

# ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Ltyentye Apurte  
Catholic Education Centre

*OUR SCHOOL IS A PLACE OF LEARNING FOR ALL*

## **MISSION**

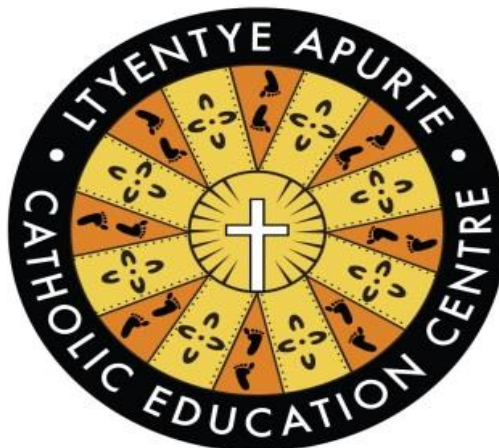
As partners in Catholic education, we believe that we are called to provide excellence in education to the students in our care through:

- Recognising the rights of students to learn their Arrernte language and culture; Implementing the Gospel imperative of Jesus for people to live life to the full;
- Ensuring quality teaching and learning
- Making a difference by promoting reconciliation and inspiring a positive action for the future.

## **OUR VALUES :**

Faith; Truth; Compassion; Service; Respect; Forgiveness; Justice; Hope; Love

**Ltyentye Apurte Catholic Education Centre**  
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## **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

This annual report provides a brief record of school achievements and some of the key highlight for the 2013 school year.

At Ltyentye Apurte School we live our Catholic faith through our commitment to developing strong individuals who have the capacity to live full lives valuing their family traditions whilst thriving in the modern world. We aspire to develop the whole person, building independence, encouraging people to achieve their full potential, whilst continually striving for self- worth, integrity and excellence.

Some significant features of the year are outlined in the following report.

### ***Reflections on the 2013 School Year***

2013 has been a very busy year here at Ltyentye Apurte Catholic Education Centre (LACEC). We commenced the year on a somber note following the death of Greg Crowe (Principal 200 – 2012) in a tragic car accident last November. There were eight new teachers including a new principal. All quickly settled into life at Santa Teresa and have enjoyed the year so much that all are staying on in 2014. On November 7<sup>th</sup> we commemorated the memory of Greg Crowe with a Mass and the inauguration of the Greg Crowe Award. This award will become an annual award and is presented to a student whose attendance is excellent (90% or more), whose behavior is of a high standard and who participates fully in all class and school activities.

A dream of Greg Crowe was for the Ltyentye Apurte Drummers under the direction of Ba-Boom to visit Melbourne this year to participate in ***Dreamtime at the G***. This dream was realized when 17 students and six staff set out on May 21<sup>st</sup> for a week-long trip to Melbourne where they performed in Federation Square, participated in the Long Walk, and were part of the pre match entertainment at the MCG.

Spirituality is at the centre of what happens at school. The school year began with a school Mass asking God's blessing on the year. As the children and staff entered the church there was a smoking ceremony linking the celebration to the ancient customs of the Arrernte people. Other highlights during the year included the celebrations for Mother's Day and Father's Day which both included a liturgy, the Stations of the Cross during Holy Week, and the visit of Bishop Eugene to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. Closely connected to Spirituality is the teaching of the Arrernte language and culture. A special part of this programme is the Bush Trips where children learn about bush medicine, bush tucker and other customs. The local Santa Teresa Indigenous Rangers have also been involved in these bush trips. A special Bush trip was the two day excursion of the children in Years 6/7/8/9 to Arltunga to connect with their history. October 1<sup>st</sup> this year was the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the community from Arltunga to their new home here at Santa Teresa. Many of the above activities were coordinated and funded through the Revolutions and Rainbows Programme.

We have had a number of visits from sporting groups this year all with the same dual message of the importance of good health, exercise & nutrition, and the importance of school and education generally. ARMtour visited on three occasions and we also welcomed members and players from Essendon, Richmond, Melbourne, and the Outback Tigers AFL Clubs. Ben Madgen co-captain of the Sydney Kings and his brother Jack spent a week in the school running daily basketball clinics for all classes. At the end of the first term a group of 9 boys participated in the annual Marist Basket Ball Carnival which was held in Alice Springs this year. While out skilled by their opponents the boys won the hearts of the other competitors by their determination and resilience. They were grateful for this kindness and encouragement from fellow students from other parts of Australia. At the end of Term Two years 3/4/6/7 participated in the 3on3 Vibe sports day in Alice Springs.

The overall attendance of the children continues to be good and much progress was made throughout the year in the classrooms. Book Week and Literacy Week were celebrated with an emphasis on reading. The library was busy each morning for the first half hour of school with children sharing stories with each other, with adults (parents & staff) reading to children, and older children reading stories to younger ones.

Plans are in place for the introduction of a modified form of Middle School in 2014. We believe this structure will better meet the needs of children in their early teens and give them an experience of how secondary schools operate. Vocational education will be included in the programme and the specialist skills of other teachers will be utilized.

Ltyentye Apurte Catholic Education Centre is blessed with a wonderful staff who are committed to providing the best learning opportunities for the children entrusted to their care. Thank you to all members of the staff; teaching and non-teaching, for their hard work and dedication during this year. Everyone's contribution, no matter how small, is valued and has a positive impact on the school. Thanks also to the parents and families for their support of and cooperation with the school during this year. We greatly value this partnership with the Santa Teresa community.

***Br Daniel Hollamby (Principal)***

## **SCHOOL PROFILE**

Ltyentye Apurte Catholic Education Centre (LACEC) is in the Santa Teresa Community, about 80 kms from Alice Spring. The school is part of the net-work of schools administered N.T. Diocesan Catholic Education Office. The Catholic Education Office supports the school through senior management, professional educational consultancy and financial supply and maintenance.

There are about 140 enrolled students, from Pre-school to junior secondary. In 2012 the classes were Pre-school, Transition, Year 1, Year 2, Years 3/4, Years 4/5, Years 6/7, Year 8, and Seniors (Post primary).

The students are bi-lingual with Arrernte as their first language. The school has a course in Arrernte language and culture. Each class has an assistant teacher to support the teacher with language, family and cultural issues. There is a tutorial program in the school which covers classroom assistance, remedial assistance, special needs child support, maths support and general support.

It is good to remember that the students' main contact with English in the school but they spend only about 12% of the total year in the school environment. Arrernte is the preferred language of the children outside the classroom including the playground.

Behaviour management centres on classroom management with two or three adults regularly present to manage behaviour. Referral to the Deputy Principal, Liaison Officer and/or Principal occurs if behaviour is not managed in the classroom or school yard.

The students live in a strong Indigenous (Arrernte) community but also within the wider Australian society (government, consumerism and football!). Finding a balance between these two offers special challenges. The school is part of the history of the Santa Teresa Mission which settled in its present position in 1953 after some time in Alice Springs and, then, Arltunga. This history means that the school population is all Catholic.

The school exists as an integral part of the Santa Teresa parish. Relationships between the school and the parish are strong. Being a Catholic parish school the welfare and spiritual growth of every student along with sound educational practices is a responsibility jointly shared by parents, parish and school.

## Students

Student enrolment by gender and Year level

Year	T	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Male	7	4	9	9	12	3	5	2	11	5	2	69
Female	4	6	10	9	3	8	8	5	8	2	0	63
Total	11	10	19	18	15	11	13	7	19	7	2	132

Indigenous enrolment: 98%

Average attendance: 71%

Cultural and family commitments are the main reasons for extended absences.

Students with a disability: 13.1%

Short periods of non-attendance are followed up by the classroom teacher. Longer periods are followed up by a member of the school leadership team, usually the deputy principal, with assistance from the school liaison officer.

**Staff**

\*FTE = Full time equivalent

Teachers	17	16.4*
Support staff	21	19*
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>34.4</b>

***Teacher qualifications***

All teachers have a minimum of four years training and are registered with the NT Teacher Registration Board.

Masters Level: 2

Bachelor Level: 15

**SOME FURTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SCHOOL YEAR****Nutrition Programme**

The nutrition programme continues to have a positive impact on the school. Children's health is improving all the time and the breakfast, morning tea, and lunch provided daily ensures the children are ready to learn and participate.

**Professional Development**

There have been on-going Professional Development opportunities for all staff during the year. Much of this was provided by staff from the Catholic Education Office. These PD Opportunities included:

- Accelerated Literacy
- First Steps Maths in Maths
- Marist Spirituality
- Sacraments
- Behaviour Tonics
- Seasons for Growth – Grief & Loss
- Arrernte Culture
- Kids Matter Framework Training

A number of staff both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous are undertaking studies at the post graduate level.

**Parish Links**

We continue to have very close working relationships with the Priests and parish staff. We appreciate the liturgical, sacramental, and pastoral leadership and support provided by the priests. Sister Liz is of great assistance regarding visiting groups to the parish and school. It is important that these visits are mutually beneficial and do not interrupt the order and routine in the school.

## National Partnerships Programme

The **Revolutions and Rainbows** Programme seeks to strengthen family/community engagement with the school. The major achievement was putting in place a number of recommendations from the family dinners held in 2012. These recommendations included:

- Regular Counselling opportunities for the children.
- Introduction of Kids Matter Framework
- Introduction of a School Uniform
- More Bush Trips

The **World Learning Opportunities Project** did not continue due to the inability to find a suitable project co-ordinator.

The **Literacy Programme** was very successful with marked improvements in the children who were part of this project involving regular **one on one** tutoring.

## Other programs and activities included

- Celebrations – Liturgies, Assemblies, Easter Paget (Walk through Easter), Christmas Play (Bethlehem Road)
- Sacraments – Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, Confirmation
- Improvement in Literacy & Numeracy Standards
- Improved Health Indicators; Zero presence of Trachoma
- Ltyentye Apurte Drummers; Tour to Melbourne (Dreamtime at the G);
- Sporting Programmes; ARM Tour, Darwin Representatives
- Numbers of local staff participating in GOO and BITE Programmes of study
- Mother's Day and Father's Day Celebrations
- Book Week Parade
- Literacy Week – all reading together in the Library for 30 minutes: Children, Teachers, Parents/Grandparents.
- Trip to Arltunga
- Visit of Sydney Kings Basketballers

## TEACHING AND LEARNING AT LTYENTYE APURTE

The school strives to be faithful to its motto: ***A Place of Learning for All.***

Staff are dedicated and committed to bringing out the best in each child. They seek to prepare the children to live comfortably in both worlds – their Indigenous world and the wider Australian community. This was something parents emphasised during the family Dinners Consultation.

The Arrernte language and culture programme seek to give the children both knowledge of and appreciation of their culture while the remote Schools curriculum is the means to ensure mainstream schooling also takes place.

Accelerated Literacy is the language programme for the CEO schools in the NT and is well resourced.

Religious Education along with Literacy and Numeracy are the three Key Curriculum areas.

A variety of assessment strategies are used by teachers with formal reports being sent home at the end of each semester (June and December). A new report format was introduced and well received by the parents and community.

The effective teaching of Indigenous students in the school has been promoted by targeted support from Catholic Education Officers and consultants in the Catholic Education Office. Teachers, assistant teachers, and other school staff have participated in whole school and smaller group professional learning to develop teacher practice in literacy and numeracy. This has included Accelerated Literacy, THRASS, and Count Me in Too. Individual support for teachers has been available as required. There has also been support for inclusion and assessment of students with hearing and learning difficulties, as well as for meaningful and positive learning pathways for students including VET in schools. This targeted support is part of *Stronger Futures* Quality Teaching Initiative and has been made possible through the *Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory* National Partnerships Funding Agreement.

### **National Testing – Literacy and Numeracy**

Each year students in Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 are required to undertake National Tests in Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). Scores are number of students above, at and below the National benchmark.

<http://www.myschool.edu.au/ResultsInNumbers/Index/81199/LtyentyeApurteCatholicSchool/50142/2013>

### **PARENTS AND COMMUNITY**

Parents generally are happy with the school and more and more fell confident in approaching the school with any concerns. Celebrations for Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Book Week were very well attended. Parents are also coming more frequently to Assemblies. The issue of 'home/family' problems coming to school still presents a challenge and there is need to better educate the parents about the proper procedures for making a complaint. Much work has been done in this area this week through the R&R Project Officer who has developed very strong links with the community.

### **FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

#### ***Endorsements***

Br Daniel Hollamby (Principal)

Date

Imelda Palmer (Deputy Principal)

Date

Ali Gallio (Deputy Principal)

Date

Michael Avery (Director CEO)

Date