

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT FOR 2008

Namoi Valley Christian School

51 Rose Street
Wee Waa 2388

PO Box 242
Wee Waa 2388

Phone: 02 6795 3044

Fax: 02 6795 3144

Email: office@namoivalleychristianschool.com.au

Please feel free to contact the Principal, Greg Turner in regard to this report.

Introduction

Message from the Board

Teacher standards

Curriculum

External testing results

Priorities for 2008

Priorities for 2009

Enrolment

Complaints, compliments and suggestions

Student welfare

Student discipline

Financial information

INTRODUCTION

Set on the main street of Wee Waa, NVCS is a co-educational K-6 school, with high expectations for student competence, character and faith. The school was established in 1983 by a group of local Christian parents who had a vision for education that was authentically Christian in outlook and practice.

Simply put, *the purpose of NAMOI VALLEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL is to support Christian parents by providing an educational setting in which teaching and learning of a high standard are founded on Bible-based beliefs, values and behaviours and where parents have ready access to the decision-making framework*

NVCS is a K-6 Christian school, registered and accredited with the New South Wales Board of Studies. It is a member of Christian Education National, formerly Christian Parent Controlled Schools Ltd.

This annual report for 2008 provides parents, grandparents and the wider school community with information about various aspects of this school's distinctiveness, performance and development.

The report is a legislative requirement under *The Education Amendment (Non-Government Schools Registration) Act 2005*.

The School Newsletters, Curriculum Statements, and Parent Information and Policy Handbook (available from the school) complement the information in this report. The report will be discussed at the Association Annual General Meeting on 18th June 2009.

The school has procedures in place to ensure its participation in annual reporting to publicly disclose the educational and financial performance measures and policies of the school as identified by the Minister.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

The 2008 year has seen Namoi Valley Christian School continue to provide distinctive quality education, with a Parent Controlled governance structure. The Board has continued to meet monthly for formal Board meetings and on a number of other occasions when required. The Board continued to ensure the school's policies and procedures are up to date, together with the Staff Members' Handbook, Board Members' Handbook and Parent Information & Policy Handbook.

At formal Board meetings the Board received reports from the Principal and Business Manager. The reports of the Principal include information about staff, pastoral care needs and a summary of school and student events and activities. The report also documents items which need approval, such as upcoming events, excursions or major expenditure. The Business Manager's Reports detailed our monthly financial situation and other information relative to the competent and compliant running of the school. The Board and Principal have relied on its policies and procedures to deal with every day and extraordinary events, handling all in a competent manner with a unity of purpose.

Capital works will be a major development in 2009, with the acquisition during 2008 of an adjoining block of land. Commonwealth funding was approved under the Howard Government "Investing In Our Schools Programme" and this will be used to build a shade shelter, refurbishment of existing rooms and smaller capital items such as furniture and computers. At date of writing, the school has also received approval for funding under the Rudd Government's "Building the Education Revolution". This development will be detailed in the School's 2009 Annual Report.

An appraisal programme for all staff is in place and ensures that the performance of all staff is monitored in a regular and competent manner.

The Board has continued to be involved in the enrolment interview process. The Principal and two Board members meet with parents for dialogue to ensure parents have a clear understanding of the school's purpose and requirements.

The Board sees it as a priority to promote further growth in the School, both in terms of student numbers and committed parents and other Christians. To aid this, the school website has been developed a little more, with further developments occurring as time allows. We continue to raise awareness of the activities of the school through the local newspaper and articles for other district publications.

The strength of the future governance and sustainability of the school is reliant on the vision for Christian schooling being captured by succeeding generations of school parents and other interested people from the broader Christian community. This will require a more proactive promotion by the owners of the school. We look forward to the development of resources and ideas in 2009 by the national organization to which we belong, Christian Education National, formerly Christian Parent Controlled Schools. The Board will also meet early in the year to conduct a review of the School's 5 year Strategic Management Plan.

Russell Morrison
Chairman

TEACHER STANDARDS and PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

In 2008 NVCS had three full-time and 1 part-time teaching staff. The school employed 1 new part-time teacher during the middle of the year due to the part-time teacher leaving. All class teachers remained on staff.

The teachers attended school on average 98.4% of the time.

All teaching staff have teaching qualifications from a higher education institution.

Professional development for the whole teaching staff included attending conferences at other schools, first aid training, attendance at courses for KLA's and visiting consultants.

Other professional learning included conventions at Katoomba, financial conferences (for the Bursar and Business Manager) regular Principals meetings and the CPCS AGM.

A survey taken at the end of the year showed high satisfaction from parents, teachers and students. The school is very encouraged by the feedback given and how to improve.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum the school uses is developed to show God's creation as a rich and exciting whole, and establishes God and His word at the centre of education. Thus, nature is studied as God's creation, history is studied as the work of God's provision in the past and Mathematics as a natural part of God's order in creation. Teachers can work in teams and individually to develop lessons and courses of study, and each year builds on the previous one to form a solid base for each student's future, whilst meeting the educational requirement of the Board of Studies

Teachers are kept abreast of educational activities and issues by attending in-service programs and reading many professional papers made available through the Association of Independent Schools, and Christian Education National and others.

NVCS uses the NSW Board of Studies curriculum.

EXTERNAL TESTING RESULTS

Overall, our school's results are very affirming. The NAPLAN results show all the students to be achieving at or above the national benchmarks. This is an indication of the quality of teaching and the wholistic education that NVCS provides.

But we expect more than just knowledge or skills. The educational rubber must hit the road of real experience where character and belief come into effect. The results form part of the picture of what happens at school and part of the development of our students. We want individual excellence in basic skills ...and much more!

PRIORITIES FOR 2008

The priorities for 2008 were to

1. Improve teacher training and Professional Development.
2. Improving facilities and increasing school playground.
3. Support families who are struggling through the drought.

PRIORITIES FOR 2009:

The priorities for 2009 are

1. Build facilities to cater for support and library
2. Better utilise computers with a range of software
3. Implement new programs with a healthy focus- eg Crunch and Sip
4. Build stronger links with similar schools.

ENROLMENT

Enrolment in 2008 varied from 32 to 36 students. At census there were 32 students. NVCS had 3 classes with a Kindergarten and year 1 class of 12 students, a year 2, 3 and 4 class with 15 students and a class of year 5 and 6 with 5 students.

NVCS serves Christian families and other interested families from places such as Wee Waa, Merah North, Yarrie Lake and Pilliga.

NVCS seeks to honour Christ's command to let children come to Him, by welcoming enrolment applications for children with a broad range of learning abilities, physical development and social backgrounds. Individual excellence in academic, sporting, cultural and contextual areas within a framework of Christ-like character is pursued with focus and vigour.

NVCS values all children, and therefore, does not select children on the basis of academic, cultural or sporting merit. The interaction of children with exceptional talent and those who experience learning challenges is valued. The school has dynamic Special Education programs.

The following is an excerpt from the NVCS enrolment policy:

Namoi Valley Christian School has been set up to serve Christian parents who desire their children to be educated in a manner which is consistent with their home teaching. However, if vacancies exist after these parents are served, enrolment applications will be considered from other interested members of the community. All parents must be prepared to commit to Christian Parent Controlled Education and the Biblical ethos of the school. Namoi Valley Christian School is inter-denominational and strives to regard each enrolment on its individual merit with no regard to race or culture. All Enrolment Applications for children will be considered in view of the best interests of the child and the whole school.

Enrolment Criteria

Priority will be given to

1. children of Association members
2. siblings of children currently enrolled at NVCS
3. children transferred from other Christian schools
4. children of non Association member Christian families

If an enrolment position is not available, the applicant's name will be placed on the school's Enrolment Waiting List.

COMPLAINTS, COMPLIMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

As a Christian School, we strongly believe that in any complaint or dispute resolution strategy the following biblical principles will be recognized and form the basis of the reconciliation process.

- a) Christians should be reconciled to one another when disputes of any nature arise between them. (Read Matthew 5:23-24; 6:9-15; 18:15-22)
- b) Christians should resolve their disputes in the context of Christian community. (Read Matthew 18:15-22; 1 Corinthians 12:25-27; Ephesians 4:15-16; Philipians 2:1-5)
- c) Christians are firmly directed against the resolution of disputes between themselves by recourse to secular courts. (Read Luke 12:57-59; 1 Corinthians 6:1-8)
- d) Christians are to resolve disputes without consideration or calculation of revenge. (Read Romans 13:8)

There may be times when some aspect of school life does not appear satisfactory. As explained at the time of enrolment, the school endeavours to keep good communication open between parents and teaching staff. This is a high priority for the effective running of the school and the best outcome for each child. The following guide will assist you in channeling a complaint to the appropriate person.

Problem with child's learning or behaviour	Consult Class Teacher
Problem between your child and another	Consult Class Teacher & Principal
Problem between child & class teacher	Consult Class Teacher & Principal
Problem between parent and class teacher	Consult Principal
Problem between parent and principal	Consult School Board, preferably in writing
Problem with matter of school policy	Consult Principal
Problem with matter of school policy unresolved	Consult School Board, preferably in writing

STUDENT WELFARE

Student welfare is extremely important at NVCS.

Principles of our student welfare program involve:

- Loving one another as God has loved us – unconditionally and self-sacrificially.
- Treating each student as precious - a unique creation of a loving and awesome God
- Appreciating that Christ's death is the highest price for every pleasure and the deepest comfort in every pain
- Caring for young people in partnership with the family and church.
- Acknowledging that our world is exciting, beautiful, good and challenging as well as broken, ugly, troubled and evil.

Some **elements** of our student welfare program in 2008 were:

- Whole school training and reminding
- Peer mediation
- Student Leadership program and training
- Safe environment procedures and protocols
- Anti-bullying program

NVCS seeks to

Promote pupil Self-Esteem by:

- Encouragement
- Respecting pupil's views
- Praise
- Support
- Accentuate the positive
- Formal recognition at assembly and in class
- Informal recognition
- Visit Principal with work well done
- Emphasise individual achievement
- Set realistic and achievable goals

NVCS seeks to **Promote pupil Self-Discipline**

- Smooth class and school organisation
- Firm fair discipline
- Clear explanation of rules
- Leadership opportunities
- Praise for examples of self-discipline
- Constant positive reinforcement

NVCS seeks to **Praise and Reward**

Use often and whenever possible for

- Encouragement
- Genuine effort
- Thoughtfulness
- Success
- Reliability

Namoi Valley Christian School has implemented a number of programs with the intention to promote respect and responsibility amongst the students. This has essentially been within the classrooms and lessons in PD.H.PE. All classes have had formal teaching that address how people are different, and how this will help us to have a positive relationship with them.

Other ways that NVCS has promoted respect and responsibility has been in the playground, as this is where the students interact freely with each other. A key feature has been the phrase "how to look after your friends". This phrase is used widely to encourage respect amongst the students and responsibility for their actions. This has resulted in much friendlier play with peer encouragement and respect being noticeably better.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

- The Principal has overall responsibility for oversight of disciplinary measures used within the school, though each teacher is regarded as having responsibility for discipline in his/her classroom.
- A full range of disciplinary measures will be used within the school ranging from encouragement, counsel, correction, reprimand, deprivation, detention, family conference, suspension and in extreme cases, expulsion.
- When students in K to 6 do not respond to discipline, they may be placed on a lunch-time detention.
- Formal parent-teacher interviews over continuing and serious disciplinary problems may be arranged from time to time. Such interviews will be arranged only after consultation with the Principal.
- Suspension and/or expulsion will only be used when all other avenues have failed and when, in the Principal's opinion, the student is refusing to comply with standards of school behaviour.

If parents wish to take issue with a punishment that has been used, they ought to do so through the Principal, who may involve the teacher concerned. If no agreement can be reached concerning the way in which the school's Discipline Policy has been interpreted or applied, the parent has recourse to the next meeting of the School Board.

Aims & Objectives of Discipline Policy (Included in Parent Information Handbook)

Through this policy the school aims to develop

- A healthy emotional/social climate
- A high standard of manners and general conduct
- Pupil self esteem
- School pride and tone
- Community awareness and co-operation
- Christian standards and values

Some objectives

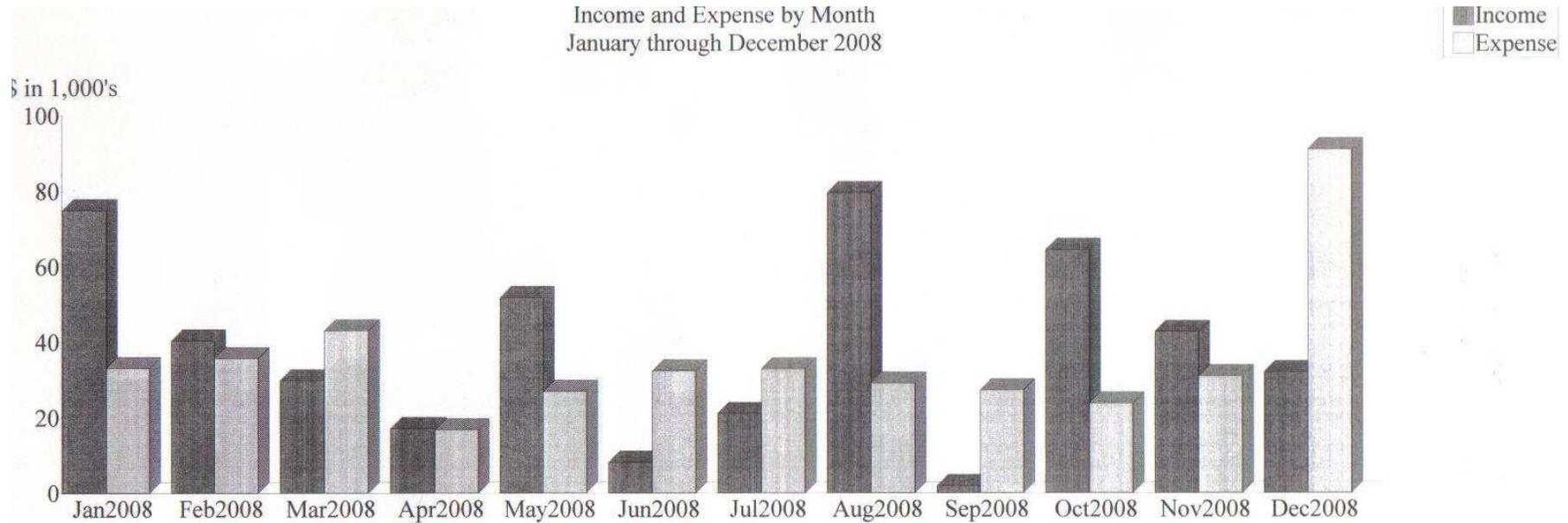
- A knowledge of God as creator and ruler of life
- A knowledge of self and others
- Respect for self and others
- A desire to co-operate with others to provide a harmonious environment
- A sense of initiative and personal responsibility
- An understanding of the importance of order for group functioning effectively
- To develop individual and group values

Desirable qualities to be developed in students

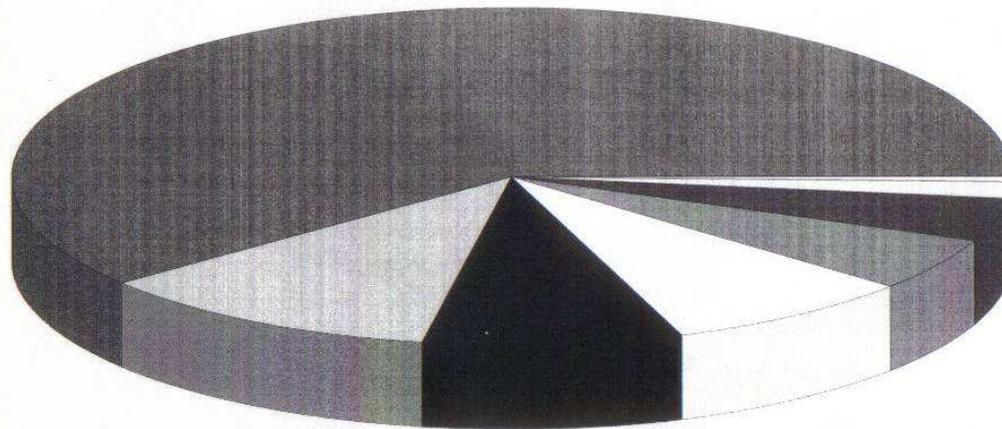
- Response to a teacher's directive
- Silence when the teacher is talking or another pupil is contributing to a discussion
- Responding to a directive or request in a polite and courteous manner
- to learn the correct manner in which to question a teacher's command without arguing
- listening to a teacher's instructions so that directives do not need to be repeated
- being ready for the beginning of class with appropriate materials
- sitting correctly on chairs and responsible classroom behaviour
- completing homework and any other tasks requested by the teacher

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Income and Expense by Month
January through December 2008



Expense Summary
January through December 2008



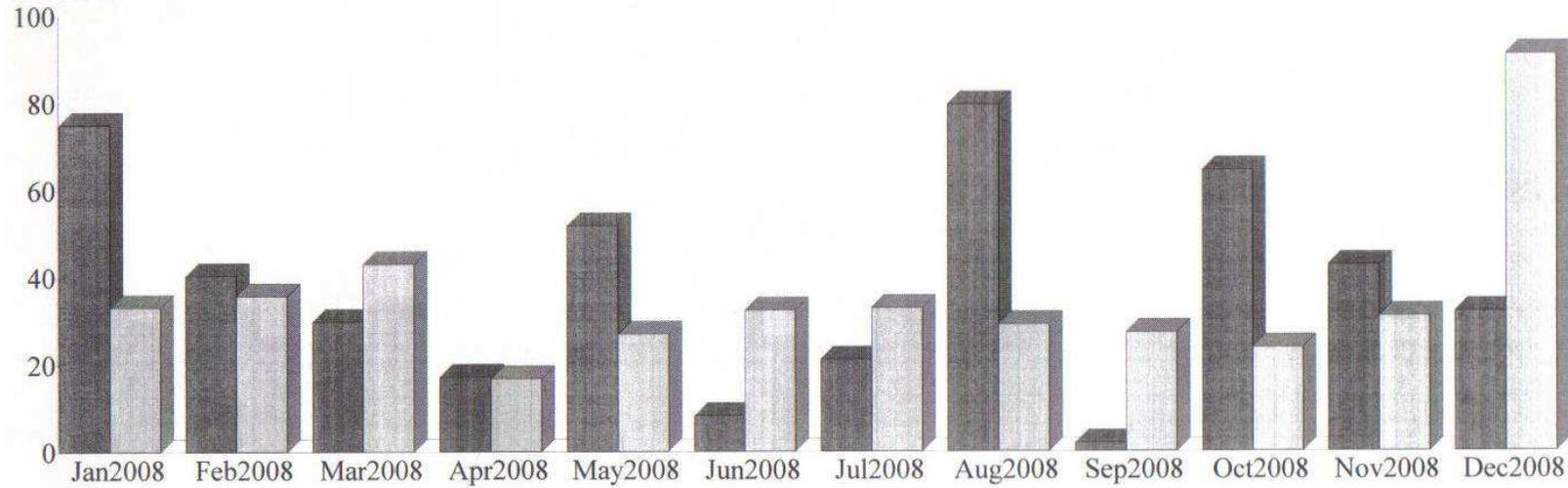
Salaries and allowances	%60.86
Depreciation Expense	11.36
Admin & non salary expenses	8.44
Teaching expenses and materials	8.27
Interest & repayments	5.18
Buildings, Grounds & Equipment	4.16
Professional Development	1.61
Uniform shop trading	0.12
Total	\$423,821.65

By Account

Income and Expense by Month
January through December 2008

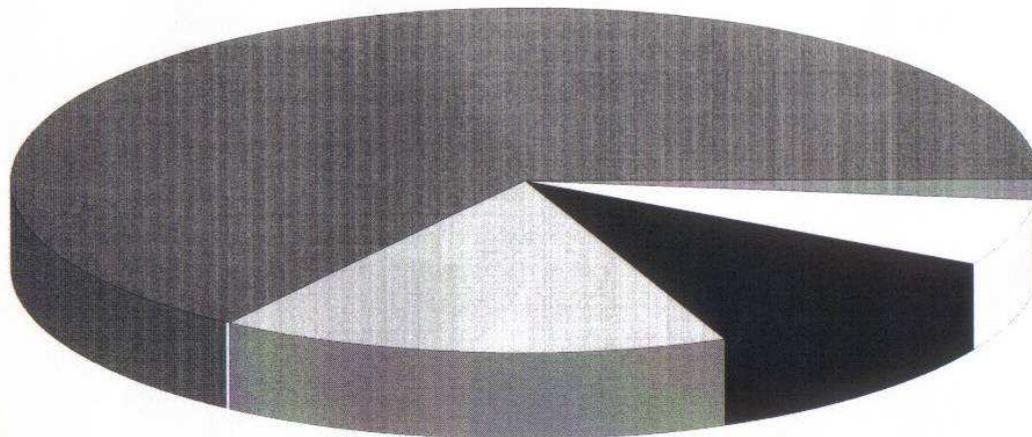
Income
Expense

in 1,000's



Income Summary
January through December 2008

Govt Recurr Grants - Cmwlt	%65.27
Govt Grants State	16.09
Capital grant and income	10.57
Tuition Income	6.22
Other Source Income	1.85
Total	\$464,898.93



By Account