Wednesday, 20th October, 2010.

Sts Peter & Paul’s School continues to be a well sought after school within the local community. At present we have 372 families with a student population of 561 students. The demand for places at Sts Peter & Paul’s continues to be a challenge as we respond to the enrolment pressure within the local area.

Some reflections on the year include:

**STAFF**
This year we welcomed Joanne Sobral (Prep) to the teaching staff. Thank you to Paul Bawden, Katherine Griffin, Katrina Aaskov, Stephanie Sheehan, Trish Wilson, Katherine Dyte, Michelle Hammill, Natalie Sallese, Ros Lanigan and Julie Beggs who have filled extended Leave, Maternity and Long Service Leave positions this year.

At this stage teacher appointments for 2011 have not been finalised, nor approved by Brisbane Catholic Education. However, Carolyn Morton (Year 7 Teacher) has accepted a position as Assistant Principal at St Finbar’s, Byron Bay and I can confirm that we will have one graduate teacher appointed to Sts Peter & Paul’s.

**CURRICULUM**
Teachers continue to work closely with the Religious Education Guidelines together with the support modules which continue to be rolled out from Brisbane Catholic Education Office in order to deliver quality learning and teaching of Religious Education. The school has continued to support the Parish Sacramental Programmes again in 2010 with First Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation being celebrated.

With the guidance of our Curriculum Support Teacher, Mrs Marie Rosborough, year level planning days are held throughout the year which enables teachers to be released to plan collaboratively. Therefore, program writing across the nine Key Learning Areas has continued and in particular the staff have worked specifically with the English and Maths curricula.

All members of the teaching staff are given the opportunity to participate in ongoing Professional Development throughout the year. Teachers have attended a range of in-services across all nine Key Learning Areas. This year we have invested a significant amount of staff meeting time working with the National Curriculum in the areas of English, Maths, Science and History which are to be introduced in 2011.
The Physical Education program has seen another busy year full of student achievements. Affiliation Fees were paid once again by the school, which enabled us to be a member of the Metropolitan East Schools. This has given students the opportunity to be selected and to then represent Sts Peter & Paul’s School at a higher level of competition. Students in large numbers have continued to do well as they represent the school in Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country competitions.

The Music Program with Mrs Carolyn Burchill continues to be enjoyed by the students at the school. Students competed very successfully at the Queensland Catholic Schools Music Festival, with the Senior Choir being awarded Gold. The Drama Program with Mrs Alayna Foster adds another dimension to The Arts curriculum at Sts Peter & Paul’s which is thoroughly enjoyed by all students from Prep to Year 7. At present both Carolyn and Alayna are busily preparing for the School Concert which will be held at the end of the school year.

The Enrichment Program continues to support children throughout the school under the direction of Mrs Carolyn Burchill. A special mention of congratulations is extended to the 2 Future Problem Solving teams who were successful at State level. They then went on to compete in Melbourne at the weekend and were placed 4th and 5th for the presentation of their action plans at National level.

Students in Years 3, 5 & 7 participated in NAPLAN - the National Assessment Program in Numeracy and Literacy which included Reading, Writing, Spelling and Grammar & Punctuation. This is the third year of these national tests. A letter of congratulations was again received from the Premier of Queensland and the Minister for Education and Training congratulating the school on the excellent results that have been achieved in the 2010 NAPLAN tests. (A copy of this letter is attached to this report.)

Once again the students of Sts Peter & Paul’s School received outstanding results when they competed in the University of New South Wales English, Writing, Spelling, Mathematics, Science and Computer Competitions. These achievements have all been published in the newsletter throughout the year.

The Year 7 classes jetted out to Canberra and Sydney in July and experienced a marvellous trip that really enhanced their understandings of our democratic principles and responsible participation in our government. The Years 4-6 students also participated in camping programs at Luther Heights, Coolum; Tallebudgera and Mudjimba at various stages throughout the year.

Well done to our students and congratulations to the teachers and school officers who continue to do a terrific job with learning and teaching at Sts Peter & Paul’s School.
TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE - INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARDS & COMPUTERS

We have purchased a further 8 mobile Interactive Whiteboards (Starboards), which during the September holiday period were installed in the Years 4, 5 & 6 classrooms. This is a wonderful resource for the learning and teaching in these year levels. At this point in time, we now have interactive whiteboards in all classrooms from Years 3 – 7 and in the Library. The Computer Room has been fitted out with 31 new computers and the library has a new bank of 10 computers. A big thank you to the P & F for the significant contribution made to the purchasing of these Interactive Whiteboards and new computers. Our school continues to be well resourced due to the commitment of funds being received each year from our hard working Parents & Friends Association.

The students are certainly benefiting and enjoying these new resources and I thank all those who have enabled this upgrade to occur. I look forward to further initiatives being implemented as we continue to enhance learning and teaching in the area of Technology.

GROUNDS/BUILDINGS

Funding of $3 million through Building the Education Revolution (BER) - Primary Schools for the 21st Century is providing new facilities for Sts Peter and Paul’s School Community. A multi-purpose hall which will include a sports and arts centre on the site of the old tennis courts is currently under construction. Tennis, basketball, netball, volleyball and other sports will be played indoors and provision will be made for school concerts and other large functions for both the school and the parish.

At this point in time we anticipate works to be completed by the end of March, 2011. These works will be a wonderful boost to the facilities at Sts Peter & Paul’s. We can proudly say that the grounds, buildings and classrooms are well resourced providing quality learning and teaching environments for the students of Sts Peter & Paul’s School.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY

There have been significant events happening this year thanks to the continued support and initiatives of the Parents & Friends Association. These have included, for example, continued involvement in safe and efficient practices when using the Pick-up and Drop-off Zones, the ANZAC Day Parade, Working Bees, a very successful Fair, State of Origin Fathers’ night, the Days on the Green, to name just a few events.

Internet Safety and Cyber Bullying parent/teacher evenings have also been organised by the school this year in order to inform and educate parents and staff on this very important topic.

Another very successful Feast Day was held this year. Students took part in a whole school Mass and special House Team events. It was a day of fun activities and a
great celebration for all. A big thank you to the P & F, for the support with organising, setting up and running a wonderful day.

A sincere thank you is extended to the Parents & Friends who have once again made a significant contribution to the school in order to benefit the learning and teaching environment for the children at Sts Peter & Paul’s School. To the Executive Committee, Leo, Andrew, Ann-Maree and Linda - I thank you for your commitment of time, energy and leadership throughout the year.

END OF YEAR EVENTS
Teachers will distribute Report Cards to the children on Thursday 25th November. Accompanying the Report Card will be a slip of paper that states the child’s name; the name of their 2011 teacher and the name of their 2011 Class.

Classes will again participate in their 'End of Year' Outings with planned activities including Wet n Wild for Year 7, Chandler Aquatic Centre for Years 5/6, SPLASH for Years 3/4 and a Christmas theatre adventure for the Years 1/2.

The Year 7 Graduation will be held on Wednesday 1st December.

The School Concert which will be held on Thursday, 2nd December at the Good Samaritan Centre at Lourdes Hill College.

The End of Year Mass is scheduled for 9.30am on Friday 3rd December and school will conclude for 2010 at 12 noon.

Sr Ann-Maree Nicholls sgs
PRINCIPAL