



Annual Report 2021



St John's Lutheran Primary School Ltd
43-55 Trangmar Street, Portland, Victoria, 3305

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INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

All schools and system authorities must make publicly available, within six months of the end of each program year, a report that includes information about the school. The legislative instrument by which recurrent funding from the Commonwealth Government is provided to independent schools is the Australian Education Act 2013 and the Australian Education Regulation 2013. One of the conditions for funding is the publication of information by schools. The purpose of the school Annual Report is to inform parents and the wider school community of the school's successes, activities and achievements throughout the year, and to meet Commonwealth and State legislative requirements.

HOW THE REPORT IS DISTRIBUTED

This report is a culmination report of the activities conducted by St John's Lutheran Primary School Ltd in the year 2021. It is published on the school website www.stjohnsportland.com.au and on the Victorian Regulation and Qualification Authority (VRQA) state register. There are hard copies available at the school and the Portland-Heywood Lutheran congregation. This report is also a summary of reporting that is provided to the School Council, Portland-Heywood Lutheran Congregation, Independent Schools Victoria (ISV), VRQA, Lutheran Education VIC, NSW, TAS & ACT Ltd (LEVNT), Lutheran Education Australia (LEA) and the wider St John's school community. Broader data and reports are available in other forms such as newsletters, school magazines and additional written, electronic, and digital content made available to the wider community.

CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION 2021

NAME	St John's Lutheran Primary School Ltd
SCHOOL SECTOR	Independent
TOTAL ENROLMENTS	69 (August DESE census)
YEAR LEVELS OFFERED	Foundation to Year 6
CO-EDUCATIONAL OR SINGLE SEX	Co-Educational
ADDRESS	43-55 Trangmar Street, Portland, Victoria, 3305
PRINCIPAL	Tara Pritchard
SCHOOL COUNCIL CHAIR	Brigita Keiller
BUSINESS MANAGER	Hayley Bristow
TELEPHONE	03 5523 3833
EMAIL	admin@stjohnsportland.vic.edu.au
WEBSITE	www.stjohnsportland.com.au

SCHOOL PROFILE

Pastor Ben Schwarz helped inspire Portland Heywood Lutheran Church to establish the “Feed my Lambs Fund” in 1975. Through the extreme generosity of members Mr Bert Porte and Mr Vic Mibus, a 10-acre block of land on Trangmar St was earmarked as the future site of a primary school. In 1978, a selected congregational committee agreed that the Lutheran school would commence in 1980. This decision ignited a lot of activity, and many hours were devoted to fundraising, clearing the land of pine plantations, landscaping the oval, and drawing up building plans. St John’s Lutheran Primary School did indeed open in 1980 with 36 students. God has grown and blessed this school ever since, enabling it to ‘feed God’s lambs’ and provide a wonderful Christian education to the children of the Portland district.

The school places significant focus on developing the whole child - intellectually, spiritually, socially, physically, emotionally, and creatively. This is supported by spacious classrooms, outdoor learning areas and specialist areas for Japanese, Music, and Physical Education.

The Pastoral Care of students continues to be supported by a Chaplain being funded by the National Schools Chaplaincy Programme.

All staff work together as a team to support the well-being of our students and their families. St John’s staff work hard to build positive relationships with our school community and most importantly, developing confident, resilient, and positive students in a caring, Christian environment.

In all that we do we aim to Praise, Love and Serve.

STRATEGIC INTENT

The Strategic direction of St John’s Lutheran Primary School Ltd is endorsed by the Board after recommendations from the Principal, Business Manager, LEVNT, wider consultation with staff and representatives from the parent body and Portland-Heywood Lutheran congregation. When establishing this direction, the school mission statement and motto of Praise, Love, Serve remain as a focus. Lutheran schools are an integral part of the mission of the LCA and are supported by three Lutheran Education Regions and Lutheran Education Australia as described in the LEVNT Governance Charter (as amended from time to time). Through its schools the LCA deliberately and intentionally bears Christian witness to students, parents, teachers, friends and all who comprise the world of the school. In 2021, the School Board started the process for updating the School Strategic Plan.

SCHOOL BOARD

St John’s Lutheran Primary School Ltd has a governing board of elected representatives. The School Board consists of 4 Directors and 3 representatives who act as consultants. The key role of the School Board is governance, ensuring the ongoing viability of the school and maintaining the strategic direction of the school. This year the school has been incorporated with Lutheran Education VIC, NSW, TAS and ACT Ltd (LEVNT) as its sole member. Our School Chair, Mrs Brigita Keiller, has continued to lead a very professional and committed Board who have worked tirelessly throughout the year to govern with integrity and expertise.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Throughout the 2021 year, several notable developments took place including:

- The school, formerly an unincorporated school of the Lutheran Church of Australia Victorian District (LCAVD), became incorporated with LEVNT Ltd as its sole member.
- Senior Playground renovated.
- Music program implemented across all year levels.
- Tutoring Learning Initiative aided students most affected by COVID interruptions.
- Professional film developed for marketing purposes.
- Strengthening of our school Playgroup.
- Victorian Registration & Qualifications Authority (VRQA) review started.
- Portable buildings restumped.
- Our 'Getting Ready for School' Transition program for students enrolled in Foundation 2022 was facilitated in Term 4.
- Service-learning fundraiser to the hospital in Vanuatu.

CURRICULUM

Our school recognises that a student-centred environment that supports diverse experiences and background knowledge best meets the needs of all students. Staff work hard to provide learning opportunities for students so that learning is relevant and purposeful.

We provide a place where, when students don't always get it right, they are encouraged to make positive changes. At the heart of every learning journey is the relationship between a teacher and student. This single factor has an incredible impact on the quality of teaching and learning that occurs at our school.

EARLY LEARNING

The Early Learning Program provides a nurturing environment that makes the transition from home to school safe, exciting, and enjoyable. Our carefully structured curriculum builds a solid foundation that is essential for children in their learning journey.

In 2021, our Playgroup was interrupted by COVID-19 regulations. Our Playgroup co-ordinator, Mrs Tanya Harders, continued to provide updates and suggested activities via Facebook to many families.

In Term 4, we were able to proceed with the 'Getting Ready For School' transition program for kindergarten students who were enrolled in Foundation 2022. This enabled our youngest learners to engage in inquiry-based learning and wondering, alongside the development of key skills in literacy and numeracy. Students also became familiar with the school environment and towards the very end of the term were able to meet their senior buddy. We were very fortunate to have Mrs Olivia Coates, an Early Childhood trained educator, assist in facilitating our program.

PRIMARY YEARS

We provide a Christian education to students from Foundation to Year 6 and strive to nurture each student for a life of faith and service, through their intellectual, spiritual, physical, emotional, creative and social growth. Through relevant and meaningful learning opportunities, collaborative work skills are developed, and the effort of each child is applauded. We strive for excellence in our quest to equip students for life in the 21st century.

Teaching and learning align with the Victorian Curriculum. Emphasis is placed on teaching core literacy and numeracy skills to equip students with the competence to succeed across the curriculum.

This year our school had to revert to remote learning due to COVID-19 on many occasions. We continued to use Seesaw as our online platform, but also delivered weekly to each home a bag of resources so students could complete STEM, Art, and other activities in hardcopy form.

Many curricular activities were severely impacted by COVID-19 and had to be postponed, rescheduled, or delivered online. Unfortunately, there was no swimming program, but our camps were able to proceed. Students raised money for the Vanuatu hospital through *The Melanie Jewson Foundation* by bagging and selling sheep manure.

LEARNING SUPPORT

Learning Support and enrichment programs were provided to assist and extend students in their individual learning journey. During remote learning, staff responded extremely well in finding ways of supporting students and communicating regularly. When onsite learning resumed our school received funding from the Victorian Government to facilitate the Tutoring Program.

OUTDOOR FACILITIES

Despite the interruption of COVID-19, we upgraded our senior playground and continued to develop our bike track on the back oval.

PASTORAL CARE AND WELLBEING

Throughout 2021 the wellbeing of everyone in our school community continued to be one of the main priorities with COVID-19 challenges. The staff worked tirelessly to remain connected to all students and families when onsite learning was not permitted. We continued to stay connected to families and provide Chapel services through Seesaw. We used a variety of resources to meet specific needs and were thankful to receive funding through Independent Schools Victoria (ISV). The well-being and safety of each student is very important at our school. We implement a number of initiatives that focus on addressing the social and emotional wellbeing of each student. This approach that focuses on each individual student, embeds qualities of respectful relationships, a strong sense of community and individual responsibility. Pastoral care is underpinned by an ethos of care and respect for all.

WORSHIP PROGRAM

Worship is an important component of St John's Lutheran Primary School Ltd. Throughout 2021, we continued to provide Chapel services to students at home via Seesaw (with remote learning). When on-site learning returned Chapel was held in each class every Friday and then in the outside undercover area.

STUDENT INFORMATION

CONTEXTUAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STUDENT BODY

At the DESE Census in August, the school population of 69 students was comprised of:

YEAR	STUDENTS	% BOYS	% GIRLS
Foundation	9	44%	56%
Year 1	8	25%	75%
Year 2	15	27%	73%
Year 3	9	56%	44%
Year 4	11	64%	36%
Year 5	9	44%	56%
Year 6	8	62%	38%
Total	69	45%	55%

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

The whole school student attendance figures for 2021:

Foundation	94%
Year 1	89%
Year 2	90%
Year 3	88%
Year 4	92%
Year 5	82%
Year 6	93%

Parents or caregivers are expected to inform the school of absences either by email or phone by 10:00am on day of absence. This also happened during remote learning. This ensures that the school is aware of the whereabouts of children. If a pattern of extended or unexplained periods of absence occurs, teachers contact the parents or caregivers to determine an appropriate course of action to ensure learning is not compromised.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students in Years 3 and 5 participated in The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) paper tests and also in School Readiness Tests to prepare for delivering NAPLAN online in 2022.

Tests such as NAPLAN do not tell the full story of a school or indeed its performance and should not be used to judge a school or a cohort of students. Instead, tests provide a snapshot of performance over time and are designed to assist teachers to help individual students improve their literacy and numeracy proficiency. When reading these results, it is important to recognise that they are just one ‘snapshot’ of a child’s achievement here at St John’s. They need to be read in the context of school reports, other teacher feedback and past observations from not only teaching staff but by individual families.

These tests support a range of assessment tools that, when combined with teacher observations and other assessment tasks, help to inform each child’s performance and achievement. The tests also produce a large amount of data which allow us to review our teaching and learning.

Results from the Year 3 and Year 5 Student Group Summaries show most students performing above the minimum standards expected. No students were below the National Minimum Standard. The five-year trend shows that we have also improved in NAPLAN results. Below is a summary of the 2021 NAPLAN results:

Learning Area	Year 3			Year 5		
	Above the National Minimum Standard	At the National Minimum Standard	Below the National Minimum Standard	Above the National Minimum Standard	At the National Minimum Standard	Below the National Minimum Standard
READING	100%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
WRITING	100%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
SPELLING	91%	9%	0%	89%	11%	0%
GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION	91%	9%	0%	100%	0%	0%
NUMERACY	90%	10%	0%	100%	0%	0%

STAFF INFORMATION

TEACHER STANDARDS AND QUALIFICATIONS

All teaching staff at St John's Lutheran Primary School Ltd are appropriately qualified and hold registration with the Victorian Institute of Teaching. Below is a summary of the qualifications held by teachers at the school.

Qualification	Number Held by Staff
Doctorate	0
Masters	1
Bachelor	4
Diploma	2
Certificate	0
TOTAL QUALIFICATIONS	7

PARTICIPATION IN PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

As members of a professional learning community, all staff at St John's Lutheran Primary School Ltd are encouraged to access professional learning opportunities throughout the year. This year, many Professional Development opportunities were delivered online including OH&S, First Aid including Anaphylaxis Management and Asthma, as well as Evacuation Procedures through Dynamiq. During 2021, whole school professional learning focused on collaboration in remote learning, IT skills, Child Safety and wellbeing.

All teachers are registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching.

WORKFORCE COMPOSITION

In 2021, St John's Lutheran Primary School Ltd employed 7 teaching staff, (of which) three of whom were full time. Students at St John's received specialist instruction in STEM, Physical Education, Music and Japanese.

Student learning was also supported by non-teaching staff. Areas provided by non-teaching staff included Learning Support, Administration, Business Management, Maintenance and Cleaning.

No Indigenous staff member is employed at the school.

The composition of the work force at St John's Lutheran Primary School Ltd is summarised below.

	Number	% of workforce
Full time teaching	3	32.25
Part time teaching	1.6	17.25
Part time non-teaching	3.3	35.50
Chaplain	0.4	4
Principal	1	11
TOTAL STAFF	9.3	100%

Not included in this breakdown are:

1. Temporary replacement teaching and ancillary staff.

PARENT AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION (P&F)

Due to COVID-19, the P&F have been unable to organise events such as the school Fete.

SCHOOL SATISFACTION

Despite the interruptions of COVID-19, we appreciated the strong communication between families, students, and the school. Our parent body were understanding and respectful of the regulations that were in place and the school's desire to facilitate as many activities and programs as possible whilst not compromising the health and safety of our students and staff. We appreciated the open dialogue between school and home and strived to improve our remote learning program when on-site learning was not permitted. Parents appreciated the extra effort staff made in providing home learning packs with resources and materials made available to all students. Our students appreciated being back at school and their first response was how great it was to be back with their friends! They also particularly enjoyed the Book Fair, Camps, senior Bike Ed program, Portland Performing Arts performance, Fun Day and the Christmas performance. There was a renewed excitement amongst all staff, students and parents when school resumed on-site and a greater appreciation of how blessed we are to come to school every day and engage, learn, explore and wonder.

SCHOOL FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

STATEMENT OF INCOME

For Year Ended 31st December 2021

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Income sources -

Net Tuition Fees	\$ 137,435	11.02%
Operating Grants	\$ 1,078,625	86.47%
Capital Grants	\$ 0	0.00%
Donations - Capital & Other	\$ 26,115	2.09%
Interest & other Income	\$ 5,191	0.42%
Interest from Related Entities	\$ -	0.00%
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	\$ 1,247,366	100.00%