

GOOD COUNSEL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Seek, Learn and Serve



2016

ANNUAL REPORT

Year:	2016	Fax:	40 612994
School	Good Counsel	Phone:	40 612271
School	Prep - Year 6	Email:	principal@gcps.qld.edu.au
Town:	Innisfail	Principal:	Liam Kenny
Address:	96 Rankin St	APRE:	Maria Caltabiano

Introduction

At Good Counsel Primary we value a strong partnership with families and encourage the building of relationships within a caring and safe community. It is our belief that children more easily achieve their true potential when parents feel comfortable being active and involved in the life of the school.

There is much pride in our rich history and traditions and we are inspired that our students will be empowered to take their place in the world and contributing positively to the life to society.

Together we are continually striving for excellence in education within a Christian environment. Good Counsel Primary School places a strong emphasis on respect for the individual and the rights of self and others.

Each and every year we look to a long and happy association with parents/ carers as we work together to educate each child: spiritually, academically, physically, socially and emotionally.

A high community profile, strong partnership with the local Parish and Good Counsel Secondary College, an emphasis and respect for the role of parents in their child's education, and an enthusiasm to enhance current curriculum trends and innovations, makes for a dynamic, focused and diverse approach to education.

Our school motto, which proudly bears the words "Seek Learn Serve", provides for each of us an ideal which we are all striving- students, staff and parent community. GCPS is a Catholic Primary School that fosters a Christian community with strong links to the local Parish and wider community, professing and living out our Gospel values alongside a balanced and quality education.

In 2016, a total of 320 students from 221 families have been enrolled from Prep to Year 6.

Governance

Good Counsel Primary is guided and supported by three major stakeholders. Our Combined Schools' Board- with its major function to oversee policy development; the Parish Finance Committee that meet regularly to ensure the continued management and stewardship of the school and its resources; and our School Parents and Friends Association, which meet monthly to work with the school to develop community, support particular projects and assist the school financially with targeted projects.

School Board Representatives:

Fr Kerry Crowley (Parish Priest)
Mrs Andrea Harding (Chair)
Mr Peter Schramm (GCPS Rep)
Mr Liam Kenny (GCPS Principal)
Mr James Roberts (GCC Principal)
Mrs Vicki Conomo (St Rita's SJ Principal)
Mrs Judy Billiau (St Rita's Babinda Principal)
Mrs. Mary Jonutz (Secretary)
3 School Parent Reps

Parents & Friends Association:

Mrs Rosa Lizzio (Chair)
Mr Frank Kuhn (Vice Chair)
Mrs Michelle Borg (Secretary)
Mrs Leanne Maccarone (Treasurer)
Mrs Natalie Terry (Diocesan Parent Rep)
Fr Kerry Crowley (Parish Priest)
Mr Liam Kenny (Principal)
Additional Parent Members

Catholic Life and Mission

The religious identity and culture of Good Counsel Primary throughout 2016 continued to be promoted through a positive sense of the ordinary, the sacred, the contemporary and the traditional. The gospel values which underpin our school rules of Respect for Self, Others and Property are integrated with the Social and Emotional values of getting along with those around us by being tolerant, inclusive and resilient. Mrs C. ensures that staff and students are reminded that GCPS is a Catholic School and particular attention is given to the way we treat each other. The additional work that Maria does for the students at GCPS is outstanding and she is a constant support to all staff. We are reminded each Monday on Assembly by the Student Council, as we commence with the Lord's Prayer that we are at a Catholic school. As such, our expectations and behaviour must reflect it, and that above all else, we treat each other with the respect we expect be shown to us.

Our beginning focus was the school's Charism – the legacy of being founded by the Sisters of the Good Samaritan of the Benedictine Order, and to celebrate and understand some of the 90+ year history that is the foundation of this school.

Our Eucharistic Liturgies included the Staff Mass in January, the Beginning School Mass in February, and Mary, Mother of Good Counsel's Feast Day Mass in April.

In July, we hosted Catholic Education Week for the Southern Deanery Catholic Primary Schools. Children from St Clare's Tully, St John's Silkwood, St Rita's South Johnstone and St Rita's Babinda, as well as, the SRC from Good Counsel College joined us in celebrating 'Opening Doors in the Year of Mercy'.

In August we gathered once again for the Feast of the Assumption and we are looking forward to our end of year Thanksgiving Mass. As always, parents and extended family have been an integral part of each

celebration.

We continued to build quality relationships by welcoming grandparents into the classroom for Grandparents Day; celebrating with mums for Mother's Day and Preps inviting dads in for Father's Day. The staff and students have communicated the school's distinct Christian hospitality through classroom masses and lower school Liturgies of the Word.

For all this we offer our sincere appreciation to our Parish Priest Fr Kerry Crowley, Fr Nathan McKay and Fr Joby.

Through our Friday Prayer Assemblies, the children of each class have given life to significant people and days by celebrating, teaching, sharing and building an understanding of Scripture, song and community. In return, the children have increased their confidence and presentation skills.

This was the fifteenth year of GCPS Year 6 Mini Vinnies to raise social justice awareness in this school. It saw outstanding efforts, by both Yr. 6 classes, through their various Bake and Sell activities, Easter, Grandparents, Mother's Day Raffles, Crazy Dress Day and now the Class Christmas Hampers. With your generosity, the Mini Vinnies have helped the Innisfail St Vincent de Paul Society, as well as assisting 2 students overseas with their education.

The teaching staff members have participated in professional development days at school and in Cairns – with the Saturday whole teaching staff attendance at the TREWTH Conference.

All the while, the classroom subject of Religion follows the Brisbane Curriculum as outlined by the Diocese and is lived out each day by students while in the classroom, library or on the sports field.

ICT

During 2016 a focus on consolidating our current resources was initiated. This saw not only an increase in the level of student access but also a broadening of the types of technologies that teachers and students

are now using as teaching and learning tools. Students have weekly access the IT Lab with 30 laptops as well as a fleet of 90 laptops available for daily classroom use. Some 90 iPads have been put into circulation across the school, and are used daily in classrooms for small group or whole class activities, as well as targeted learning support initiatives.

Other ICT initiatives included the consolidation of Online roll marking; upgrade to the school proxy security system to allow the safest online student access, online staff access to student data, student reporting and next year online behavior management records. Over the Christmas break we will be rolling over 25 staff laptops, 40 student iPads and replacement data projectors, ready for the start of the new school year.

Library

Several new initiatives have been implemented for the library including lunch time activity centres and thematic displays for special occasions. The upgrading of the entry displays to include new book titles and promotional resources has added to additional advertising of the Library Resource Centre. The introduction of e-books with the Online Library, in time for reading throughout the holidays, using student logins, provides another facet to our tremendous library.

The work of Mrs Farina and Mrs Horsford certainly engages students in learning and a love of books.

Parent Participation

Our P & F Association has worked in the co-ordination and organization of social events, catering at sporting events, assisting with contributing to school resources, parent engagement activities and student activities. Attendance at and assistance with celebrations, School Prayer, Assemblies, Sports Days, Discos, Meet and Greet Nights and the various parent engagement information sessions, nights and other special events, enabled parents to continue their

participation and support of the spiritual and community life of the school. Numbers were up for our two guest speakers this year with well over 150 in attendance to the *Cyber Safety* and the *Raising Children* talks that were facilitated mid-year.

Enrolment and Staffing

Good Counsel School consisted of 14 classes ranging from Prep to Year 6. The aim of having straight classes for the school was achieved with additional enrolments being able to be taken throughout the year. We began classes with 33 new students starting in Term 1 and this grew throughout the year to a total of 52 by Term 4. We did farewell several students due to parents moving from the area in search of employment. Again this year we supported classes with significant School Support Officers' time to assist students with specific learning needs. Our Prep Classes were allocated full time aides which were supported by the school to transition students into formal education. Pre- Prep transition days occurred on the first 5 Fridays of Term 4 with an additional Parent Information Night and Open classroom to allow Pre-Prep Parents to visit and view Prep Teaching in the classroom. Thank you to the Prep Team for the amazing work that done each day.

Buildings and Maintenance

2016 saw many building upgrades occur on the school site. Maintenance was completed over the Christmas break to repair damaged paintwork, construction of new seating in the breezeway, the refurbishment of Room 2 into three Student Work Areas and the completion of the staff carpark on Rankin Street, all added to benefit student learning and use of facilities. Throughout the year new aluminum soccer goals were purchased, trees cut back off the oval and a new sign above the notice board in the prep carpark was erected. The stage area of the northern end of the Good Samaritan Hall (GSH) has been removed with the construction of a room to be utilised by a GCPS Playgroup is underway. This will allow families with younger children up to Prep age to meet socially here

at school. Playgroup will be organised on a Friday morning from 9am each week. The GSH is the most practical venue for the group to meet with close parking, pram access and a secure environment for parents to watch their children. A small kitchenette, furnishings and storage for equipment will be budgeted for in the project. Mrs Amy McElhinney and Mrs Rosanne Mifsud will be our volunteer coordinators in 2017.

Learning and Teaching

Again in 2016, GCPS has had Learning & Teaching as a major focus. Considerable time was given to familiarising staff with the roll out of Technology units from the Australian Curriculum and identifying and exploring further sections of our ongoing professional learning plan. This included a focus on explicit teaching of core content, maintaining the consistency of teacher judgment and moderation in regard to student assessment and reporting. Mrs Jan Gallagher (Curriculum Support Teacher) has continued to lead the staff on a journey of positive growth in the area of curriculum planning and delivery.

Staff worked collaboratively to articulate clear goal setting and continued to develop and refine planning documents which are now stored centrally on the School Portal.

Teachers welcomed opportunities to network and engage in rich conversations about matters that related to their classroom practice. Visible Learning focusing on effective classroom feedback has enhanced the practice of teachers.

The continuation of a Literacy Coach (Mrs Michelle Ham) has been welcomed by staff and aided in strengthening teacher skills in the area of direct classroom teaching. This person advised teachers on the management and resourcing of literacy groups to cater for the needs of all students and allowed time for teachers to work collaboratively on programming.

School based funding enabled teachers to also participate in a wide range of other individual and

small group professional development learning initiatives including Classroom Profiling; Social Emotional Learning; TREWTH - Religion and Well Being Conference; Quality Teacher Program; Explicit Teaching Strategies; Graduate Teacher Days; *iPads* in Education; Early Years Curriculum Conference; 7 Steps to Writing; Grammar; Curriculum Conferences; Future Schools Technology Conference and School visits.

The individual work of our classroom teachers is amazing and I am constantly seeing student learning being enhanced by the creative teachers at GCPS. This is in all areas of the curriculum, but particularly in English, IT, Mathematics, Technology and Science. Their passion and commitment to student learning is so evident as I walk into classrooms each day and witness great learning and engaged students who are on task and delivering results.

This year we had over 28 students involved in Instrumental Music that is coordinated and taught by Mr. Nathan Wiltshire. Students have the opportunity to learn guitar, percussion, brass, wind and keyboard. Lessons take place in the music room each Thursday and are paid for by parents. This year the musicians put on a Parent Concert in Term 3 and were involved the Talent Expo in Term 4.

Learning Support

In 2016 GCPS had the following students enrolled across the 14 classes; 39 students from a non-English Speaking background; 58 students with Indigenous background; 12 Verified students. Our Learning Support team, (Mrs Amanda Hurney and Mrs Lesley Erbacher) worked tirelessly to cater for the students in our care offering support in small groups or on an individual basis.

Students were identified through standardised testing NAPLAN results and teacher observation as requiring explicit input to support their particular learning needs. Learning Support was provided for Literacy, Numeracy and enrichment work for small

groups of students from Prep to Year 6.

The Learning Support teachers also provided assistance to classroom teachers in developing Individual Education Plans (IEPs) for funded and other identified students with specific physical, social or academic needs. Our Indigenous students received funding to assist with Literacy and Numeracy development and many targeted students received learning support assistance for speech programs.

The Learning Support Program throughout the school has relied heavily on the dedication of our School Officers who provided one- on-one literacy and numeracy support to students across the school.

Students in Year 1 were involved in a weekly - three day Mathematics and Literacy Program with Mrs Mifsud. Students from Prep joined Mrs McElhinney for an intensive ESL Program two days each week. The introduction of the Extension English and Math groups on a Friday with Miss McLeish has been a great success.

75 students were involved in our Rainbow Reading Program which targeted identified students to receive 4 twenty minute intensive reading lessons per week. The program has delivered fantastic results.

Staff have accessed direct funding for verified students to assist with planning, IEP and EAP writing as well as transition time.

The continuation of the Indigenous Liaison Officer position (Mrs Lorraine Naqicatabua - Mrs Tabua) has continued to assist the learning needs of our Indigenous students and support Parents in their children's enrolment at GCPS. Mrs Tabua has also coordinated many activities in 2016 including celebrations for Reconciliation Week; NAIDOC Week; The Great Book Swap; Parent Afternoon Tea and Yr 6 GCC Indigenous Students Transition Day.

Student Performance

During 2016, students were formally tested in Numeracy, Reading and Spelling. Testing was conducted twice over the year with the *SWIFT* Single Word Spelling Test along with *PAT* Testing in Reading and Maths which was undertaken by all students in Grades 2-6. As part of our annual assessment plan the *TORCH* Comprehension Test for students in Grades 3 onwards was administered. Regular assessment, using the *PM* and *Probe Running Records Levels* were also undertaken.

During 2016, the school continued to use a variety of strategies to assess student learning. These include student work samples and teacher observations.

In addition, Good Counsel Primary School has continued to be involved in the establishment of a process of internal and external moderation as part of a system initiative across the Southern Deanery for Consistency of Teacher Judgement (CTJ). Essentially, this saw schools comparing student learning and evidence of performance in identified areas of learning to ascertain an agreed expectation for grading and reporting.

In 2016, students in Years 3 and 5 once again participated in the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). This assessment program incorporated assessments in the areas of Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy. The data from these test results has enabled schools and systems the capacity to compare their students' achievements against national standards and with student achievement in other States and Territories and across the Diocese. This data is available on the My School website.

Students from Year 3 - 6 participated in the ICAS Spelling, Mathematics, English, Writing, Science and Digital Technologies Competitions. Many individuals achieved High Distinctions, Distinctions, Credits and Merits for their efforts in

these competitions. Students also participated in the Mathematics Olympiads with one student achieving in the top 10% and another two in the top 20% of Australia and New Zealand.

Sporting Programs

In 2016, the school continued to maintain an active school sporting program. This saw a number of sporting teams participate in various tournaments and competitions. Students from Year 3 – 6 participated in Inter-School Sport in Terms 3 and 4 in Soccer, League Tag, Netball, AFL, Cricket, Softball and T-Ball. School teams were entered in many tournaments including Rugby League, Netball, and Futsal.

Many students also took up the chance to be selected in the District team for Cricket, Rugby League, Cross Country, Athletics, Netball, Tennis, Touch, Soccer and Rugby Union. From these sports, students were selected in five sports to represent the Peninsula Region in Rugby League, Netball, Softball, Tennis and Touch. This year the school brought home some ‘Silverware’, winning the Peninsula Netball Championships; the Billy Slater League Tag Boys Division winners, Runners up in the Mixed Division; Jim Graham Rugby League Champions; Under 10 Ty Williams Champions and Mary Mills Netball Champions. Congratulations to all.

Of course, all of this would not have been possible without the wonderful support of our coaches and teachers who offer up time to co-ordinate and organise events. We received a lot of wonderful feedback from parents/carers who enjoyed the experience of being involved with the respective teams and of course the students gained immensely from the tuition and guidance they receive by being a part of the team.

At the school level other highlights were the World Cup Soccer; the Handball Competition and the morning lap running; as well as Netball, League Tag and athletics training out of school hours.

Thanks to Mrs Russell and Mr Brunetto for the many hours they put into coaching teams and organising, outside of school time for our students.

Future Directions

As we wrap up the final term of 2016, we look to the forward to new challenges and an exciting classroom focus on improving student learning in 2017. Increasing the skills of the teaching staff drives the success of students and leads to happy and motivated learners. As a school, GCPS will continue to support student learning with excellent classroom teaching supported by targeted programs to improve students who require the curriculum to be differentiated.

Such programs in 2017 will include:

- Role M (Math)
- Rainbow Reading (Yr 1-4)
- MMIP
- Intensive ESL
- Rainbow Comprehension (Yr 5-6)
- Extension Groups
- Coding Club

A key focus in 2017 will be increasing support in the area of Science and Technology and using data to improve student results.

Teachers will be provided additional time to plan and evaluate their teaching practice with their co-teacher in a Professional Learning Team (PLT). They will be supported by a Literacy and Numeracy Coach who will model and mentor targeted classroom teaching.

We are still in the planning stage of designing a two-storey Science and Technology Learning Space that is to be constructed at the southern end of the Senior Block, above the Prep outdoor area. This will allow for an extension of the Prep undercover area and enhance the facilities to allow for an area for contemporary teaching and learning.

Certainly exciting times are planned for 2017.

Finally, thank you to all our staff for working so hard to provide the best education for our students. Their commitment to GCPS students is nothing but outstanding and they do make a difference to the children in our care. Our best asset is our student group, the children who turn up and greet us with a smile each morning and leave at the end of the day, with a smile, having completed a full day of learning and playing respectfully.

My hope is that they do not lose that smile.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liam Kenny', written in a cursive style.

LIAM KENNY
PRINCIPAL