School Details

School sector:
Independent Co-educational

School’s contact details:
Postal Address: P.O. Box 184, Mt Ommaney Queensland 4074
Street Address: 49 Horizon Drive, Middle Park, Queensland 4074
Phone: (07) 3373 4400
Fax: (07) 3376 2858
Email: enquiries@goodnews.qld.edu.au
Web page: www.goodnews.qld.edu.au

Total enrolments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>441</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>421</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Year levels offered:
Prep to Year 7

Further School Information:
The Good News Lutheran School Website also provides information on the school including a Good News Community Calendar, Blogspot (the latest on what is happening in the school and in the classroom), and information about our programs, values and beliefs. It also provides links to our eSchool and eKids sites. Our Intranet site (eGate) also provides additional information for students and parents including school news, policies, handbooks and curriculum resources.
Contents

School Details .................................................................................................................. 1
Contents ............................................................................................................................ 2
Introduction ...................................................................................................................... 3
School Ethos .................................................................................................................... 3
Strategic Focus ................................................................................................................ 4
Australian Curriculum .................................................................................................... 5
Distinctive Curriculum Offerings .................................................................................. 6
  Christian Studies Program .......................................................................................... 6
  Literacy & Numeracy Groupings .............................................................................. 6
  Learning Support Program ....................................................................................... 6
  Gifted Program ........................................................................................................... 7
  ESL - English as a Second Language ..................................................................... 7
  Excursions, Incursions and Camps ......................................................................... 7
Co-curricular Activities ................................................................................................... 7
  Sport Activities .......................................................................................................... 7
  Musical Activities ...................................................................................................... 7
  eLearning .................................................................................................................... 8
Staff Profile ..................................................................................................................... 8
  Staff Attendance Rate .............................................................................................. 8
  Staff Retention .......................................................................................................... 8
  Professional Development ......................................................................................... 8
  Staff Qualifications .................................................................................................. 9
  Staff Development Priorities 2011 .......................................................................... 9
  Major Professional Learning Activities 2011 ............................................................. 9
Academic Results ............................................................................................................ 10
  Student Attendance .................................................................................................. 10
  Management of Student Non-Attendance ............................................................... 10
  National Assessment Program Literacy & Numeracy (NAPLAN) - 2011 Testing Results 11
    NAPLAN Key Outcomes ......................................................................................... 12
  University of NSW Maths & English Competition ................................................... 13
Pastoral Care ..................................................................................................................... 14
  Pastoral Care ............................................................................................................. 14
  Counselling Services ................................................................................................. 14
School Policies .................................................................................................................. 14
  Anti Harassment Policy ............................................................................................. 14
  Safe Place ...................................................................................................................... 15
  School-based Contact Person .................................................................................. 15
Parental Involvement ...................................................................................................... 15
  Parents and Friends Association ............................................................................. 15
Community Satisfaction .................................................................................................. 16
  Students ...................................................................................................................... 16
    Values Program ...................................................................................................... 16
    Pastoral Care .......................................................................................................... 16
  Staff ............................................................................................................................. 16
  Parents ......................................................................................................................... 17
Better Schools Project Survey ........................................................................................ 17
Introduction

The Good News Lutheran Church Congregation established Good News Lutheran School. The school has been operating for the past 28 years as a private, co-educational institution, providing quality education couched in the principles of the Christian faith as espoused by the Lutheran Church of Australia.

The school currently provides educational opportunities in a double stream class environment for Prep through to Grade 7.

Good News opened in 1984, and catered for children attending Grade 1 through to Grade 7. In 1994 the school expanded its educational facilities and built a double stream Preschool Centre to allow a seamless education for children from Preschool through to Grade 7. In 2007, the Preschool formally moved to a Preparatory program.

In 1999 the school once more expanded its educational facilities with the establishment of a Computer Laboratory to meet the changing and challenging educational needs of the future. In 2001 the school undertook a $2.1 million building and redevelopment program that saw the redevelopment and/or refurbishment of the Administration Building, Parent Centre, Learning Support Centre and Staff Areas, and the building of a new indoor Hall, Worship Centre, Resource Centre, toilets and canteen. This was followed in 2003 by a “Cool Schools Program” with the installation of air-conditioning, insulation and window tinting (as required) to all classrooms and teaching spaces.

A new and exciting Senior Playground (for Years 5, 6 & 7) was completed in 2004. This was in addition to the 3 existing age appropriate playgrounds for Prep, Years 1 & 2 and Years 3 & 4.

The school has a proactive building and grounds maintenance program and is continually reviewing the long-term educational needs of students to ensure the provision of the best facilities to delivery a quality curriculum.

In 2006 the school undertook construction of an access ramp to Block ‘E’ and a passenger (goods) lift to Block ‘B’. These facilities have ensured disability access to all areas of the school.

2007 saw the beginning of our major refurbishment program with Block B being totally refurbished. Block ‘E’ was refurbished in 2008, including the construction of a new covered deck, new staff rooms and a new Utility Room.

As part of the Australian Governments Building the Education Revolution funding in 2009, Good News Lutheran School refurbished Block C (Year 5 classrooms and staff lounge/meeting rooms) and undertook the construction of a new purpose-built Music Centre (with Music and Band Classrooms and Practice Rooms) and a new multi-purpose Learning Centre for Literacy & Numeracy, Science/Art and eLearning. We also built a new Year 3 / 4 Playground. Construction for these projects was completed in 2010.

The school has continued to maintain grounds, gardens and buildings at a high standard.

School Ethos

At Good News Lutheran School we value every child as a unique gift of God with individual strengths and needs. Good News offers quality Christian education in a caring, accepting
environment to develop each child spiritually, academically, physically, socially and emotionally. Good News aims to put in place, through its teaching programs, the building blocks that will nurture your children to develop Christian understandings and appropriate values (such as compassion and respect), and further develop their individual identities within a community perspective.

Good News, through its dedicated Staff, its encouragement of parental involvement and the provision of pastoral care and counselling, offers an environment in which each child can develop to their greatest potential. The school’s active worship life and Christian studies programs support children’s Spiritual development and provide the foundation for building our values education program.

**Strategic Focus**

**HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION TO STUDENTS THROUGH**

**Curriculum** which is:
- Future focused while supporting all students in attaining appropriate literacy and numeracy levels
- Relevant to a changing society through broad and varied contexts
- Supported by appropriate, flexible resources

**Teaching and Learning** which:
- Matches individual students to learning outcomes through a flexible curriculum
- Caters for individual student needs by providing student-centred learning experiences that are challenging, creative and meaningful to the learner
- Enables teachers to offer best-practice planning, monitoring, assessing and reporting practice which nurtures self-directed learners
- And attention to the **social and emotional development** by:
  - Fostering student / teacher relationships that encourage independent learners,
  - Nurturing life skills that allow students to become adaptable, reflective communicators,
  - Developing values that highlight the importance of positive self-esteem and collaborative relationships, and community building

**IN A CARING COMMUNITY WHERE**
- Individuals are treated with, and treat others with, respect and compassion
- Individual students and the wider school community receive and give care and support
- Caring is responsive as well as proactive within the constraints of loving sensitivity

**ALL OF THIS WITHIN A CHRISTIAN CONTEXT WHICH:**
- Recognises each individual as a creation of God with God-given value
- Recognises that we are a community constantly in need of forgiveness and have access to that forgiveness in Jesus Christ
- Draws on the compassion and generosity of God and extends that to others
- Provides students with the opportunity for lifelong growth toward Christian maturity
- Recognises the connection between the pursuit of learning and appreciation of God and his world
- Encourages the worship of God communally and through daily living
- Values parents/caregivers as partners in the education process

*Adopted by School Council, December 2001, Reviewed in 2005 & 2008*
Australian Curriculum

Over the past year, teachers at Good News have been preparing to implement Phase One subjects of the new Australian Curriculum. During that time, teachers engaged with the Year level content statements and completed audits to map ‘the gaps’ between what was being taught and what was to be taught in the new curriculum. The Cross-curriculum perspectives and general capabilities, both of which underpin the subject areas have also been major areas of engagement as teachers planned new units of work. From the beginning of 2012, Mathematics, English and Science (Phase One subject areas) Australian Curriculum, have been taught across all Year levels from Prep to Year 7. Year level Mathematics and English from Year 2-7 is still delivered through a smaller group instruction model. During 2012, teachers have begun to engage with the Australian Curriculum History subject area and will begin teaching and assessing this area in 2013.

Assessment and reporting at Good News has also changed in response to the Australian Curriculum. Students studying Mathematics, English and Science are assessed in line with the ‘standard’ for each of these areas. These standards need to be achieved by the end of each year. Student progress is assessed using a wide variety of assessment tools and is formally reported using a 5point scale, biannually.
Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

Christian Studies Program

The Christian Studies Curriculum Framework (CSCF) is the Christian Education program used in Lutheran schools throughout Australia. Classes complete units of study in the following strands: Christian Church, Christian Beliefs, Christian Living, and Christianity in the World.

Each unit builds on the previous year’s work, so that students gradually increase their knowledge of God and his Word and deepen their understanding of their relationship with Jesus.

Worship is a most important element of school life at Good News. A weekly Chapel service brings students together to glorify God. On other days, classes begin with a short morning devotion. Many students assist in worship through participation in music groups, Bible readings and prayers, or by leading class devotions.

Literacy & Numeracy Groupings

The teaching and learning of Literacy and Numeracy is considered an extremely high priority at Good News Lutheran School. The small group, ‘learning teams’ delivery model used within our school from Years 2 – 7, reflects this. Our school timetable is structured so that Literacy and Numeracy blocks, each of 1 hour, are scheduled daily at the same time across year levels. During the Literacy and Numeracy Blocks, students are placed into smaller groups (learning teams) to enable the curriculum to be delivered to students in groups that are ideally no larger than 15 in size and which target the ability levels and emotional needs of the students.

In our double stream school, across each year level, there are four learning teams for both Literacy and Numeracy. Teachers are allocated to these learning teams and are responsible for the planning, teaching, assessment and reporting of the students’ work and progress within their Literacy and Numeracy teams.

To ensure consistency of teacher judgement, the teachers of the Literacy and Numeracy teams, in each year level, plan together and structure common assessment tasks which are used to enhance learning and also to report on student progress. These common assessment tasks also allow for movement between the learning teams, when needed.

Learning Support Program

Good News offers intensive assistance for students who require extra support to maximize learning. A Literacy and Numeracy support program is available for Junior Primary students. Students in Years 4 to 7 can also access literacy and numeracy support in small groups on a daily basis through a dedicated learning support program delivered by specialist staff. The school is proactive in identifying students who are in need of support through tracking annual standardised testing programs, the National Year 3, 5 & 7 testing program, student portfolios and the tracking of outcomes.

In addition, students can access the services of Occupational Therapists, Speech Pathologists and consultant psychologists. Students with special needs are provided with intensive on-going support with their Individual Education Plans.
Gifted Program
A significant number of our students may be described as gifted - being outstanding in a particular field, or having a high level of ability across a range of disciplines. We recognise each student as an individual, valued child of God. Our responsibility then, is to respond to the individual needs of each. Students gifted in Mathematics and English participate in extension classes, allowing them to study beyond their own year level and some of our students are mentored as they work on individual programs, in order to meet their particular needs. Our students are also encouraged to participate in outside competitions (e.g. UNSW Science, Maths, English & ICT Competitions, Future Problem Solving etc). A variety of extra-curricular activities are also available to support and extend students gifted in a range of disciplines (e.g. Chess).

ESL - English as a Second Language
Students at Good News Lutheran School have the opportunity to work and play with children from a wide range of cultural backgrounds. We recognize the value of welcoming and sharing with families from all ethnic, linguistic and cultural groups. To assist students whose language background is other than English, a support program is available to help develop literacy skills, and to enable each child to participate fully in school life. An intensive daily support program is provided for children who have recently arrived in Australia, in order to help them settle in to their new environment. ESL students are supported by modified programs when appropriate. Good News utilizes the services of an ESL consultant when necessary.

Excursions, Incursions and Camps
Camps, excursions and incursions enhance classroom learning. All year levels enjoy a variety of excursions / incursions and students in Years 4 to 7 take part in a school camp program. The Outdoor Education program provides an opportunity for children to learn about environmental science in context and skills of social interaction, as well as bush craft, horse riding, hiking, orienteering, surfing, initiative activities and confidence building. Students grow in self-esteem as they learn to face the kinds of challenges that the classroom alone cannot provide.

Co-curricular Activities

Sport Activities
Good News provides a wide range of co-curricular activities as an integral part of the education experience. These activities cater for students’ diverse abilities and offer them the chance to form life-long interests outside the academic field. Our skills-based physical education program allows students to explore a range of activities including dance, gymnastics, swimming, athletics and team sports. Activities are designed to meet children’s developmental levels and a perceptual motor program is offered to promote the development of physical coordination. Outside their regular P.E. lessons, students are encouraged to participate in a variety of team sports. Our students compete at Inter-house and Inter-school games, as well as at regional, state and national levels.

Musical Activities
Involvement in and appreciation of music enhances the quality of life for each student. All students study music in weekly lessons with a specialist music teacher and opportunities
abound for children with a special interest to join choirs, have tuition on a range of instruments, play in one of the school bands, perform at school and community functions and participate in competitions. Many Good News students have been selected to sing with elite groups including the Australian Girls Choir. In 2001 a student was chosen to tour around Europe with the Australian Youth Choir. Our choral programme is very active, with the Middle and Senior choirs performing at various competitions and at many school-based functions. We also have a junior choir and we endeavour to produce a school musical / concert each year. Visiting instrumental teachers enable students at Good News to develop skills on a variety of instruments. Lessons are taught to individuals and groups before, during, and after school hours. Our school offers opportunities for students to participate in one of our two bands – White or Gold. The White and Gold bands are very active during the school year, taking part in competitions and performing at functions such as Evenings of Music and the School Musical.

**eLearning**

Students at Good News build digital literacy while using ICT to enhance their knowledge of other Key Learning Areas, such as Science and SOSE.

Good News has a full-time eLearning Integration Teacher to manage the development of digital literacy for students from Prep - Year 7. All students have a fully integrated approach with digital literacy built within the context of other KLA's under the guidance of both classroom teachers and the eLearning Integration Teacher.

Digital literacy progress is tracked and reported on each semester for all students against the criteria set out in the Good News Digital Literacy framework.

For more information about our unique Digital Literacy program, visit [www.eSchool.net.au](http://www.eSchool.net.au).

**Staff Profile**

**Staff Attendance Rate**

Out of 193 School Days in 2011 the average staff attendance rate was 186 days/teacher.

**Staff Retention**

Our staff retention rate for 2011 was 94 %.

**Professional Development**

All teaching staff (and indeed all staff) are encouraged to access in-service and outside professional learning activities each year.

Good News Lutheran School is committed to developing its teachers and staff, to meet the challenges and demands of a changing educational landscape.

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2011 were $23,103. The average expenditure per teacher on professional learning in 2011 was $825/teacher (FTE).
Staff Qualifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualification</th>
<th>Percentage of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school who hold this qualification (highest qualification)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctorate</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor Degree</td>
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<td>Diploma</td>
<td>23%</td>
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<td>Certificate</td>
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</table>

Staff Development Priorities 2011

- Engagement with and mapping of gaps within Australian Curriculum Phase One subjects
  - All Teaching staff
- ICT – using digital resources when implementing Australian Curriculum subject areas
  - All Teaching staff
- Coping with Resilience during a crisis and how to support our children - All Staff
- Inquiry based learning and thinking skills - All Teaching staff
- Teaching of reading for classroom teachers - All Teaching staff
- Unit writing based around Australian Curriculum Phase One subject areas
  - All Teaching staff

Major Professional Learning Activities 2011

- Constructing and Sharing IWB resources - 7 staff
- Coping with Trauma - All staff
- Senior First Aid Training - 6 staff
- CPR - All staff
- Equip Module 1 (Christian Studies) - 2 staff
- Equip Module 2 (Christian Studies) - 2 staff
- Online Tools in Classroom - 5 staff
- Inquiry-based Learning and Thinking Skills – Session 1 All staff; Session 2: 9 staff
- Running Records - 10 staff
- Fountas & Pinnel Reading Workshop - 25 staff
- CTJ Day (Australian Curriculum Phase One) - 37 staff
- Pre-service Teachers Workshop - 7 staff
- Assessment Rubrics - 10 staff
- Origo Mathematics - 5 staff
- Apple Ipad discovery - 15 staff
Good News Lutheran School – 2011 Annual School Report

- ICT Multi-modal texts 10 staff
- Teacher Parent Interviews – How do we conduct them? 20 staff
- Effective assessment tasks 21 staff
- Number and Algebra 5 staff
- Dealing with data spreadsheets 7 staff
- Writing: The Art of Persuasion 14 staff
- Stepping Stones 0 Maths PD) 12 staff
- Mapping new territory P-10 Australian Curriculum for teachers (QSA) 5 teachers
- Mapping new territory P-10 Australian Curriculum for leaders (QSA) 4 staff
- Train the Trainer (ISQ) 4 staff
- Yarning Strong 3 teachers
- Celebrate Your Prep Classroom 1 teacher
- Everyday with ADHD 3 teachers
- Seven Steps writing PD 3 teachers
- Teacher Aide Retreat 5 Teacher Aides

Academic Results

Student Attendance

Average Student Attendance Rate for 2011 was 95%.
(Note: in 2011 we had 19 students who were away due to family travel).

Management of Student Non-Attendance

The Good News Parent Handbook (p. 31) states that parents must phone the absentee line in the morning to advise if their child/ren will not be attending school that day. Teachers mark the class roll (legal document) and green absence forms are completed by 9:00am each morning and then sent to the office for collation.
National Assessment Program Literacy & Numeracy (NAPLAN) - 2011 Testing Results

Good News students in Years 3, 5, and 7 sat a series of national tests in 2011 in aspects of literacy and numeracy. The National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing program has been designed by a national body and is one particular ‘point in time’ test. Schools also use a number of other assessment strategies to determine and measure student achievements.

Good News students have done exceedingly well with many results in what could be called the ‘outstanding’ range. That is to say, Good News has a significant number of students who scored off the top end scale. Generally speaking, Good News students, right across the spectrum, are progressing at a very high standard when compared to their peers across Australia.

Like all schools who take a cross section of students into their learning programs, we have some students who fall below the benchmark. In 2011, Good News had 1 child in Year 3, 6 children in Year 5 and 1 child in Year 7 who scored below a national benchmark. However, no student fell below the benchmark in all five literacy and numeracy aspects. For some children, learning doesn’t come easily and they have to expend a great deal of effort to achieve their results. To have all of these children achieving at or above the benchmark in at least one area is a great credit to the effort of these children, well supported by their parents and their dedicated teachers.

An interesting trend that the results indicate is that the longer our students are exposed to our programs the better their results, such that there are progressively more students who score above the top end range in Year 7 than in Year 3 and conversely less students in Year 7 who score below the benchmark than in Year 3. This trend is particularly the case in mathematics and we believe it is the result of providing small group instruction in mathematics for a longer time than we have for English.

Note:
In all aspects of assessment – Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation and Numeracy - in all year levels assessed, GNLS results were higher than National and State results, as well as above other Lutheran schools in Qld. The differences were significant at all year levels.
## NAPLAN Key Outcomes

### Benchmark Data – 2011

#### READING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Average Score (Good News)</th>
<th>Average Score (Queensland)</th>
<th>Average Score (Australia)</th>
<th>% Above Benchmark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 3 (2011)</td>
<td>473</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>416</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5 (2011)</td>
<td>521</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7 (2011)</td>
<td>598</td>
<td>534</td>
<td>540</td>
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#### WRITING

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<th>Year</th>
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<th>Average Score (Queensland)</th>
<th>Average Score (Australia)</th>
<th>% Above Benchmark</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 3 (2011)</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5 (2011)</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>471</td>
<td>482</td>
<td>97%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 7 (2011)</td>
<td>584</td>
<td>533</td>
<td>529</td>
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</table>

#### SPELLING

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<th>% Above Benchmark</th>
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<td>388</td>
<td>406</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5 (2011)</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>466</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7 (2011)</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>529</td>
<td>537</td>
<td>100%</td>
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#### GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Average Score (Good News)</th>
<th>Average Score (Queensland)</th>
<th>Average Score (Australia)</th>
<th>% Above Benchmark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 3 (2011)</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>407</td>
<td>421</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5 (2011)</td>
<td>531</td>
<td>485</td>
<td>499</td>
<td>98%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 7 (2011)</td>
<td>587</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>533</td>
<td>98%</td>
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</table>

#### NUMERACY

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Average Score (Good News)</th>
<th>Average Score (Queensland)</th>
<th>Average Score (Australia)</th>
<th>% Above Benchmark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 3 (2011)</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5 (2011)</td>
<td>518</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7 (2011)</td>
<td>625</td>
<td>539</td>
<td>544</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Good News Lutheran School – 2011 Annual School Report

University of NSW Maths & English Competition

The graphs below show Good News students’ results over the period 2002 to 2011 in University of NSW Maths and English Competitions.

These results show how support programs in Reading Recovery, Literacy, Numeracy, ESL, and our Gifted and Talented programs have achieved positive outcomes in the number of students achieving High Distinctions and Distinctions.

Note: HD’s = High Distinctions, D’s = Distinctions, C’s = Credits, P’s = Pass

UNSW Maths Results

UNSW English Results
Pastoral Care

A sign of the strength of a Christian community is the way in which its members support and care for one another. Therefore, all staff at Good News view the pastoral care of students, families and each other as an important aspect of their role at the school. Additionally, programs such as our Buddy system, which involves pairing a younger child with a senior student, foster a sense of belonging and affirms each child’s identity as a valued individual at Good News.

We expect all members of the Good News community to treat each other with respect and compassion, responding sensitively and appropriately to those in need. When words or actions cause pain to others, we seek to react in a spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation. A strong link ties the Good News school and church, evident in the involvement of congregational members in the life of the school, and in the participation of many members of the school family in church activities.

Counselling Services

The school offers counselling and pastoral care to all members of the Good News community - students, staff and families - through the Church Pastor, Community Chaplain, a part-time Counsellor, the Pastoral Care Committee and through relationships developed with school staff.

Good News also employs the services (often in partnership with parents) of a professional psychologist to work with children who may need additional support with integration into the social life of the school.

School Policies

The school web site has a ‘policy web’ section that includes all the school’s key policies including Workplace Health and Safety, ICT, Child Protection, support of the National Goals for Schooling, Lutheran Church of Australia policies and staff policies.

Anti Harassment Policy

The school has an active Anti-Harassment and Bullying Policy where we undertake class, teacher and parent surveys to monitor bullying issues and concerns. We also encourage students to deal assertively (not aggressively) with incidents of harassment and bullying directed towards them or others. If their demands for its cessation are ignored, they are encouraged to report the behaviour immediately to a member of staff. In every instance, action is taken to eliminate the harassment and bullying, with our primary focus on protection of the person being bullied.

Bullying and harassment are contrary to the Christian ethos at Good News Lutheran School, which emphasises care and respect of all members of the School community (students, staff, parents and friends).

The School takes harassment and bullying very seriously and commits itself to programs and procedures designed to minimise their occurrence and deal effectively with them when they arise.

Activities and sessions that focus on harassment and bullying form a component of the Pastoral Care program in every class and is revisited on a regular basis. Students are helped
to define and understand harassment and bullying, and are empowered with strategies for dealing with it. They are also led to reflect on their own behaviour and responsibilities in relation to the respect and care of others.

**Safe Place**

The Lutheran Church of Australia and its system of schools wants the communities we serve to know we are serious about providing safe places of learning in our schools. The church provides a referral service for any person to use should they believe sexual misconduct has occurred in any of its churches or schools.

**School-based Contact Person**

For further information on the school and its policies please contact Mr Adam Richardson, Principal, Good News Lutheran School or Michael Cassimaty, Business Manager, Good News Lutheran School on 3373 4400.

**Parental Involvement**

Good News has an open door policy with parents and strongly encourages parents to be partners in the daily life of the school. The school fosters good relationships with parents by providing dedicated areas for parents to meet within the school (Parent Centre with coffee and tea facilities / shaded seating areas close to classrooms). Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in worship, camps, excursions, sport and music events and in the classroom.

Good News has a policy where we consult with parents regarding students’ needs and we value parents’ input. We regularly survey parents for their opinion on school and staff performance and ensure we implement changes that will lead to positive outcomes. The school consults parents prior to any major changes to areas such as formal reporting, tuckshop menus and changes to OSHC operations.

The Good News Lutheran School Council has parent representation on Council.

**Parents and Friends Association**

The Good News Lutheran School Parents and Friends Association’s focus is to nurture an alliance between the community and school. The P&F aims to enrich the learning environment of our school population by raising funds to enhance the school’s facilities and resources.

Four General Meetings are normally held throughout the year with Executive Meetings in support of activities as required. On occasion, invited guest speakers present valuable information on school, parenting and community issues. Notice of meetings and events are available in the school newsletter and on the community calendar. Members may also elect to receive news and notifications via e-mail.

Over recent years, the P&F has provided funds for school air conditioning, sports equipment, seating, major band instruments and accessories, purpose-built playgrounds, water coolers, carparks and extensive shade covering for facilities. Each year, the school and P&F work together to determine suitable projects to be funded. The P&F hosts fundraising and social events within the school community to help meet the costs of those priorities.

Services provided by the Good News P&F include the employment, in concert with GNLS management, of a tuck shop convenor, a second hand uniform sales facility, a welcome barbeque, and a number of very enjoyable social events such as the Book Fair.
The P&F Association has an active and enthusiastic committee and enjoys the support of many members on individual activities and projects. Members of the GNLS community are encouraged to participate and be involved wherever possible. All activities and fundraising are directly and entirely for the benefit of all of our children and families.

**Community Satisfaction**

**School Council Policy – Building Community**

- We will seek to serve and be responsive to the needs of the community through the educational programs at Good News.
- Individuals are treated with and treat others with respect and compassion.
- Caring is responsive and proactive within the constraints of loving sensitivity.

**Students**

*Students are challenged and informed by the Christian faith to develop life skills and congruent values.*

**Values Program**

The Values Program for students continues to be a developing vehicle for the transmission of life skills and congruent values. The Values Program remains a vibrant and supportive element of our total educational program.

**Pastoral Care**

The pastoral care program is largely undertaken by the teaching and support staff on a class by class basis. Wherever possible, we involve children in the care and support of fellow class members.

**Staff**

Staff are respected and supported so that they in turn respect and support others in the community.

This is a pivotal part of Building Community and one that we at Administration take seriously. Therefore, we invest energy and resources accordingly.

Aspects from the benchmarking for Good News Lutheran School highlights the level of involvement and ‘satisfaction’ with the involvement of staff in Community Building. Critical to Building Community is the support, which staff generously show to each other.

School Council continues to offer genuine care and support to staff members and this establishes strong partnerships. Each year commences with a combined staff and School Council social function as a show of mutual support.

In addition, a large number of parents offer support and encouragement to our staff through assistance, cards and prayers.
Parents
Parents are involved and respected as partners in their children’s education.

Care is taken to involve parents as partners in their child’s education. An open door policy operates, where parents are welcome to visit classrooms and meet with teachers. In addition we offer a number of opportunities to formally contact parents to share educational issues and the Parents and Friends Association, in conjunction with School Administration, organise a number of information sessions for parents throughout the year.

Points That Underpin The Building Of Community At Good News

- Our Values Program identifies IDENTITY, COMPASSION and RESPECT. This means that we will value and treat with respect our staff, our students, our parents and those with whom we come in contact with in the community.

- We endeavour to call all people by their first name.

- We treat our campus as a shared living space during work time (that is, we have fewer rather than many rules and we rely strongly on respecting each other and their space… as a large family would).

- The village nature of our school aids our community building because our children and parents meet outside of the school as well as inside of the school for sports, recreation, church activities and the like.

Better Schools Project Survey

In May of 2011, staff, parents and students of Good News Lutheran School completed surveys to determine the school’s strengths and areas of challenge. This was undertaken as part of the Better Schools Project implemented across all Lutheran schools in Australia as part of a 5-year (2009-2013) school improvement initiative of Lutheran Education Australia. Standardised scores (0-100) were obtained for Parent Satisfaction, Student Teaching and Learning, and Staff School Climate.

The Parent Satisfaction Index was based on core elements such as school improvement, approachability, teacher morale, parent input, stimulating learning, behaviour management, reporting, learning focus, transitions, extra-curricula, homework and general satisfaction. Good News achieved an average score of 80 with improvements noted in behaviour management, staff approachability, parental input, stimulating learning, extra curricular offerings, homework, sense of safety and students’ desire to learn. Overall satisfaction remained unchanged from 2009 at 9/10.
An average score of 80 was achieved on the Student Teaching and Learning Index, which was based on the core elements of purposeful teaching, teacher empathy, stimulating learning, school connectedness, student motivation, and learning confidence. Strengths were identified in student safety, peer connectedness and learning confidence.

The Staff School Climate Index was based on the core elements of supportive leadership, role clarity, teamwork, empowerment, ownership, appraisal and recognition, and professional growth. An average score of 80 was received for this area with relative strengths being in behaviour management improvements, curriculum coordination, supportive leadership, role clarity, school morale, teamwork, recognition, and teaching and learning.

In addition, the school also received data that compared the relative strengths and weaknesses for Good News against those of all other Lutheran schools in Australia. The areas for celebration have been identified as curriculum coordination, purposeful teaching and learning, staff morale, student wellbeing, school and peer connectedness, and the active living of our Christian faith and values.

Good News continues to work with staff, students and parents to improve the areas of challenge and to maintain and enhance the areas of celebration.