvement in their knowledge and confidence in dealing with students with language difficulties in the classroom.

Corpus Christi has a strong and vibrant religious culture that is evident through prayer, worship, the quality of the

relationships formed between parents, students, staff and the parish and a rigorous religious education curriculum. There is a shared understanding of life that is reflected in the school's motto, Strength and Gentleness and lived out in the Vision Statement:

Corpus Christi Catholic School is committed to providing a high quality education that celebrates diversity and challenges individuals to develop and share their gifts in a supportive and stimulating environment.

As disciples of Jesus and in partnership with our families, parish and the broader faith community, we work for the service of others, encouraging a commitment to justice and a call to action.

I am most grateful to all our families who support the school and give so graciously of their time, talents and financial support.

1.2 Message from the Parent Body

2007 has been a year of consolidation for the Corpus Christi Parents' and Friends' Association (P&F), in which we built on the foundations of change laid in 2006.

In recent years, it has been apparent that changing demographics in St Ives and surrounding suburbs have taken a toll on enrolment numbers at our school. Over the past two years, the P&F has worked alongside the School Executive to help address both declining entry numbers and retention rates at Corpus Christi.

Those efforts, spearheaded by our tireless Principal, are now starting to bear fruit. Kindergarten enrolments are up for 2008 and the numbers of children, particularly boys, opting to remain at Corpus Christi through the senior years 5 and 6 have grown significantly.

The P&F has meanwhile been doing its best to promote Corpus Christi Catholic School in the broader community, both through direct marketing and communication initiatives and via our major fundraising and intra-parish activities such as the Art and Fun Fair and annual Chennai Trivia Night.



The P&F has also sought to engage all parents and to remind them of their responsibility as advocates for our school, both inside and outside the playground. The most powerful endorsement we can give Corpus Christi is a word-of-mouth recommendation to a friend, acquaintance or pre-school classmate.

In 2007, the P&F has continued efforts to strengthen the school's ties with the Corpus Christi Parish as a whole, mainly through our ongoing commitment to support the Free School attached to the St Thomas Cathedral Basilica in Chennai, India. The Chennai outreach initiative has become an important facet of school life at Corpus Christi, and has been embraced by our children with a degree of enthusiastic empathy which does them credit. The P&F Executive has also worked to maintain open lines of dialogue between the parents and the parish in important areas such as Sacramental programs and celebrations.

Our major fundraising event, the 35th Annual Art and Fun Fair, was even bigger and better this year, building on the already outstanding success of 2006. The Fair is the culmination of months of hard work led by a team of dedicated parents, but supported by the entire school. The event is a wonderful showcase for our beautiful school and grounds; provides the opportunity for parents to foster new friendships; and is simply a great day out for our children and their families. In 2007, the Fair raised considerable funds, most of which have been pledged to the first stage of our shaded outdoor learning area on the playing field side of the Year 2 classrooms. The bulk of the remaining funds will be used on additional computer and technology resources.

The P&F's social activities have again been hugely successful this year, and continue to provide avenues for parents to build close and lasting relationships within the school community. We broke the ice with gusto in February; admired and splurged on some fine art and jewellery at the Fair opening night; donned fancy dress and scratched our

heads over trivia mid-year; danced the night away at Pymble Golf Club in September; lost golf balls in the rough at Avondale; and shopped till we dropped in November.

On behalf of all Corpus Christi parents, I would like to acknowledge and thank the School Executive and teachers for the dedication and professionalism they bring to the care and education of our children. I would also commend them on the very high level of parental consultation they apply to all aspects of school life, and thank them for their receptive and responsive approach to parents' aspirations and concerns.

Lastly, my wholehearted thanks go to the members of the P&F Executive, Welcoming, Art and Fun Fair, Band, Soccer and Netball committees for their selfless contributions of time and expertise to P&F and school activities during 2007. I remain deeply impressed by the depth and warmth of community spirit in our school and the willingness of so many parents to work so tirelessly to enrich the lives of all our children.

P&F President

1.3 Message from the Student Body

2007 has been a wonderful year for all the students at Corpus Christi. We have all been given so many great opportunities and experiences and feel privileged to be a part of this school community.

As Year 6 leaders we were very excited to welcome the new Kindergarten students at the beginning of the year. We have loved having them as our buddies and will miss them very much next year. We have also had the opportunity to further develop our leadership skills by leading Peer Support groups (with students from Kindergarten to Year 6). The Year 5 students were co-leaders and together we ran a 30 minute session every week in Term 2. We really enjoyed leading Peer Support and feel that the focus on friendships was relevant to all the children in our groups.

As the 2007 school leaders, we have had many opportunities to be involved in various



school and Diocesan masses and events. We will always remember going to State Parliament House to meet our Local MP and attending a special ANZAC Day memorial. We also have had the opportunity to lead the school at our Monday school assemblies. The students at Corpus Christi really love getting a merit award from their teacher and some are even lucky enough to win a prize in the environmental award each week.

The House Captains have also enjoyed being Year 6 leaders and have particularly loved making up war cries for our sport carnivals and leading Health Hustle every Tuesday and Wednesday morning.

Our school has been involved in many different fundraising activities this year. The SRC leaders, who work closely with the teachers, helped co-ordinate a coin picture day to help raise money for the Chennai Free School in India, as well as a couple of mufti days in aid of the same cause. We also got fit and healthy as we jumped our way through Term 3 with the Jump Rope for Heart Fundraising Program. We were so excited when we found out that Corpus Christi came 8th in the state with fundraising for the Heart Foundation.

With Christmas fast approaching, the students at Corpus Christi felt that we should give back to the community-especially those less fortunate than ourselves. We have collected food and items for Parish Christmas Hampers and some classes are donating money to World Vision.

We have many wonderful memories at Corpus Christi and will always treasure the friendships and learning experiences we have been given.

School Captains 2007



2. School Profile

2.1 Introduction

Corpus Christi Catholic School is a co-educational primary school catering for students from Kindergarten to Year 6. It is situated in the upper North Shore of Sydney in the Parish of St Ives, and on the same site as the Cathedral for the Diocese of Broken Bay.

The school serves the local parish community, as well as families from the surrounding areas of Terrey Hills, Pymble, Turramurra, Gordon, Killara and Wahroonga.

Corpus Christi School enjoys a high reputation for excellence in teaching and learning in the local community and beyond, with families from interstate and overseas seeking enrolment.

2.2 Student Profile

In 2007 the number of boys remaining at Corpus Christi for year 5 and 6 more than doubled from the previous year.

Girls	Boys	LBOTE*	Indigenous	Total
151	88	25	0	239

2.3 Enrolment Policy

The school's enrolment committee adheres to the Diocesan Enrolment Policy for all new enrolments.

The Diocese of Broken Bay has established an [Enrolment Policy](#)† which is implemented by all systemic schools in the Diocese.

The implementation of this policy is monitored by the Catholic Schools Office.

†Copies of this policy and other policies in this report may be obtained from the Catholic Schools Office website at: <http://www.cso.brokenbay.catholic.edu.au/resources/index.html> or by contacting the Catholic Schools Office.

2.4 Staff Profile

The NSW government requires that this report details the number of teachers in each of the following categories:

- a) have teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised within the

- b) have qualifications as a graduate from a higher education institution within Australia or one recognised within the AEI-NOOSR guidelines but lack formal teacher education qualifications
- c) do not have qualifications as described in (a) or (b) but have relevant successful teaching experience or appropriate knowledge relevant to the teaching context. Such teachers must have been employed:
 - to 'teach' in NSW before 1 October 2004 (either on a permanent, casual or temporary basis), and
 - as a 'teacher' during the last five (5) years in a permanent, casual or temporary capacity.

a	b	c	Total
16	1	0	17

In 2007 there were 11 full time teachers, 0.2 learning support, 0.6 teacher-librarian, 0.1 Japanese teacher, 0.3 sports teacher, 0.4 music teacher and 0.8 Assistant Principal. The leadership team consists of the Principal, Assistant Principal, the religious education co-ordinator and two one-point co-ordinators responsible for literacy support K-6 and PDHPE.

2.5 Teacher Attendance and Retention Rates

The average teacher attendance rate during 2007 was 96.1%. This figure does not include teachers on planned leave.

The teacher retention rate from 2006 to 2007 was 83.3%.

At the conclusion of 2007 five teachers left Corpus Christi. One moved into a senior leadership position in another school, one teacher retired after 30 years teaching at Corpus Christi, one moved to a school in another diocese, one is taking a year's leave



and another is pursuing other career opportunities.

2.6 Teacher Satisfaction

Teachers enjoy teaching at Corpus Christi, and staff morale is high.

2.7 Student Attendance

The average student attendance rate for 2007 was 95%.

2.8 Student Satisfaction

A student well being survey conducted in 2007 revealed that most students at Corpus Christi feel that:

- they are doing well at school academically
- others treat them with kindness and respect
- they enjoy learning
- they always have friends to play with
- everyone is included in our school
- they feel safe at school.

In 2007 a satellite class from the Vern Barnett School for Autism joined our community. This has taught our students to be inclusive, accept differences in others and ensure that no child is ever left to play alone in the playground.



3. Catholic Life and Mission

3.1 Catholic Heritage

Corpus Christi School was opened in February 1954 in the present Parish Hall. It was staffed by the Sisters of Brigidine Congregation. Sisters Josephine and Duchesne were the first staff members and approximately 30 students from Kindergarten to Year 4 were enrolled. In 1955 the total school enrolment had increased to 53 students ranging from Kindergarten to Year 5. Until 1958, Corpus Christi was part of the Pymble parish. In that year Corpus Christi was formally constituted with Father Peter Sheil as the first Parish Priest. As the number of students increased, the parish recognised the need for a new school.

The opening of the first stage of the present school buildings took place on July 9, 1961. About 1964 another block had to be added and then again in 1967 and again in 1981. From the 1960's onward, there was constant demand for children to be admitted to Corpus Christi school.

This year, the children of Corpus Christi have joined with the Brigidine sisters in their Jubilee celebrations. We have recognised the Feast of St Brigid in early February and then had a visit from two of the Brigidine Sisters in March, to discuss the legacy of St Brigid and the Brigidine Order, and its link to our school heritage. The stage 3 children have further elucidated the Brigidine motto, *Strength and Gentleness*, within a unit of study on values.

3.2 Liturgical Life

The year began with the Opening School Mass which brought our community together to pray for blessings upon the year. All the children were involved and the parent and wider community were invited to attend through our school newsletter, parish newsletter and noticeboard.

The school celebrated Ash Wednesday with the parish community. Holy Week ceremonies were a fitting preparation for the

children and their families to approach the Easter Triduum.

The school celebrated the feast of the Annunciation, Feast of the Sacred Heart, Feast of the Assumption, and Grandparent's and Friends' Day with a school Mass. The community recognised the beginning of the season of Advent and the year concluded with a Mass of Transition and Thanksgiving, a graduation Liturgy and a blessing of all families leaving our school community.

In 2007 the community also recognised a retiring member of staff with a special liturgical gathering of family, friends and colleagues.

The school prayed together at weekly assemblies and joined in a Novena with schools across the Diocese for a family in need.

3.3 The School in the Life of the Parish and Diocese

Year 6 attended the annual Cluster Mass in March and there was a representation of students at the annual Mission Mass in October.

Grades were rostered to attend the Parish weekday Mass on Thursday morning and to lead the participation at a Sunday morning Mass throughout the year.

The Parish Administrator regularly attended school assemblies. He is also present at most staff celebrations and often attends school sporting and social events.

The school supported the parish in its implementation of the sacramental programmes through attendance by the Principal, Assistant Principal and/or Religious Education Coordinator at Parent Information Evenings. Regular communication was given to the students and families through the newsletter and classroom religious education content and home connectors.

Diocesan World Youth Day events have been well advertised within the school and there has been an active liaison officer within the school.



3.4 Religious Education Curriculum

With the assistance of the Mission Services personnel, Corpus Christi has worked on developing its approach to the Religious education curriculum so that it is rigorous and complies with the same standards as all other Key Learning Areas. The staff have worked on implementing strategies that develop the Quality Teaching Framework within religious education.

The curriculum is being developed to encourage the inclusion of differentiation. This permits the development of strategies that allow for reporting to parents on tasks that are assessed accurately within the same framework as all other Key Learning Areas. Along with this, assessment strategies have become a key focus to allow for this accurate reporting to take place.

Religious Education has been, and remains, a strong focus for development within the school's Strategic Plan.

3.5 Catholic Worldview

We perceive the responsibility to society that is part of our worldview and recognise the need to create conditions in which the dignity of persons is respected, their basic rights protected and their basic needs met. To this end the children and their families are encouraged to participate in various social justice initiatives. These include:

- Project Compassion
- support for the Free School in Chennai
- support of the Mt Druitt Parish
- support for Boarding Houses in Sydney
- support for Red Nose Day
- support for World Vision through the SMILES project at Christmas.

We perceive the presence of God in our daily life and especially in the sacred scriptures and the living traditions of the Church and utilise these, not only within our daily prayer life, but within the religious dimension of all Key Learning Areas.

3.6 Parent Participation in Catholic Life and Mission

The Catholic purpose of the school is clearly transmitted to the parent community through our newsletter, annual yearbook and other communications such as P&F meetings as well as orientation evenings and special curriculum meetings.

The presence of distinctly Catholic symbols and practices are part of the everyday life of the school and parents are actively encouraged to be engaged in daily school life within classrooms, special support programmes, canteen duties and other social events aimed at building community.

3.7 Professional Learning in Catholic Life and Mission

Three Conditionally Accredited teachers are currently undertaking the Certificate of Religious Education (NSW) through the Catholic Schools Office. All other teaching staff are fully accredited to be teaching the Religious Education Curriculum. Staff have also undertaken two Professional Learning Modules focusing on Spirituality and the Trinity.

The Diocese of Broken Bay has established a policy on the [Professional Requirements for the Accreditation of Teachers of Religious Education](#) which is implemented by all systemic schools in the Diocese.



4. Pastoral Care

4.1 Diocesan Policies

The Diocese of Broken Bay has established [Pastoral Care](#) and [Student Discipline](#) Policies which are implemented by all schools in the Diocese.

The implementation of these policies is monitored by the Catholic Schools Office.

4.2 School Implementation of Diocesan Policy

Diocesan policies on pastoral care, anti-bullying and anti-harassment underpin our focus on pastoral care at Corpus Christi. The school's Pastoral Care Policy and Behaviour Management Plan continued to be implemented in 2007. A definition of e-bullying was included in the school policy on bullying. The action plan for behaviour support and management was distributed to all families at the commencement of the school year.

The Diocesan School Counselling program provided a number of students and families with support in 2007.

The school continued the Peer Support program focusing on relationships. As well as the Student Representative Council, a buddy program is in place for new students throughout the year and for Kindergarten and Year 6 students. The Aussie of the Month program enables positive role models to be acknowledged.

4.3 Pastoral Care of Families

Many support structures exist for families within Corpus Christi school community. The class teachers, learning support team, Assistant Principal and Principal all work closely with parents, caregivers and students during the year to provide whatever support is required in relation to issues concerning their child.

Where necessary families were referred to local health and counselling agencies for professional support.

Access to the school's Diocesan student counsellor or to Centacare were provided to families in confidence.

Practical community support through the P&F and parish co-ordinator on a needs basis were completed in confidence.

4.4 2007 Initiatives

- The Positive Behaviours program continued.
- A wellbeing survey was conducted for students in Year 2 to 6. These results were analysed and support structures were developed and implemented for students in need.
- Individual behaviour management plans were established to meet the needs of individual students.
- Awareness of school rules were publicised and a regular focus in classrooms was given to anti-bullying behaviour.
- Strategies of praise, reward, ignore and consequence were developed.
- Students and staff developed and implemented positive behaviours.
- The Stage 3 teachers worked with the Behaviour Management Educational Officer from the Catholic Schools Office to develop the peer support program with a particular focus on developing the leadership skills of the Stage 3 students.
- A social skills program was implemented in Early Stage 1 with the support of members of the Behaviour Management Team from the Catholic Schools Office.

4.5 Resolving Issues

The Diocese of Broken Bay has established a [Complaints Handling Policy](#) which is implemented by all schools in the Diocese.

The implementation of this policy is monitored by the Catholic Schools Office.



5. Excellence in Teaching and Learning

5.1 Curriculum Overview

The curriculum focus for 2007 was to develop a shared understanding of learning across the school community that involved teachers, parents and students.

The year began with a staff development day using the Quality Teaching Framework to build up and share current best practice in the school and establish a belief statement on how children learn best. As a result, collegial planning teams with a teacher coach were established for literacy, mathematics and religious education and workshops were held for parents who wanted to help with literacy in the classroom or simply gain skills in supporting their own children's literacy development at home.

5.2 Approach to Teaching and Learning

Consistency of practice from K to 6 in religious education, literacy and numeracy were established during 2007 with the help of Education Officers from the Catholic Schools Office and teacher coaches from amongst the staff.

Opportunities to share individual teacher's pedagogical knowledge and skills in literacy, during staff meetings, resulted in a revision of the literacy plan and the development of a model of professional learning that promoted consistency of practice when teaching, talking, listening, reading and writing from K-6. The staff reviewed the purpose and place of assessment, evaluation and reporting in the teaching/learning cycle and used this knowledge to inform a shared understanding of the students needs.

Team programming of religious education modules heightened the importance of sound pedagogy when teaching religious education and enhanced the profile of religious education amongst the Key Learning Areas.

A system for tracking student progress in mathematics was trialled and has prepared teachers to focus on quality learning experiences for mathematics in 2008.

5.3 Significant Initiatives

Corpus Christi has a strong learning support programme that supports the differentiated learning needs of all students. 2007 saw further development of learning support programmes and gifted education programmes across the school. Time was spent identifying gifted students and their needs. A student tracking system was implemented to facilitate the further development of differentiated programmes for all students.

A satellite class from the Vern Barnett School for Autism taught the students valuable lessons in acceptance and inclusivity.

5.4 Student Achievement

Literacy – Reading and Language

In **Year 3**, 2007 there were 49 students who sat for the Basic Skills test (BST). The table below shows the percentage of students in Year 3 who achieved each band at the school and also in the State.

	School	State
Band 5	31	19
Band 4	31	28
Band 3	31	26
Band 2	8	15
Band 1	0	11

62% of our students achieved the top two bands compared to 47% across the State (Bands 4 and 5).

The following table compares Year 3 student performance in Literacy (Reading and Language) to statewide performance and illustrates trends in student performance over time. Since 2001 the average scaled score for Corpus Christi has consistently been above the State performance.



Year	School	State
2001	54.5	50.6
2002	53.0	50.6
2003	51.8	50.6
2004	54.8	50.5
2005	54.0	50.8
2006	54.9	50.7
2007	53.5	51.2

Writing

In **Year 3**, 2007 there were 49 students who sat for the Writing Basic Skills Test (BST). The table below shows the percentage of students in Year 3 who achieved each band at the school and also in the State.

	School	State
Band 5	21	16
Band 4	50	32
Band 3	25	32
Band 2	4	12
Band 1	0	8

71% of our students achieved the top two bands compared to 48% across the State (Bands 4 and 5).

The following table compares Year 3 student performance in Writing to statewide performance and illustrates trends in student performance over time. Since 2001 the average scaled score for Corpus Christi has been consistently above the State performance.

Year	School	State
2001	51.7	49.0
2002	53.9	51.5
2003	53.8	51.1
2004	54.5	51.2
2005	54.5	50.1
2006	54.0	50.2
2007	53.7	50.8

Literacy – Reading and Language

In **Year 5**, 2007 there were 19 students who sat for the Basic Skills test (BST). The table below shows the percentage of students in Year 5 who achieved each band at both the school and also in the State.

	School	State
Band 6	42	27
Band 5	37	26
Band 4	11	26
Band 3	5	14
Band 2	5	5
Band 1	0	1

79% of our students achieved the top two bands compared to 53% across the State (Bands 5 and 6).

The following table compares Year 5 student performance in Literacy (Reading and Language) to statewide performance and illustrates trends in student performance over time. Since 2002 the average scaled score for Corpus Christi has consistently been above the State performance.

Year	School	State
2001	60.1	57.1
2002	60.3	57.8
2003	59.2	57.5
2004	60.1	57.4
2005	57.9	57.0
2006	59.1	57.3
2007	58.1	57.5

Writing

In **Year 5**, 2007 there were 19 students who sat for the Writing Basic Skills Test (BST). The table below shows the percentage of students in Year 5 who achieved each band at the school and also in the State.



	School	State
Band 6	53	23
Band 5	32	32
Band 4	16	28
Band 3	0	12
Band 2	0	2
Band 1	0	0

85% of our students achieved the top two bands compared to 55% across the State (Bands 5 and 6).

The following table compares Year 5 student performance in Writing to statewide performance and illustrates trends in student performance over time. Since 2001 the average scaled score for Corpus Christi has consistently been above the State performance.

Year	School	State
2001	58.8	56.3
2002	60.6	57.1
2003	57.3	56.4
2004	59.8	56.6
2005	60.0	56.2
2006	59.0	56.7
2007	59.6	57.2

Numeracy

In **Year 3**, 2007 there were 49 students who sat for the Basic Skills test (BST). The table below shows the percentage of students in Year 3 who achieved each band at the school and also in the State.

	School	State
Band 5	45	19
Band 4	27	27
Band 3	20	26
Band 2	8	20
Band 1	0	9

72% of our students achieved the top two bands compared to 46% across the State (Bands 4 and 5).

The following table compares Year 3 student performance in Numeracy to statewide performance and illustrates trends in student performance over time. Since 2001 the average scaled score for Corpus Christi has consistently been above the State performance.

Year	School	State
2001	56.1	52.4
2002	54.9	53.0
2003	55.7	52.8
2004	58.1	52.3
2005	55.9	53.6
2006	57.3	53.3
2007	54.3	53.1

Numeracy

In **Year 5**, 2007 there were 19 students who sat for the Basic Skills test (BST). The table below shows the percentage of students in Year 5 who achieved each band at both the school and also in the State.

	School	State
Band 6	47	33
Band 5	21	22
Band 4	21	24
Band 3	11	15
Band 2	0	6
Band 1	0	1

68% of our students achieved the top two bands compared to 55% across the State (Bands 5 and 6).

The following table compares Year 5 student performance in Numeracy to statewide performance and illustrates trends in student performance over time.



Year	School	State
2001	63.9	60.3
2002	64.0	60.2
2003	61.2	60.0
2004	62.6	60.7
2005	60.1	60.4
2006	64.1	61.5
2007	61.3	61.9

The scores in the table below indicate the average growth achieved by students who sat for the BST in 2005 as Year 3 students and again in 2007 as Year 5 students, in Literacy (Reading and Language), Writing and Numeracy at Corpus Christi and for the same cohort of students in the State. The expected growth in BST scores is between 6-7. The following table indicates that this cohort of students demonstrated the expected growth in Literacy. They exceeded the expected growth in Writing and made significantly more growth in Numeracy than students in the State.

Average Growth achieved by students who sat for the BST in 2005 as Year 3 students and again in 2007 as Year 5 students.

2007	School	State
Literacy (Reading and Language)	7.07	6.81
Writing	10.04	7.17
Numeracy	12.51	8.45

The Commonwealth Government has developed National benchmarks that describe the minimum acceptable standards for Year 3 and 5 students for Reading, Writing and Numeracy.

The following two tables outline the:

Percentage of Students in Year 3 who have surpassed the National Benchmarks since the school has had access to this data.

	Reading %	Writing %	Numeracy %
2004	98	n/a	100
2005	98	98	100
2006	97	100	100
2007	100	98	100

The result in Writing is not an indicative result as one student was partially absent for the Writing assessment.

Percentage of Students in Year 5 who have surpassed the National Benchmarks since the school has had access to this data.

	Reading %	Writing %	Numeracy %
2004	100	n/a	100
2005	100	100	100
2006	100	96	91
2007	95	100	95

5.5 Information, Communication and Learning Technologies

During 2007, the P&F purchased nine new computers that were put into classrooms to be used as a tool to support learning. Class pages set up on CEnet ensure that students have access to a wide range of information when completing inquiry based tasks or practice drills to sharpen basic skills in literacy and numeracy.

5.6 Professional Learning

The focus of professional learning for 2007 was the establishment of collegial planning teams using Education Officers from the Catholic Schools Office and/or teacher coaches from amongst the staff to develop good practice in literacy, mathematics and religious education.

Staff development days focused on the quality teaching framework as a means of establishing shared understandings of effective pedagogy, and the spirituality religious education module established a understanding of the Brigidine traditions that underpin the ethos on which Corpus Christi school was built.

Staff members also sought professional development as a means of meeting personal goals:

- Two staff members completed units of work in the Certificate of Religious Education at the Broken Bay Institute.
- Two staff members completed units of work in the Master of Educational Leadership course at ACU.



- One staff member attended the ALEA Conference, Canberra during the Term 2 break.
- One staff member attended the Australian Council for Educational Leaders Conference at Darling Harbour during the Term 3 break.
- One staff member attended the Australian Association of Special Education Conference on meeting the needs of children requiring learning support during the Term 3 break.

The average expenditure on professional learning per teacher in 2007 was \$1,615.



6. Extracurricular Program

Stage Three Debating

Students in Years 5 and 6 represented Corpus Christi in the ISDA Debating Competition as Brigidine College St Ives Junior School. Two students from the college coached the teams who performed well, having learnt many debating skills and having great fun.

Public Speaking

In Term 3 all Year 6 students prepared speeches to present to a panel of teachers after competing in a round robin. Two students represented Corpus Christi at the Lower North Shore Cluster public speaking competition where both students gave outstanding speeches and received first and second place. These students went on to compete at The Diocesan Public Speaking Competition with one student gaining second place.

In 2007 all students from Kindergarten to Year 5 were given the opportunity to prepare a speech and deliver this to their teacher and class as part of the talking and listening component of their literacy block. Finals were held during literacy and numeracy week in August. Awards were given to first, second and third place.

Healthy Lifestyle

All classes have implemented a fruit break each day. The whole school participates in a Health Hustle twice a week.

Music Group

Corpus Christi enjoys a long history of an appreciation of the arts, in particular music. The school has a concert band, training band, senior choir and junior choir and string group, all of which perform at various school, parish and other community events. The concert band has received the Silver Award at the NSW Band Festival. The training band also received a Silver Award at both the Yamaha and NSW Band Festival as well as an encouragement certificate.

Private Music Lessons

Many students avail themselves of the opportunity to develop their musical skills through a wide range of excellent private music tutors at Corpus Christi. Lessons are provided in piano, violin, guitar, percussion, woodwind and brass instruments.

Sport

A large portion of the students at Corpus Christi have a passion for participating in sporting activities. All students are encouraged to participate in a variety of sports during their weekly PE lessons, sport lessons or school sports events. Students enjoyed a wide variety of sporting activities in 2007 and were able to compete against other students at the school and students from various other schools across NSW.

Corpus Christi has a number of sports clubs within the school that allow for the children to represent the school on a weekly basis. These two clubs, The Hawks Soccer Club and the Corpus Christi Netball Club, are run by the parents and supported by the school.

A number of students at the school are selected throughout the year to represent Corpus Christi at various gala days. These sports included soccer, netball and basketball. Students were also chosen for swimming, athletics and cross country carnivals where a number of the students achieved outstanding results. A few of the students were chosen to represent the North Shore Cluster, Broken Bay and Polding in these sports.

Students were encouraged to trial for a number of Broken Bay sports teams in 2007.

A number of sporting workshops were held during 2007. All students from Kindergarten to Year 6 participated in AFL workshops during Terms 2 and 3. The program was facilitated by NSW AFL Education Officers and the class teachers. Students also participated in rugby league and cricket workshops facilitated by Education Officers attached to each of the sporting codes.

All students participated in the Jump Rope For Heart program and fundraising event.



This included a skipping workshop, the purchase of new skipping ropes and a weekly program that allowed all students to develop and refine their skipping skills while increasing their general fitness.

The school was very fortunate to have a large number of parents at the school who volunteered their time as helpers at carnivals, coaches, and managers, and who displayed great enthusiasm towards sport. There were a number of teachers on staff who helped enhance the students' sporting abilities and all staff members were passionate when aiding the students with their sporting activities.

Japanese

Children in Years 3 to 6 participate in regular weekly Japanese lessons which cover a variety of focus activities including cultural events, conversation and craft.

Leadership Programs

The students in Years 5 and 6 are encouraged to develop their potential as leaders in the school community by participating in peer support program, buddy system, Colour House Captains, School Captains roles and the Student Representative Council. These programs provide the students with the opportunity to lead school assemblies, develop and support school rules, influence the schools learning environment and develop a positive welcoming student community. Students' confidence, self esteem and ability to articulate their ideas and dreams enhance the spirit of friendship and citizenship at Corpus Christi.

School Christmas Concert and Carols Night

A night of Christmas celebration was held in the final week of Term 4. All students K-6 were involved, leading the school community by singing Christmas carols and dramatising the story of Jesus' birth.

Other Extracurricular Activities

Two Year 6 students were offered the opportunity to attend the annual Broken Bay *Writenow!* camp held at Challenge Ranch on

the Central Coast. During the three-day camp the students had an opportunity to write and publish a piece of writing as well as be inspired by a wide range of speakers. The use of technology in the writing process was another highlight of the camp. The camp culminated in the publishing of a journal where all students' writing was published. A copy of this journal is in the school library.



7. Strategic Initiatives

7.1 2007 Priorities and Achievements

In 2007 the school's annual plan reflected the key priority areas of Catholic life and mission, pastoral care and community, curriculum teaching and learning, leadership and strategic planning and facilities, resources and finance. These priority areas and annual goals were communicated to parents at P&F meetings, parent forums and via the school newsletter.

The school gave witness to its Catholic identity through the hosting of a satellite class from the Vern Barnett School for Autism at Forestville. The staff continued to support the parish community in implementing the Diocesan Sacramental Program. In curriculum teaching and learning, priority was given to literacy and RE as significant areas of learning.

7.2 2008 Priorities and Challenges

Priorities for 2008 will focus on the strategic goal from **Catholic Life and Mission**, that is, to give expression to the identity of Corpus Christi as a Catholic school in the Diocese of Broken Bay.

Annual goals will include:

- creating a school prayer/song that draws inspiration from the school motto and Brigidine heritage
- implementing World Youth Day curriculum in all classes
- informing and encouraging support and participation in World Youth Day events within the Corpus Christi community
- supporting the parish community in implementing the Diocesan Sacramental program
- continuing to raise awareness of, and support for, social justice initiatives

In the priority area **Pastoral Care and Community** annual goals will include:

- regularly monitoring student wellbeing with a particular focus on the establishment and facilitation of a

Disability Awareness program run in all classes by the school's learning support teacher

- establishing Coffee Corner to support the families of students with disabilities enrolled in the school.

In the priority area **Curriculum Teaching and Learning** annual goals will include:

- giving priority to Religious Education as a significant area of learning
- developing consistent leadership structures and support for literacy and numeracy with a major focus on numeracy in 2008
- giving priority to science as a significant area of learning
- developing and implementing a learning technology plan
- developing differentiated learning programs to support the needs of all students
- working towards authentically engaging students in their own learning process
- developing a common understanding across the community of gifted education
- revisiting and evaluating targets for improvement in literacy and clearly articulating these to the school community
- developing whole school numeracy expectations and procedures that are supported, monitored and tracked.

In the priority area **Leadership and Strategic Planning** annual goals will include:

- providing support and encouragement for staff to exercise leadership
- maintaining and strengthening protocols and procedures to ensure effective communication between school and home
- engaging the community in decision making processes.

In the priority area **Facilities, Resources and Finance** annual goals will include:



- developing an annual budget to support identified priorities
- developing and implementing an annual OHS Management Plan
- providing facilities to support special educational programs and initiatives.
- monitoring and evaluating the implementation of legislative requirements for OHS, child protection and reporting.



8. Parent Participation

8.1 Introduction

Parent involvement in the life of the children's education at Corpus Christi operated at many levels in 2007. As a Catholic school, collaborative partnership between parish, school and parents is actively encouraged.

In 2007 many parents worked alongside teachers in the classroom supporting student learning by assisting with word processing, collaborative group work, individual and group reading and guided writing. Parents were provided with professional learning opportunities to enrich their knowledge of teaching and learning strategies in literacy. P&F Executive Committee, Class parents, welcoming committee, netball and soccer club committees and year book committee all worked throughout the year across the community to ensure an inclusive and welcoming environment was provided to all staff, families and the wider community.

The P&F provided a formal structure to ensure social and financial projects were planned and successfully implemented. They also worked at promoting the school in the broader community, organising articles to appear in local papers and running promotions at local shopping centres.

An Icebreakers Evening in Term 1 gave all new families and staff a special welcome. The Dinner Dance, Mum's and Dad's Breakfasts, district sporting clubs, Grandparents' Day, and musical evenings concluded a year of outstanding parental support.

Large groups of parents volunteered to assist at the annual swimming, athletics and cross country events along with further support at cluster and diocesan levels.

The school's year is proudly recorded in the Corpus Christi Year Book 2007. This publication is produced by the year book committee.

The priorities and challenges for the parent body in 2008 will be to:

- continue to promote and enhance unity in the school community and encourage participation by all parents
- continue to foster ties with the parish
- continue to support social justice initiatives and in particular the Free School in Chennai
- raise funds to support implementation of school goals.

8.2 Parent Satisfaction

Parents expressed a high level of satisfaction with the school. High levels of support for the staff were articulated and minuted at P&F meetings. A large number of new enrolments were due to positive parent referrals. Opportunities were provided for parents to be consulted on a number of issues such as the introduction of composite classes. There were high levels of support for consultation processes used by the school leadership team.



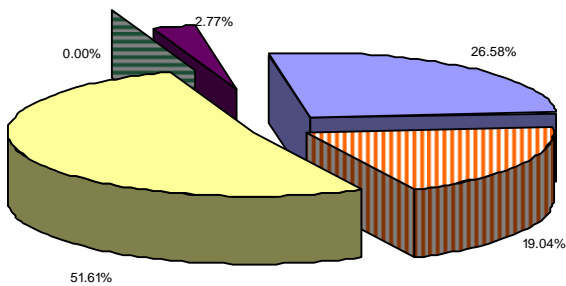
9. Financial Report

Consistent with Board of Studies requirements, financial income and expenditure for this school is shown in the graphs below.

Diocesan system financial reporting is found in the Diocese of Broken Bay Catholic Schools Office Annual Report.

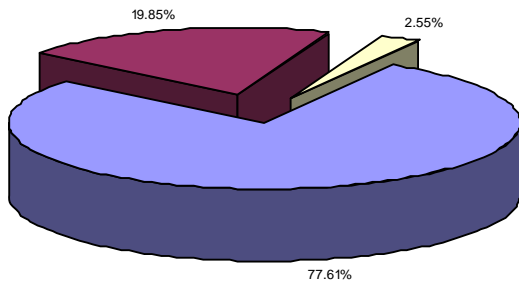
Income

- Fees and Other Private Income
- State Government Funds
- Commonwealth Recurrent Grants
- Government Capital Grants
- Other Capital Income



Expenditure

- Salaries, Allowances and Related Costs
- Non salary Expenses
- Capital Expenditure



The contents of this annual report have been validated by the School's consultant, Diann Hynes.