2010 has been an extraordinary year with many events taking place. We began with a record number of students totalling 270 and this number has remained steady throughout the year. As the year has progressed we have had many families leave Hedland but have also welcomed many new families into St Cecilia’s. We still have a large number of students on the waiting list, particularly in the lower grades.

I am extremely proud of the many achievements our students have obtained during the year of 2010 academically, spiritually, creatively and physically. There has been such a growth seen in our students under the care of our staff. A highlight has been our assemblies this year. I can honestly say we have witnessed some sensational assemblies. Each class has taken on the role of leading our assemblies and making sure that we were entertained. They have been creative and enjoyable to watch and the confidence shown by all year levels has been amazing.

I would like to acknowledge our student leaders this year. I have watched as our Year Seven students have grown in confidence and maturity. They really have been amazing and have taken on so many roles within the school showing that they are an integral part of our school team. A special thank you to Miss Emily Fox for the way she has led the Year Seven students and helped them to reach their full potential. The students have been quick to assist and have shown the staff how responsible they are. Once a job was was delegated to a Year Seven student they were quick to make sure they understood what was required before going about achieving the necessary result. I wish our Year Seven’s well as they move on to high school and know that they have had an excellent grounding at St Cecilia’s together with the support of their parents.

As a Catholic School a highlight is the Sacramental life of our School and we have been blessed to have a great team working within the school and Parish this year. The partnership between Parish and School is very important and we have been most fortunate to have the dedicated team lead by Father Mark Connolly and Father Tom Kessey.

I cannot thank Father Mark enough for his support and laughter and the wonderful way he looks at life. We have indeed been spoiled by our Parish Priest who is always willing to come in to the school and assist Staff and Students. Father Mark has a beautiful way about him that fills you with warmth. I have noticed many families who have joined our Church during his time here with us and this can only be attributed to his humility, character and community building skills. You will be greatly missed Father and know that we have truly appreciated your time with us in Hedland with the wisdom of your words as well as your spiritual advice.

This year we have celebrated the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation. Each Sacrament has been memorable and reverent and this is because family, school and Parish have worked together. Each celebration has been individualized and a lot of thought and preparation has gone into the planning. I would like to thank firstly the Sacramental team. These wonderful people joined together on many occasions to plan and come up with a celebration to be remembered by the students and their families. The Sacraments needed to hold meaning and pass on the faith. So thank you to Father Mark and Father Tom who led our team.

Mrs Amanda Ramshaw our Assistant Principal of Religious Education who does an amazing job of power point presentations for all occasions and so much more. To Mrs Trish Bourke, Mrs Justine Esmonde and Sister Maria for managing to make meetings enjoyable and faith filled, being willing to run the workshops and come up with wonderful ideas to help support the faith and pass it on to our families.
A special thank you to Mrs Bridget McGlinchey, Mr Sean Sta Maria, Mrs Emily Fox and Mrs Lyn Pohamara for providing Religious instruction to our students at school and being so involved in the Sacraments. You have passed on your faith to your students and helped with their spiritual formation, thank you.

Bishop Justin visits our school to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with us every two years and it is always a delight to have the Bishop in our midst. I love the way the Bishop always personalises each candidate and takes the time to speak with each student letting them know that this day holds special meaning for both of them. This year our wonderful P&F put on a meet the Bishop dinner. This was just a wonderful occasion for the families in our school and parish to talk with the leader of our Church in Geraldton and our spiritual advisor. It was very relaxed and all who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves, as did the Bishop.

A school is only as good as the people within it and at St Cecilia’s we have a sensational staff on hand to help out in so many ways. The staff are made up of so many wonderful people that all fulfil so many different roles. Together they build community and are able to achieve so much for the students in their care and for their families within our school. I am constantly in awe of their enthusiasm and diligence to duty. They take so much care and can be counted upon to fulfil so many different tasks asked of them. We are indeed fortunate to have such a great staff.

We are able to run so many fantastic programs within our school and this is due to our dedicated staff. We have seen a wonderful Sport program run again this year under the direction of Mrs Amanda Ramshaw. We have seen success once again at the carnivals both faction and interschool and this can be contributed to Amanda’s keen sporting ability and eye for detail. This year we saw the introduction of the Kindy to Year Two Swimming program, and watching the excited faces of our little ones each week proves its success and value as a program. Mrs Annette McLean and Mrs Amanda Ramshaw have worked together beautifully to make this program possible and it has reaped rewards. We have seen the active after school program continue this year helped by many willing teachers. The students have flocked in to be part of the program and they are given such a wonderful choice from swimming activities to circus skills. We have been able to offer programmes from year one to year seven with numerous staff taking the lead.

Again we have run a music programme under the direction of Mrs Jan Gillingham; the students have been able to learn the recorder and participated in choirs. Jan always works beautifully with the students and helps them achieve amazing results at the Pilbara Music Festival together with assistance from the teachers.

I would like to thank Amanda Ramshaw for her dedicated work as our Assistant Principal over the last three years. Amanda has a great eye for detail and all events planned by Amanda are well thought out so that they flow extremely well. Amanda has been our Sports teacher for the past two years and coordinator of carnivals for three years and in this time we have seen our students progress exceptionally well in the area of sports. The carnivals have been a highlight each year and our students have gone from strength to strength under her care.

Amanda has chosen to step down from the position of Assistant Principal and from Sports coordinator and sports teacher to take up a new role. Next year will be teaching our Year Seven class. I would like to thank Amanda for all she has done so far and look forward to working with her next year in her new role.

This year saw our Tournament of Minds teams do an outstanding performance in the regionals. Team 2 were awarded honours for their amazing performance and Team 1, not only won the regional but also took part in the State finals, and were also awarded Honours: this is a fantastic accomplishment. I would also like to personally thank Miss Nicola Roderick and Mrs Lyn Pohamara for their dedication in facilitating the students to reach their goals. It was a wonderful opportunity for the students and thanks to our staff was achievable. Miss Roderick and I were indeed fortunate enough to travel down
to Perth with our Team 1 students and watch as they performed in the State Finals. I must say we were both very proud of them, they were a joy to travel with and they were just awesome in their performance. I would also like to thank their parents for allowing us the privilege of escorting them to Perth. They were model students, great friends and supported each other for the duration of the trip.

We have the most positive and sensational P&F who continue to run outstanding events that build community spirit within our school. This year we saw the “Goodline School Fete” take place and what an event. Not only was it a successful evening but it has helped to provide us with the necessary funds to establish a computer lab for the school which will be used by our students.

This year the P&F were awarded the Guardian Wills and Estate award of Excellence for building Positive School Community, an award they richly deserved. I was extremely proud to be present when two of our gorgeous parents accepted the award on behalf of the whole parent body. This group has proven to be unstoppable and continue to show why they are such an awesome group of individuals working together for the good of our school.

I would like to thank the School Board for their continued assistance in running St Cecilia’s Catholic Primary School. Together we work to provide the very best facilities for our students and staff as they work towards reaching their full potential. I would like to thank the many members of our board who continually contribute their time and their skills. We have said farewell to a number of members and thank them for the time they have given to our school. We began the year with our Board Chair Chrissie McDowell, who was a tireless worker for the school and had been on the committee for many years. She was a driving force for the school and we thank her for the time, care and dedication. We welcomed Trish Bourke onto the Board and from the very start she proved herself to be a sensational worker with wonderful foresight. Trish always makes herself available. She comes up with so many wonderful ideas and has the enthusiasm to lead each idea to its completion. This year we also said farewell to Chris Adams, again Chris cared a great deal about our school and assisted in numerous ways. The Board is a committed group of individuals who work so well together for the good of the school community; I thank each and every one of you for your time and dedication.

**NAPLAN**

We look closely at our NAPLAN results each year as they help us to work towards a focus for the school and the needs of our students. Over the last two years we have had a focus on writing as this was an area of concern. We have put in place a number of strategies to aid our students in this area and our results have shown our effectiveness. Our 2010 results show that we are now working very well in writing. As you can see in the first slide, in Year 3 we are fairly level with the Australian School Mean, in year five we are above the Australian Schools mean and in Year Seven we are well above the Australian schools mean.

When you look at the slide on Number you will see that we are further apart from the Australian Mean and this is the area we need to focus on as a school. Jody Tait who is our Professional learning coordinator and staff have worked on a Literacy and numeracy plan for the school and identified our areas of strength and weaknesses. As a school we shall begin working with our students to help them strengthen the learning are of mathematics.

When you look at Spelling and Reading you can see we are a little below the Australian mean, but the gap is very minor. And in Grammar and punctuation we are above the mean in Year Five and very close in Year seven and a little gap in year three.
Quality Catholic Schooling Project

The Catholic Education Office has this year introduced the Quality Catholic Schooling Project. The CEO has identified 24 components that they would like schools to undertake and grade themselves. The components can be broken down into four main domains, Engagement with Families, Student Achievement, Teaching practice and Vision and Mission. At the beginning of 2011, every Catholic School will begin a five year self review and improvement cycle using a framework. We will throughout the year be engaging parents and students and the wider community to help us as we determine how effective we are as a school. And then find ways in which we can improve.

Evangelisation

This year saw the release of the new Bishop’s mandate Letter for the operation of Catholic Schools in Western Australia. We were very fortunate to have Trish Walsh come from the Catholic Education Office and run professional development for the staff and the board. To help us gain a better understanding of the mandate and what as a Catholic School we are called to be. Also this year we have written our new Evangelisation Policy for St Cecilia’s, as a staff we have looked at creating a policy that we can follow and that has true meaning for ourselves and our students.

Reflection

It has been an exciting year with many events taking place. We hope that our students will always remember their time at St Cecilia’s with fond memories. It is a place where they can come and be part of and while here keep their passion for learning alive.

I wish you all a happy and safe holiday and look forward to seeing you all return next year as we begin 2011.

Treasurer’s Report

2011 Fee Change

During October when we were preparing the school budget for 2011 we look at the fees and recommendations from the Catholic Education Commission. Each year there is a margin of increase in the fees this year we raised by 6%

Tuition

- Tuition Fees went from $620 annual fee to $660 for Kindy
- Tuition Fees for Pre Primary to Year Seven went from $1000 to $1060
- We have not increased the amenities nor the building levy or the P & F levy

Budgeted Operations

Income result $2,688,254
Expenditure result $2,692,157

Estimated result for 2011 $3,903 (Deficit)

Although we have a deficit of $3,903 we have sufficient funds in reserve to cover this.

I would like to thank Peter Watson who has been our treasurer this year, and though he has left town has always made himself available to look over the finances of the school and assist in preparing the monthly reports to the Board. I would also like to thank Genni McCormack for her tireless work with finances. Genni is a dedicated bursar who has a strong knowledge of the finances of the school and helps to prepare all the budgets and makes sure the school finances are stable.