As we conclude another educational year for the students of St. Martin’s Catholic primary school, it is timely that I present a report for parents and Our Lady of Graces parish representatives.

*I refer you also to the updated Review of St. Martin’s Strategic Renewal Goals 2013 document attached.*

**Mission and Religious Education**

St. Martin’s continues to be a great example of quality Catholic education. In her second and final year as APRE Nicole Cole has not only embellished on the religious traditions and feast important to St. Martin’s school but has also built on the positive relationships between school and parish, in the form of information, communication, coordination and presence. A particular highlight during Nic’s time has been the quality of school liturgies and ceremonies which have had depth and true Gospel connection.

I also believe that St. Martin’s has focussed on Social Justice in a concentrated Catholic way ensuring that our children are learning to perpetually think of and act for the benefit of others. I commend Fr. Tom Cassidy in his second full year as Parish Priest in his affirmation of our children’s behaviour and faith development, his interest in school development, the delivery of Catholic education to our children and the faith development of all in our community.

**Learning and Teaching**

St. Martin’s continues to offer a balanced, holistic education for the children in our care. Evidence from Internal Monitoring of Essential Learning as well as NAPLAN and from a further plethora of evidence tools indicate that children are receiving quality teaching and learning. I am particularly pleased that IMEL is identifying areas of weakness as well as strengths and most importantly, providing teachers with detailed information on the children in their care. The next stage for this data is for it to be uploaded onto the Business Intelligence Tool (Software sponsored by BCE). The second year of 1:1 laptops for the Year 6 students and first for Year 5 offers enhanced possibilities in providing contemporary learning and has been an insightful
addition to our educational offerings. This has been combined with the innovative use of a new platform for teaching and learning from a company called Learnology that has been a large investment from BCE. Titled L.I.F.E., this program is improving access and a platform for improved learning experiences, the sharing of these and the scope for demonstrating the learning. I commend and thank Mike Armstrong and the teachers who have committed to this life-long learning paradigm and the exciting potential it provides. Cooperative, innovative planning between teachers and Nicole Cole (as CST) using the newly developed Australian Curriculum and beginning with the needs of our children, has been a further highlight of 2013.

The Contemporary Learning Village will be completed in December and be ready for use at the start of 2014. This combination of three classrooms includes a utility teaching area equipped for cooking and science activities.

All available data including NAPLAN, IMEL, Schools Reporting Systems and Behaviour Records prove that St. Martin’s children are developing knowledge, skills, self-esteem and confidence as they are nurtured towards achieving their potential.

**Collaborative Partnerships**

The initial year of P&F Levy/ Community Events has been very positive. The parents and friends have gone a long way to providing donated funds to assist with the Cooling our Classrooms goal with the final rooms to be completed including the Art Room and the Contemporary Learning Village. The Sunday Funday broke all records with the largest profit ever of $82000 and the greatest amount of fun had in one day! This event held every second year, engenders school and community spirit and most importantly, provides extra resources and a great memory for the children.

**Quality Assurance Process**

In 2013 the school reviewed the following components:

1.1 Religious Identity and Culture 6/7
1.3 Prayer and Worship 6/7
2.2 Responding to the Diverse Needs of Learners 5/7
3.2 Work Culture 6/7
4.5 School Improvement 5/7
These ratings were arrived at after a panel made up of teachers and leadership reviewed survey results from parents and staff and tabled a variety of evidence and relevant data. As well as listing strengths and areas to improve, the ensuing discussions and interaction with staff and the result assisted in formulating goals for the 2014 Action Plan.

There are many highlights of 2013. These include but are not limited to:

- the wonderful efforts of our musical groups and performers-at the CSMF of two golds, a silver and a bronze.
- the Year 7 musical
- the wonderfully positive Celebrations of Learning
- the outstanding team work by our life-long learning teachers and School Officers
- the wonderful respectful behaviour of our students

Parish groups have begun using the Dominic Centre, both inside and underneath, and we continue to work on building understanding and knowledge within our community in relation to the parish goal of promoting faith among our families and building a relationship between our children and God.

Other projects which will appear on the SRP for 2013 will be phase 1 of an Adventure Playground to promote gross motor play development. I am working with Urban Play to achieve this goal and we are focussed on the north-west corner of the ‘valley’.

Thanks to the members of our community that go to the extra effort to be involved in the formation of goals and directions for St. Martin’s and then the active support in achieving these goals for the children entrusted to our care. This continues to be a great school - getting even better!

Mick Kelleher

Principal