SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

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This report was prepared by:

David Casey

PRINCIPAL
MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Principal’s Message
Welcome to St Bernard's Primary School Batemans Bay!
St Bernard's is a Catholic Primary School catering for boys and girls from Kindergarten to Year 6. Together with St. Mary's Primary, Moruya, and Carroll College, Broulee, we have created a Catholic Kindergarten to Year 12 education pathway for students in the Eurobodalla Shire. Our School Motto 'That All May Be One' invites all members of our school and parish community to work together to create an experience of unity. Children learn from what they experience and their learning challenges them to live 'each for all, and all for each' so that truly, All May Be One!

School Board Message
The school currently has two classes per grade with a class average of 24 students. Collaborative teaching partnerships throughout all grades ensure that St Bernard’s strives to offer learning programs which are relevant, contemporary, stimulating and enjoyable. There is a very strong focus on the development of English, Mathematics, and Information Communication and Technology. In addition to all of the designated Key Learning Areas, St. Bernard's offers opportunities such as French Program, school concert band, Tournament of Minds, school choir, a range of sporting endeavours including local gala days and further representative events, and public speaking in different forums.

Student Representative’s Message
Our school had new playground equipment installed for both the primary and infants areas. We really enjoy playing on it as it enables us to have more fun things to do. Our new hall opened this year and it is big and spacey. It provides us with a fantastic undercover area. This year’s main achievements include creating a sustainable vegetable garden, performing in our school production 'The Tweed Tree' and the opening of our new computer lab. What makes our school a special place is the good friendships we have with each other.

SCHOOL FEATURES
St Bernard's is a Catholic Primary School located in Batehaven. The school caters for students in Kindergarten - Year 6, and has a current enrolment of 347 students. Students attending this school come from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities consisting of 53% male and 47% female students; 2% indigenous students; and 0.6% Language Background other than English (LBOTE). The school employs 30 staff comprising 20 teachers and 10 non-teaching staff, the latter being employed in a variety of capacities including clerical support, administration, learning support assistants, canteen operators and groundsman. The school’s website can be found at www.stbernardsbb.nsw.edu.au

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
St Bernard's Primary School follows the Archdiocesan Religious Education Curriculum, Treasures New and Old.

St Bernard's Primary School Batemans Bay
Teaching and learning programs follow the praxis method and draw on current pedagogy to enrich student’s understanding of Catholic teaching, Tradition and an understanding of other faiths. This year we hosted the Combined Catholic Schools Mass in our new hall. Students from Carroll College Broulee, St Mary’s Moruya and members of the St Bernard’s School and Parish community gathered together for a beautiful mass celebrated by Fr Emil, assisted by Deacon Paul. Each Monday morning the school community gathers for prayer and this year we used the theme ‘Head, Heart and Hands’ with a focus on the values for Catholic Schools. Staff meet for formal prayer each Thursday morning and participated in a Spirituality Day on the first day of Term 4.

NAIDOC Week, Mission Week, Lent, Easter and Advent are times for special prayer and liturgies. In classrooms and around the school we have a special places set up as our prayer space which focus on Catholic Values, Mission and the Liturgical Year.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT - NAPLAN

Students in Years 3 and 5 sat the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) in May this year. NAPLAN assessment results provide valuable information about student achievements in Literacy and Numeracy. An analysis of these results assists school planning and is used to support teaching and learning programs.

School and National Mean Scale Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 3 National</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3 School</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>472</td>
<td>417</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5 National</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>483</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5 School</td>
<td>496</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>485</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>475</td>
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Proportion of students at or above the National Minimum Standard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 3 National</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>96%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3 School</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5 National</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5 School</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>98%</td>
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The above tables show that we have performed above the State average in the majority of assessment areas. The performance of our Year 3 students is particularly pleasing. NAPLAN results will be further analysed to inform and guide the direction for improvements for our Year 5 cohort and further extension for our high achieving students. The high percentage of students achieving minimum standards across all areas, compared with National figures, is a testament to processes (such as the Learning Support program) in place at St. Bernard's.

**SCHOOL POLICIES**

**Enrolment Policy**
In enrolling students we are directed by the Archdiocesan Enrolment Policy which can be found on the Annual Report page of the school’s website or on the Catholic Education Office website at [http://www.ceocg.catholic.edu.au/parents/Pages/GeneralPolicies.aspx](http://www.ceocg.catholic.edu.au/parents/Pages/GeneralPolicies.aspx)

**Behaviour**
St Bernard's Primary School Pastoral Care Policy
The Behaviour Management section of the pastoral Care Policy was revised this year to reflect the principles of Restorative Justice. Following recommendations from the team a Three Step process was developed. In Term 3 students, staff and parents were informed of the process. Posters are on display in classrooms as a visual reminder of expectations. The Pastoral Care Policy acknowledges...
that all members of the community have rights and responsibilities and reflects the school motto ‘That All May Be One’.

Corporal punishment is expressly prohibited in this school. In addition we do not sanction the administering of corporal punishment by non-school persons to enforce discipline at our school.

The full text of the school’s Pastoral Care and Behaviour Management Policy is available on the school website or from the Front Office.

**Complaints and Grievances Resolution Policy**

The school policy is based on procedural fairness and recognises that parents and caregivers must have access to processes that allow them to resolve concerns in a supportive and conciliatory environment. Any concerns raised are responded to promptly and fairly and confidentiality is always maintained. A full text of the school policy is available on the school website or from the Front Office.

**PRIORITIES AND TARGETS**

**Enriching Learning**

A focus on Literacy and Numeracy development was promoted including:

- The continuation of Literacy and Numeracy teams to review and develop the Literacy and Numeracy programs,
- The development and adoption of a school wide Numeracy Scope and Sequence,
- The development of numeracy blocks and an agreed practice for timetabling and programming,
- Professional Development incorporating First Steps Writing Program led to the adoption of a school wide approach to spelling. This led to the establishment of a Writer’s wall to showcase students’ work samples to the school community.
- A French program continued as part of the Languages other than English (LOTE) initiative. A teacher and teacher’s assistant were engaged. Students experienced one 45 minute lesson per week as an introduction to the French language.
- A Performing Arts teacher was employed to provide 45 minute session for each class for Music, Dance and Drama. The provision of music opportunities included guitar and concert band tuition was again made available. Extra Curricular activities were made available for senior students including Tournament of the Minds, Chess Club and Public Speaking. A whole school music and dance performance was conducted in October.

**Building Community**

- The number of parents, grandparents and friends attending assemblies and class displays increased during 2011.
- A Mother’s Day morning tea and a Father’s Day breakfast were conducted.
- St Bernard’s Feast Day was celebrated with a Liturgy followed by a morning tea to which parents, grandparents and friends were invited.
- The school fair was very successful due to the superb organisation and wide community support.
- A morning tea to meet Kindergarten parents was hosted by the current Kindergarten parents.
- An after school Gardening Club including students and parents was established and completed a number of projects around the school.
• A School Community BBQ was conducted again in 2011 with many parents, students and staff attending.

Managing Resources
• The continued improvement of occupational health and safety for students, staff, and parents was, and remains, a priority. Carpets and classroom
• The junior and senior student’s playground equipment areas underwent an upgrade and redevelopment with repairs and additional equipment provided
• Computers were upgraded in the newly redeveloped Computer Room 1
• A new security fence was constructed along the front boundary of the school.
• The staff work area was remodelled to include work benches and laptops.
• Classroom carpets and furniture and the painting of buildings and classrooms continues to be conducted on a rolling basis.

Literacy and Numeracy Targets for 2012
• Developing strategies to assist students with learning needs
• Providing enrichment activities for higher performing students to assist them to achieve even stronger results
• Providing professional development in the integration of web 2 technologies into classroom activities.
• By the end of 2012, the school will have developed and implemented whole school agreed practices which facilitate effective tracking and monitoring of student performance across all stages

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Professional Learning
All teachers have been involved in professional development activities during the year. These activities are designed to develop the skills and understandings of staff to improve student outcomes. Professional development can take many forms including whole staff days, subject specific inservices, meetings and conferences.
The school held three whole staff days in 2011. The content of these days was as follows: Staff Spirituality, School Vision and Mission, and Interactive Whiteboards & ICT.

Teacher Qualifications
All teachers are qualified as required by the relevant State and Territory bodies.

TEACHER ATTENDANCE AND RETENTION
The average teacher attendance rate during 2011 was 98%.
The teacher retention rate from 2010 to 2011 was 100%.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE
The average student attendance for the school during 2011 was 93.2%.
School attendance rates disaggregated by Year group are shown in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance rates by Year group</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
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<td>Year 3</td>
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<td>Year 4</td>
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<td>Year 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
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**PARENT, TEACHER AND STUDENT SATISFACTION**

Student Satisfaction - The students were satisfied with the following areas of school: playground, computers, buddy system, friendships, caring teachers, and the library. The information was gained via a series of meetings and forums.

Staff identified the following as areas of strength: technology, sport, class sizes, teaching and learning, buddy system, anti bullying, caring environment and the students themselves.

It is apparent from extensive consultation that the school enjoys a positive reputation throughout the community. Parents identified the following as areas of strength: caring environment, sense of community, pastoral support, teaching staff, leadership, and high expectations.

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

![St Bernard's Bateman's Bay - Income](chart)
St Bernard's Bateman's Bay - Expenditure

- Salaries, Allowances, and Related Expenses: 77%
- Non-Salary Expenses: 15%
- Capital Expenditure: 8%

St Bernard's Batemans Bay - Expenditure