Principal's Report to the FRSA (Tas) Inc

as presented at the Annual General Meeting, 24 March 2014

Prepared by Gerrit Brouwer

1. The School

John Calvin School is located in Launceston, Tasmania. It is a co-educational school from K to Grade 10, with 84 students enrolled. It was established in 1965. The school was named after one of the most important leaders of the Protestant Reformation. This name and the school logo were chosen to reflect the Reformed, Christian character of the School. The students are drawn primarily from the Free Reformed Churches of Australia and to some extent from the Evangelical Presbyterian Churches.

The School's mission is to assist the parents in their desire to bring up and equip their children for a life of service to God in their community. United by commonly held values and beliefs there is a strong bond between parents and friends of the school, and the staff.

The School prides itself on a strong work ethic and excellence in core areas such as literacy and numeracy, as evidenced by NAPLAN testing results.

The School is firmly committed to developing a strong culture of school improvement through ongoing review and development in all areas of the School’s operations.
2. **Staff**

2.1. **Teacher standards and qualifications**

All teachers were registered with the Teachers Registration Board (TRB); they were at least 4-year trained or the equivalent. Teacher Assistants worked under the supervision of registered teachers.

2.2. **Staff retention**

At the end of 2013 1 teacher and 1 Teacher Assistant (TA) resigned and 3 teachers, 1 TA and 1 Resource Aide were appointed in 2013. The total number of staff members (full-time and part-time) at the beginning of 2013 was 13 (including 2 office staff, 1 Teacher Assistant and Resource Aide).

2.3. **Professional learning**

2.3.1. In 2013 this included:

- Visit of Antoon Breen (REDC), Alwyn Terpstra (School Improvement);
- Professional articles read;
- AC sessions in Devonport/Campbell Town + in-house staff sessions on AC;
- First Aid refresher for staff;
- Mathletics – PL on using this Maths resource;
- Multi-age classes PL;
- JCS leadership meeting re AC and School Improvement in WA;
- EYLF networking;
- SIM (School Improvement Meeting) no 1;
- Assorted workshops/seminars, eg;
  - Technology PD;
  - ICT leadership re BYOT and BYOD;
  - ACER workshop on Progressive Assessment Tests (PAT);
  - ASME national conference;
  - Steve Biddulph PL;
  - Chemwatch PL session re chemicals and MSDS;
  - HS Maths & Science PL.

2.3.2. **Total expenditure on PL**

$6,310.39
3. **Students**

3.1. **Enrolments**

84 students.

3.2. **Student attendance**

Student attendance is guided and managed by the school’s ‘Student Attendance Protocol’.

On average: 95.04%

3.3. **Student learning**

3.3.1. **Curriculum**

The School is committed to ongoing implementation of the Australian Curriculum. To that end, in-house staff meeting time and time on student-free days is dedicated to ensure that the school is compliant in this. Also the equivalent of a full day is allocated to a senior teacher who functions as the school’s curriculum support officer.

3.3.2. **NAPLAN – 2013**

The school’s data can be found on the ‘myschool’ website; [http://www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au). NAPLAN constitutes a comprehensive testing regime. However, as the school’s cohorts are very small, comparisons need to be carefully made, if they should be made at all.

3.3.3. **NAPLAN 2013 – % of students Above the National Minimum Standard**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Persuasive Writing</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Grammar and Punctuation</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
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<td>89</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>Year 9</td>
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<td>75</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
4. **Post–school destinations**

Graduates from the school invariably go on with their formal education at college, either Newstead or Launceston College. This has been the pattern for many years, including this year. Apart from one graduate who entered employment, our other Graduates went on to college this year to further their education.

5. **Parent, student and teacher satisfaction & School improvement**

**School Improvement Agenda**

The school is committed to pursuing a culture of effective performance and development, within a manageable framework of review and development.

To that end the school used the following instruments in 2013 to collect data about various aspects of the school’s operations:

5.1. **National School Improvement Tool (NSIT)**

Staff and board have used this tool to rate the school’s performance in various areas, according to its following domains:

- An Explicit Improvement Agenda
- Analysis and Discussion of Data
- A Culture That Promotes Learning
- Targeted Use of School Resources
- An Expert Teaching Team
- Systematic Curriculum Delivery
- Differentiated Teaching and Learning
- Effective Pedagogical Practices
- School–Community Partnerships

The staff attended School Improvement Meetings (SIMs) to collectively conduct SWOT analyses on these domains with a view to establishing targets for improvement.
5.2. **Parent Survey 2013**

In the course of the SI meetings the data from the Parent Survey 2013 were also addressed. The school now has a set of priorities for the current year and beyond. The majority of the parent respondents spoke favourably about the school and its efforts while also highlighting perceived areas of improvement, most notably in the communication area.

5.3. **Teacher/principal Performance – AITSL**

School improvement and the achievement/maintenance of quality in teaching and learning is dependent in no small degree on the performance of its staff at all levels. The school is committed to the ‘Australian Teacher Performance and Development Framework’ and the processes of teacher and principal appraisals through AISTL.

6. **School income broken down by funding source**

See: [http://www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au)