This annual report on Parklands School provides information about the school in accordance with the Federal Government’s funding requirements up to December, 2011.

About Our School.
Parklands School is a small, friendly and caring Independent Primary School in Albany. Originating in 1998 we currently have about 117 students enrolled from Kindergarten, Pre-primary to Year Seven.

We pride ourselves on providing a caring and nurturing environment where children can develop a sound foundation for the crucial development stages of childhood. Our Kindergarten programmes are governed by Montessori principles and practices, and our Pre-Primary and Primary curriculum is based on the Australian Curriculum and influenced by Best Practices in Education.

Our Vision:
To create a safe, cooperative learning community.
To celebrate individual achievement.
We foster a lifelong love of learning and a sense of wonder and joy.
Our learning environment supports respect for self and respect for others.
We respect and live in harmony with the environment, natural and cultural.

Our Classes:
Kindergarten classes
Three year olds - two morning sessions per week;
Four year olds - four half-day sessions per week;
Pre-Primary and Primary classes are full time attendance.

Whole School Programmes:
Parklands is committed to developing cultural and artistic understanding amongst students. All students from Pre-primary learn Italian language and culture. The music programme has developed significantly in recent times and children from Pre-primary and older study choir, with all students invited to access private piano or voice lessons at school.
All students from Pre-primary are involved in class based values programmes as well as Religion in Life, a non-denominational Government
programme of Religious Instruction.

**Funding Sources.**
Sources of income for Parklands School in 2011 was broken down into

- Tuition fees 22.72%
- State per capita grants 22.30%
Commonwealth Recurrent Grants 47.85%
AISWA Commonwealth Targeted Programmes 3.62%
Other sources including donations 3.51%

**Our Students.**
At Parklands School we believe that each child is unique and should have the opportunity to achieve his or her full potential. Our School logo is “Learning for Life” and we offer a caring and stimulating environment with gentle and respectful teaching to create this opportunity. Our student population is made up of children from 3 years old in Pre-Kindergarten to students in Year Seven. In 2011 we had a total of 88 students and 16 three year olds. Our average student attendance was 90%

When students leave Parklands they go on to both Government and Non Government schools, mostly locally unless families are relocating. From the feedback we have it seems that wherever they go on to the transition to other school systems is smooth and successful, both academically and socially.

**Student achievement as assessed in standardised tests**
Students participated in the National Assessment Program in Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) in 2011. Assessments were completed in Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy. Although the number of students who participated in each year level is very small, the whole of the cohort in both year five and seven showed steady upward progress since their previous NAPLAN testing in all five areas tested.
In 2011 in Year Three, all students tested at or above benchmark in writing and numeracy and 90% of students at or above benchmarks in reading, grammar and spelling. A sound result of 60% % of all year three students achieved at the same level as 60% of Australian students in writing and numeracy. In reading, spelling and punctuation student results varied from benchmark right through to the highest 20% of results of Australian students.

In 2011 Year Five and Year Seven students were comfortably above the national benchmarks in all five areas of NAPLAN testing – Reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation and numeracy.

We are very pleased with the overall results in all three year levels at Parklands in 2011.

**Staffing.**
We are fortunate to have an energetic, committed and harmonious staff who work together to create a well-balanced and holistic programme across the Kindergarten, Pre-primary and Primary classes.

We have a total of 6 FTE teaching positions and 3.8 FTE teaching assistant and admin positions in the school. Some staff work part time so we have a total of 17 staff overall. All our teaching staff are members of the WA College of Teaching and one is 3 year trained; 6 are 4 year trained and 1 is 5 year trained.

Our staff attendance was 96.3% overall in 2011, and our retention rate was 94.2% which is a wonderful indication of how satisfied teachers are at Parklands. The school’s philosophy of supporting teachers in the classroom and encouraging professional development contributes to high level of staff retention. When staff left the school they did so mainly for personal reasons, related to family situations.

**Staff Professional Development**
Parklands School is proud of the extent and depth of its Teacher Development
All staff members participate in professional learning. Many activities occur on the six professional development days, which are distributed throughout the year. The school is fortunate to be able to access high quality professional learning which is provided in Albany, through the
Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia (AISWA). The school’s commitment to Professional Learning is reflected in the budget, with the combined contributions from the School and AISWA being $774.16 on average for each teacher’s Professional Learning in 2011.

Other professional learning activities undertaken during 2011 were:

Interpreting NAPLAN data
Using PIPS data in pre-primary
Inclusive Education
Spelling – Words that work, Dianna Rigg workshops
School leadership
Anzac Day planning
Australian Curriculum – English
Australian Curriculum - Grammar
Australian Curriculum – Mathematics
Australian Curriculum -Science
Australian Curriculum – Early Years learning Framework
Magical Moments Early Years Nature Learning Conference
History Faction (Fiction/Fact) project workshop
Paul Swann Mathematics workshops
Relationship-based classroom
Social and Emotional well-being
Micro circles – conflict resolution
School governance for Board Members.

Parent Involvement and satisfaction:

Parents are regarded as active partners at Parklands School and we seek and value parental input and support in the school. We have an active and committed group of parents involved in the Parents and Friends Association who work energetically to assist the school to continually improve resources for our students. Some of the events the P and F have organized in 2011 are a Fun Run, School fete; a whole school disco and a family BBQ; as well as numerous social events to welcome new parents to the community and meet the Board members for 2011.
Overall, parents show their satisfaction and confidence in the school by continuing to enroll their children here. Feedback from parents who left the school indicate that many do so because they are relocating, entering a middle school campus or the practicality of having other siblings at other schools.
We are one of the few schools in the region to offer a three year old programme, and the only one offering a Montessori kindergarten programme which is highly regarded and whose places are keenly sought after.

Value Added.
Parklands School adds value to its educational task not only through the provision of sound academic programmes, and also through a focus on social and emotional development programmes designed to support the growth of citizenship and resilience amongst the students. These include a whole school approach to conflict resolution, based on Nonviolent Communication; ability to thrive in multi age classrooms; nature based learning; and connection to local Indigenous culture and history.

This year we have focussed on sport and physical education, with each class having a weekly sports skills session, plus a twice weekly Active After School Sports Programme with a range of coaching skills throughout the year. Our P and F organise 3 Soccer teams in the local Saturday morning competition. The school also contracted a coach twice a week for lunchtime sports skills sessions throughout most of the year.
Our senior class travels off campus at least weekly throughout the year to engage in local sports training, including Surfing, Badminton and Tennis.

Exciting and whole school excursions and incursions are a feature of our school with at least one each term. These involve the whole school and in 2011 included a Musica Viva concert and school performance shows. Whole school excursions include annual swimming lessons to the local aquatic centre. Class based excursions include bushwalking trips, regular sporting activities and participation in interschool events like the Interschool Cross-country.
Involvement in community events ranged from our stall at the Albany Agricultural Show; International Children’s Day, and doll making for an African Orphanage.

Overall we are satisfied that Parklands provides a balanced and enjoyable learning programme for its students.