BOARD REPORT

2012

ST BISHOY COPTIC
ORTHODOX COLLEGE

Mt Druitt
VISION STATEMENT

St. Bishoy Christian College is a parish based Christian Community School that aims to work in partnership with teachers, parents and students to create a learning environment where Christian values are the foundation of the school’s practices. Our school is a place where students and staff will feel secure and supported by all members of the school community.

We promote the practice of sincere Christian love, service and humility which provides students with the opportunity to display and develop their God given gifts as we grow up into Christ together. By developing a love for learning and a love for God students will increase their confidence in who God has created them to be thus better enabling them to become active members in their church and Australian society where they will be able pass on and live out their faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord of all.

Mission

We are dedicated to cultivating individuals of character, courage, competence and compassion by inspiring our students to pursue academic excellence within an engaged and nurturing community, creating a people of Christian faith, a people serving others.

To this end we are committed to:

Providing a safe, clean and nurturing environment where everyone values and acts in the spirit of co-operation, respect, trust, and responsibility.

Ensuring that every child enjoys the process of learning through positive experiences and adequate support.

Knowing each child in order to best teach them through specific strategies that help them identify particular gifts; providing sound opportunities for their development.

Teaching children in a stimulating and engaging learning environment with a broad curriculum.

Building motivated, confident and independent learners that are well-prepared for the next stage of schooling.

Educating children in a holistic way so they can grow in wisdom, stature and in favour with God and man (Luke 2:52).

Teaching the Word of God – that through it our students may come to know Him and mature in moral and spiritual stature.

Motto: Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ, because he gives me strength.
MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

In 2012 the Multi-purpose Hall (52 Methven St) has been completed with equipment arriving from China to fit out the Wood Technics Lab and Food Technology Lab. All buildings are now completed on both campuses.

The Food Technology lab has been fitted out and completed over the Christmas break. There are some minor adjustments to be made for WHS reasons before it can be used as a functional classroom. The Wood Technics Lab – Design and Technology - Machinery, tools and other fittings have arrived and as funds allow this area will be developed as a functional Wood Tech room.

The playground was completed this year with the addition of two areas surfaced with artificial grass with court markings for various sports and games.

The school has received 70 new laptops which have been deployed in the library and the two computer labs in F4 & G4

The new Biology science lab has been fitted out with new desks and equipment. As funds allow this will be finished and available for use in 2013

In 2012, the College had its third Year 12 cohort. Their results were again particularly encouraging, with student performance indicative of the fact that high quality instruction was available. Approximately one sixth of the 2012 Year 10 cohort left Coptic education, mainly as a result of their inability to access all of the courses that were desired in their senior years at St Bishoy. It is the intention to grow the College, so as to be able to offer more of these subjects in the future and better provide for the needs of all of our students.

The College will undergo BOS inspection for Years K-12 in 2013

Our enrolment decreased in 2012, little growth is expected in 2013, with a smaller than expected kindy intake (2011 end of year, Kindy 34 start 2012 Kindy 32)

Continued disruption to the playground space and the effect of construction on the appearance of the school have still impacted on our ability to market the College effectively. With the building programme completed and playground work completed in 2012, we are hopeful that the College will become a more attractive alternative for the local Coptic community and the local community as a whole. We are still, at this point, attracting approximately 30% of the local Coptic community. Academic achievements was reasonable and staffing was stable.

Student numbers:
2011 at 29.11.11 206 Primary students 135 High school students total = 341
2012 at 31.01.12 188 Primary students 137 High school students Total = 325
Loss of 16 students

Mr K.Bell
PRINCIPAL
Parents and Friends Report

The College did well in 2012, seeing the playground completed and the College’s parking areas being returned to their intended uses, making dropping off and picking up students much easier and safer.

A small but dedicated group of parents have continued to work very hard this year to serve the College community through the P & F, doing a wonderful job raising funds for the College.

In 2012 the College canteen opened with Mr Eskander volunteering his time to run it, however more parents are needed to help with this service. The canteen has been a welcomed addition for the students and the staff. Due to the canteen opening we no longer continued with treat days. Thank you to Aunty Mary who so graciously gave up her time for many years to serve the College community providing treat days for the students.

During 2012 the P & F held many events including, the Mother’s Day Stall and BBQ, Father’s Day Stall, providing drinks at the School Cross Country and the Mini Olympics, Show Bag fundraiser, Friday Jelly cup sales and food and drinks at the Christmas Carols night.

The P & F were able to distribute some of the funds raised to help with the Winter Drama Festival, the Student Welfare Fund, new mats for the College Library, the Year 6 Farewell and Year 12 Formal.

Unfortunately, the College was unable to hold the annual Open Day once again in 2012. Regular meetings were held with the Principal which allowed parents to express their views and concerns and to be updated on College news.

Mrs Ferrett stood down as P & F President at the end of 2012 and welcomed Mrs Georgi into the role for 2013.

Katie Ferrett
VALUE-ADDED INFORMATION

Due to leadership issues at the other Coptic Colleges, there were few Coptic College interactions. The combined colleges’ masses provided welcome opportunities for the students to interact with one another on a social level. The annual Public Speaking Competition proceeded and our students performed creditably.

Our secondary students continue to access the local catholic schools sporting competitions, broadening the scope of their sporting experiences. The College continues to perform creditably, given our relative size, showing continued improvement in most competitions, with the girls’ volleyball again placing second and students representing our school at the Parramatta Dioceses Carnivals in cross country and athletics. Our College was responsible for the coordination of the volleyball and netball competitions and performed this role admirably. The boys’ and girls’ soccer teams as well as the boys’ touch football teams showed significant improvement and both the girls’ basketball and netball teams reached the semi-finals. Our school also participated in the boys AFL competition with all students performing magnificently. One of our boys in year 10 was scouted to play with AFL NSW/ACT where he is in a train on squad for next year.

The College continues employ a counsellor on a part-time basis to assist with student welfare and a Deputy Principal’s position has strengthened the school this year.

A number of cultural visits by groups of Japanese students proved most successful, with many friendships fostered. Our students benefitted from their exposure to another culture.

Students with ability in Mathematics have been provided with the opportunity to completing their HSC in Mathematics, Mathematics Extension 1 and Mathematics Extension II, with a number of these students recording top band performances.

The College was selected by the state government to receive a literacy and numeracy grant and has been participating in PALL, an AIS Project (Principals As Literacy Leaders), with an aim to lift the literacy and numeracy teaching practices and students’ achievement targeting the infants stage (Kindy to Year 2). This has enabled our College to hire an extra teacher’s aid (0.4) to focus on intensive reading programs, as well as continue to employ a permanent teacher to oversee ESL and Special Needs, assisted by a part-time (0.8FTE) ESL/Special Needs assistant. Guided by AIS consultants, the college is receiving six modules of PALL training, which facilitates the College’s literacy and numeracy teaching and learning plan. This area is most important within our school, given our demographic with a substantial majority of students from an ESL background.
SCHOOL PERFORMANCE IN STATEWIDE TESTS

Students completed NAPLAN tests in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9

Year 3

- Our students performed well below state average in Reading
- Our students performed above state average in Writing
- Our students performed close to state average in Spelling
- Our students performed well close to state average in Grammar and Punctuation
- Our students performed slightly below state average in Numeracy

Year 5

- Our students performed below state average in Reading
- Our students performed close to state average in Writing
- Our students performed above state average in Spelling
- Our students performed close to state average in Grammar and Punctuation
- Our students performed substantially below state average in Numeracy

Year 7

- Our students performed below state average in Reading
- Our students performed close to state average in Writing
- Our students performed close to state average in Spelling
- Our students performed close to state average in Grammar and Punctuation
- Our students performed slightly below state average in Numeracy

Year 9

- Our students performed slightly below state average in Reading
- Our students performed close to state average in Writing
- Our students performed close to state average in Spelling
- Our students performed close to state average in Grammar and Punctuation
- Our students performed slightly below state average in Numeracy

The College has a number of new arrivals within the cohort and a general educational disadvantage in Literacy, which is reflective of poor NESB families. These students have specific learning difficulties and are receiving assistance. Efforts will be made to extend more able students to bring more students into the top bands, where we are also significantly under represented. It should be noted that the performance of a small number of students within a small cohort has a significant effect on the group statistics.
Year 12 (Higher School Certificate)

From a small cohort of 15 students, two of whom were recent arrivals, a number of excellent performances were achieved in Biology, Arabic, Mathematics Extension 1 and Mathematics Extension 2. Our English results were good and indicative of the cohort of students representing the college in the HSC. On an individual basis, students achieved some of our ATAR results. The results suggest that all students were given a good opportunity to succeed, across a wide variety of courses.
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING, TEACHING STANDARDS, ATTENDANCE AND RETENTION RATES

Professional Learning

Mandatory attendance of two external in-service days became policy for staff in 2007 and has continued throughout 2012. Internally, the College continues to focus on improving Literacy outcomes, to assist the high number of students from NESB. First aid training is updated regularly.

Attendance and Retention Rate

The average daily staff attendance rate, for 2012, was 95%.

The proportion of staff retained from 2011 at the start of 2012 was 92% (only three teachers left).

Teaching Standards

There were 28 teachers with teaching qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or recognized by NOOSR, all of whom were 4 years trained or higher.
STUDENT ATTENDANCE, RETENTION RATES AND POST-SCHOOL DESTINATIONS

Student Attendance

On average, 92.5% of students were attending school on a given school day.

Student Retention and Post-School Destinations

92% of the Year 6 cohort in 2011 continued to Year 7 in 2012 with 2 students leaving to pursue education elsewhere and four students arriving at the start of 2012. (38 year 6 students in 2011 & 40 Year 7 in 2012)

Most students who leave the College do so as their parents move to other locations; very occasionally some leave to change schools.

Three Year 10 students left to undertake Year 11 at other schools that they believe offered subject selections more suited to their needs. All Year 10 students continued their education to Year 11.

Year 10 - 2011 = 27
Year 11 - 2012 = 14, (loss of 13 students due to lack of subject choice and also because many choose to go to St Mary’s Senior because there is little or no cost to parents)

ENROLMENT POLICY

St Bishoy College is a comprehensive co-educational school providing an education underpinned by the Biblical understanding that God is our Creator and our Saviour, focusing on our Lord Jesus Christ, accepting his Lordship over all areas of Life and seeking to integrate the truths revealed in the Holy Bible in all that it teaches.

Hence, the children of those parents subscribing to the above will be welcome. The children of others may be admitted after an interview with the School Director Priest.

There is no gender requirement.

Once enrolled, students and parents are expected to support the College’s ethos and comply with the College rules to maintain their enrolment.

Procedure:
• applications are processed within this policy,
• consider ability and willingness to support the College’s ethos,
• consider the applicant’s educational needs,
• identify any strategies needed to be put in place to accommodate the applicant eg ESL, financial assistance, health.
• Advise applicant of outcome.

As of the beginning of 2012, the College had 331 students of whom 137 are in the Secondary school. There are approximately equal numbers of boys and girls. As it is a Coptic Christian
school, students come mainly from Coptic backgrounds whose first language is Arabic. There are also Arabic-speaking non-Coptic Christians, East and West African Christians and a small, but increasing local enrolment. Hence, many students require ESL assistance and several have special needs. (boys =171 - girls =160 in 2012)
There was a slight increase in different cultural groups - ie Philippino, Indian and Australians

SCHOOL POLICIES

All policies are available for parental perusal from the Reception Office, and are issued to each member of staff. The following policies are in place.

NOTE: The following policies are located in the school’s policies folder as well as on the school’s server.
- Anaphylaxis Training
- Assessment Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Discipline Policy
- Discrimination and Harassment Policy
- Emergency and Evacuation Policy
- Enrolment Policy
- Excursion Policy
- Grievance Policy
- Homework Policy
- New Scheme Teacher Policy
- Report Writing Guidelines
- Risk Assessment Policy
- R.O.S.A.
- Staff Code of Conduct Policy
- Student Bullying Policy
- Uniform Policy
- Work Health and Safety Policy
Student Discipline

The College seeks to have all its students feel they are valued with care and support from teachers, parents, and fellow students (especially “buddy” systems). Mutual respect for each other is a highly promoted value. With this goes the notion that each student is responsible for their own actions. It is almost a daily imperative to encourage growth of responsibility to oneself, to others and to the differences among others.

Each day begins with communal prayer. The National Anthem is sung every Monday morning and before all significant College events.

Student Discipline

- College code; fair treatment; consistency; documentation; in/out classroom

Policies for Complaints and Grievances Resolution

Complaints

- procedures; directed to; flow chart

As the College is a small school there is much informality and direct access to the Principal by all students – particularly in cases of perceived unfair treatment.
SCHOOL DETERMINED IMPROVEMENT TARGETS

Priorities for Improvement in 2012

1. **Target:** to improve storage of programmes through centralised staff network *under continued development with completion in 2013 expected*

2. **Target:** to enhance staff usage of computer technologies in administration and teaching *under continued development*

3. **Target:** to improve delivery of pastoral care *significant improvements made with the appointment of Deputy Principal to oversee*

4. **Target:** to continue to provide assistance to new teachers to facilitate accreditation *achieving*

5. **Target:** to achieve Accreditation for Years 11/12 in 2013 *achieved, with further inspection in 2013*

6. **Target:** to further develop the building program to cater for increased school population and to provide a better range of facilities for teachers and students. Data projectors for all high school classrooms. More Promethean interactive white boards for Primary classrooms with dedicated computers to run them

7. **Target:** Continue with building programs to develop playground and additional specialist rooms.

8. **Target:** Develop the role of Curriculum Coordinator

9. **Target:** Consolidate the role of Deputy Principal

10. **Target:** To improve storage of programmes through centralised staff network and new server and filter system

11. **Target:** To achieve Accreditation for Years K-12 for 2013

12. **Target:** Introduce new reporting and recording packages

13. **Target:** To improve student literacy outcomes – achieved through the PRINCIPALS AS LITERACY LEARNERS (PALL)
RESPECT AND RESPONSIBILITY

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PARENT, STUDENT AND TEACHER SATISFACTION

The staff-turnover has been reduced from the previous year, and this is one display of teacher satisfaction. Any concerns were dealt with effectively.

This Coptic community is very close, linking the school with the Church (on site), formality being reduced which has become significant in building rapport with parents, as they too feel a part of the school community. Parents are able to voice their concerns to the Director of the school and parish priest, Fr. Botros, or any of the staff. Minor issues are often raised, however they are dealt with effectively, leaving the overall consensus positive.

The Year 10 students who were leaving the College were disappointed to be going and indicated a willingness to stay if a wider variety of courses were available. The size of the school was an asset to many and a concern to some (limited subject choice). Most students commented on being known and valued.

There is a real need for the provision of a wider variety of practical experiences. These needs are being planned for and accommodated.
FINANCIAL REPORT YEAR 2012

ASSETS
Total non-Current Assets (e.g leased building and furniture).................................$7,937,652
Total Current Assets (e.g Inventories)........................................................................$848,592
Total Assets....................................................................................................................$8,786,244

LIABILITIES
Total Non – Current Liabilities (e.g Long term Borrowing)..........................................1,905,348
Total Current Liabilities (e.g short term borrowings).....................................................$175,350
Total Liabilities.............................................................................................................$2,080,698

NET ASSETS .......................................................................................................................$6,705,546

COSTS
Teaching Staff (e.g salaries, superannuation, leave).......................................................$3,049,051
Property (e.g rates, cleaning, electricity, rent).................................................................$410,697
Teaching Resources (Science/computer labs, library).......................................................$224,510
General (e.g telephone, printing, office costs).................................................................$357,944
Total Expenses..............................................................................................................$4,042,202

INCOME
Fees (Tuition, enrolment, donations)..............................................................................$796,879
Government Grants.......................................................................................................$3,038,142
Others (e.g fundraising, sales uniform/books)...............................................................$241,661
Total Income..................................................................................................................$4,076,682