



*Lutheran Schools exist to provide Christian education to their students and pastoral support for all members of each school community.*



# 2015 Annual Report

**NHILL LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

**School Number: 1754**



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As part of our funding agreement with the Australian Government, we are required to ensure that specific "School Performance Information" is made publicly available to the school community. This information has been provided to the school community throughout the year in other forms such as newsletters and on the school's website.

What follows is a collated version of this information under the headings specified by the Australian Government. The information relates to the 2015 school year and expands on the information provided on the Commonwealth Government's "My School" website.

## School Profile

### Contextual Information about the School

Nhill Lutheran School is a Foundation to Year 6 primary school. The ministry and mission of the school is to provide a quality education in a Christian environment. The school provides a positive and safe learning environment where student's develop self-discipline and respect for others, and prepare for responsible living and service in society. Students are encouraged to recognise their God given gifts and develop a feeling of self-worth through a well developed Christian Studies and worship program.

A strong focus is on developing a love of learning and the skills needed for lifelong learning. Well-resourced, up to date learning facilities support the provision of a curriculum strongly based on Literacy and Numeracy skills. The curriculum areas all align with the requirements of AusVELS and a varied program of learning is offered. A House system provides opportunities for student leadership and sporting activities which is enhanced by the Health and Physical Education program. A camping and excursion program develops relational and independent learning skills. The school offers an Arts program which includes a music program and both visual and performing arts. The language that is taught across all year levels is the Karen language.

### Characteristics of the Student Body

The student population was 49 students at the Census in August of 2015.

At Census in 2015 - the composition of the student population was 19 female and 30 male.

Students with special needs have Individual Learning Plans to help focus learning on their specific needs.

## Teacher Standards and Qualifications

### Staff Qualifications

Qualification	Number
Diploma	1
Bachelor Degree	4
Post graduate certificate or diploma	1
Master's Degree	1

The above table provides a summary of the qualifications of teachers. All teachers hold tertiary qualifications. All Nhill Lutheran School teachers are appropriately qualified and hold registration with the Victorian Institute of Teaching.

In 2015, there was 4.2 FTE teaching staff, 3 non teaching staff and .9 FTE office staff employed for a total workforce of 9 people. No indigenous staff members are employed at the school.

At the conclusion of the 2015 school year the workforce composition at Nhill Lutheran School consisted of:

- 1 Principal
- 3 Full time teachers
- 1 Part time teacher
- 4 Non teaching staff

In addition to core teaching competency in English, Mathematics, the teaching staff at Nhill Lutheran School have specialist teaching skills in areas including Music, Visual Art, Library, Technology, Drama, Christian Studies, Science , Physical Education and Karen.

One part time teacher was employed to teach Music, and a member of the Karen community assisted with teaching the Karen language. An Integration Aide was employed to support students in need throughout the school.

All members of staff are annually trained in First Aid (including Anaphylaxis, Asthma and CPR), Mandatory Reporting and the Lutheran Church of Australia's Valuing Safe Communities Policies and Procedures. Staff also completed Evacuation and Emergency Procedures and Workplace, Health and Safety requirements are regularly revised throughout the year during staff meetings.

During 2015, Professional Development focused on the use of iPads within the school, compliance and Lutheran teachers' conference. A number of courses were conducted by Independent Schools Victoria, and staff visited leading schools such as Ballarat Grammar, Carey College and Sunshine Christian School.

## Key Student Outcomes

### Student Attendance

Student Attendance: of a possible 189 student days, the average student attendance rate was 92.5%. Absences from school include sickness, medical appointments and holidays taken outside of school holidays. Absences from school are required to be explained in writing. Absences for additional holidays within the school term are discouraged, however, the School does recognize that on special occasions this is unavoidable.

The following graph show average student absences per Year level during 2015:

Year Level	Average Absences per student	% Attendance
Prep	17	90.6.%
Year 1	13.5	92.9%
Year 2	12.5	93.4%
Year 3	11.7	93.8%
Year 4	9.9	94.7%
Year 5	12.1	93.6%
Year 6	22.3	88.2%
School	<b>14.2</b>	<b>92.5%</b>

### Management of Non Attendance

The school has a School Attendance Policy which outlines how student absenteeism is recorded. Each time a student is absent from school the teacher records that the child is absent using a code which explains the reason for the child's absence. The policy states that the Principal is notified if any child demonstrates a pattern of absenteeism. The Principal is then responsible for following up the concerns of absenteeism with the child's parent/s.

### NAPLAN Testing Report 2015 - Years 3 & 5

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy tests were administered to all students in Years 3 and 5. NAPLAN assess student achievement in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy. NAPLAN reports show the result of each child's performance compared to other Australian students in their year level and the average score on the NAPLAN tests. These tests form just a part of a range of assessment tools and procedures to inform of each child's performance and achievement. School summary reports are provided for Years 3 and 5 in Literacy and Numeracy.

Results for Year 3 students in 2015 were strong with 100% of students achieving above the national minimum standard in Reading, Writing, Grammar and Punctuation, while 89% achieved above the national minimum standard in Spelling and Numeracy.

Year 5 students performed exceptionally well in 2015 with 100% of students achieving the national minimum standard in Reading, Writing, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy.

Our school continues to support students through Individual Learning Plans when extra assistance is needed in particularly English and Mathematics. Students are identified through our comprehensive diagnostic assessment program or teacher referral. Literacy support in phonics and reading is closely aligned to our whole school approach of using THRASS.

### **Extra- Curricular Activities**

There are a number of opportunities for students to be involved in activities beyond the classroom. Students have participated in:

- Environment activities including worm farming, tree planting
- Interschool competitions including cross country
- Camping programs
- Choir and recorder
- Student leadership responsibilities and programs
- Buddy Program throughout the school and parents
- School concert
- A variety of incursions and excursions
- Community Based Projects including visiting Avonlea residents
- Meals on Wheels
- Year 6 Formal Graduation dinner
- Cooking
- Chapel participation
- Student Representative Council
- Service learning such as Refugee Ration Packs

### **Integrated Pastoral Care Program**

The values for Australian schooling and those identified by Lutheran Education Australia are at the core of pastoral care in our school. Our class teachers continue to be the main pastoral carers for each student and lead daily class devotions. Chapel services are held every Friday and are lead by Pastor Tim, staff and/or students. Pastor Tim continues to assist and serve the school in a number of ways including staff Bible studies, leading Chapel services, home visits, and being available to staff, students and parents for counseling. Our Buddy system offers support and welcomes new students and families to our school community.

Through connections in the Karen community, the students made links with an orphanage school in Myanmar and raised money throughout the year to buy clothes, resources, food, building materials and school books. The senior students sold over 400 bags of sheep manure in the local community and raised approximately \$1200.00. Students are now writing and receiving letters from the students in Myanmar.

## **Opinion Surveys**

### **Parent and Student Satisfaction**

Surveys of our school community are important and valued.

In 2015 all parents were invited to participate in a school survey. The parents were extremely positive about the quality of teaching, the academic needs of each student, digital portfolios as a form of reporting, student behavior, school climate, school-parent relations and the whole school appearance. Mention was also made about the outdoor learning landscapes such as Cubbyville, the Mini farm, and garden.

Areas of strength noted by parents included; school is gospel centered, teaching is 100%, the happy and friendly atmosphere, strong and up to date IT, strong academic performance, professional appearance of school, safe environment, pastoral care, playground creativity, and exceptional teachers.

Areas of development included the need to promote the school within the community, wellbeing of families and increase parent involvement through the Parents and Friends Association.

### **Post School Destinations**

At the end of 2015, 2 Year 6 students enrolled at Nhill College for Year 7 and 1 enrolled at Holy Trinity Lutheran School, Horsham.

## STATEMENT OF INCOME

For Year Ended 31st December 2015

### FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Income sources - 2015

Net Tuition Fees	\$ 54,433	6.35%
Operating Grants	\$ 738,857	86.18%
Capital Grants	\$ 0	0.00%
Donations - Capital & Other	\$ 11,362	1.33%
Interest & other Income	\$ 52,656	6.14%
Interest from Related Entities	\$ -	0.00%
	<hr/>	
	\$ <b>857,307</b>	<b>100.00%</b>