2012 was a very positive year at St Albert’s with numbers peaking at 106 in term 4. This is a great effort and something we have not seen here for many years. Obviously our aim is to maintain these numbers but it is going to be difficult with a 19 in year 7 this year.

**Staffing**

At the end of 2012 we farewelled 5 staff members who moved on for various reasons.

- Joanne Hondow: maternity Leave
- Lisa Hardbottle: TRT work
- Shaun Kelly: Returned back to OLR
- Mary Geddie: Returned back to OLR

At our graduation we wished all these people the best and thanked them for their time and effort at St Albert’s.

**Behaviour Management Implementation**

Last year we implemented a rigorous behavior management plan where children are made accountable for their behavior. At St Albert’s every child is responsible for their own actions and therefore will have consequences for their actions if it is not in accordance with our school values.

Children who choose to not adhere to our school values will miss out on electives and other activities as deemed fit by the teacher and Principal.

We are rewarding these children who always do the right thing as they deserve to be acknowledged more for their choices.

This new system is having a profound affect and the children are learning what is acceptable behaviour and what is not acceptable at St Albert’s.

**Principal Awards**

In line with this I introduced Principal awards last year to acknowledge those children who go above and beyond what is expected of them at St Albert’s.

**Environmental Garden**

This has been a wonderful addition to our school and the children absolutely loved helping out in the garden and with the chooks.

We have a roster every two weeks with the children and they are responsible as a class to feed the chooks, collect their eggs and general tidy up of the cage.
The children are also responsible for the veggie patch and the maintenance of the weeds, soil etc.

It is fantastic that the children take responsibility for our environment and this is a something in which we pride ourselves on at St Albert’s.

**My 5 Year Review**

Believe or not I have been here 5 years this April. Last year I had my 5 year review and I am pleased to say that I will be here at least another 5 years all going well.

I have really enjoyed my time in Loxton and love being involved in the community. It is a great place to live and work and I feel privileged to be Principal of such a great school in this community.

**National ICT Grant**

Last Year we were fortunate to receive a grant for $35,000 to assist us in ICT and Contemporary Learning. The following is a document we formed to get to the stage we are now.

**APRIM** (Raelene to discuss)

**2013 HAPPENINGS**

One thing I really try to live by is doing some things and do them well. Too often schools can take on more than they can chew and everything else goes astray. My motto is do one thing and do it well.

So, the Junior Primary are focusing on Jolly Phonics and the Senior Primary Contemporary Learning. (The middle Primary is in between)

**Jolly Phonics**

Jolly Phonics is a fun and child centered approach to teaching literacy through synthetic phonics. With actions for each of the 42 letter sounds, the multi-sensory method is very motivating for children and teachers, who can see their students achieve. The letter sounds are split into seven groups as shown below.

**Letter Sound Order**

The sounds are taught in a specific order (not alphabetically). This enables children to begin building words as early as possible.

How does Jolly Phonics work?
Using a synthetic phonics approach, Jolly Phonics teaches children the five key skills for reading and writing. Complemented by Jolly Readers and Jolly Grammar, it provides a thorough foundation for teaching literacy over three years in school.

The five skills taught in Jolly Phonics

1. Learning the letter sounds

Children are taught the 42 main letter sounds. This includes alphabet sounds as well as digraphs such as sh, th, ai and ue.

2. Learning letter formation

Using different multi-sensory methods, children learn how to form and write the letters.

3. Blending

Children are taught how to blend the sounds together to read and write new words.

4. Identifying the sounds in words (Segmenting)

Listening for the sounds in words gives children the best start for improving spelling.

5. Tricky words

Tricky words have irregular spellings and children learn these separately.

Contemporary Learning

The Year 5-7 unit is set up as a Contemporary Learning Unit. We do this for 4 subjects where the teachers split the children into groups. Brad will talk about this further.

Some of the staff have also just completed a Peer Coaching Course.

All the Catholic Riverland schools and Loxton High School have nominated three teachers to participate in a three day intensive course Peer Coaching course accredited Australia wide. We are fortunate enough to have received a grant for the course for $15,000.

The Peer Coaching Program is designed to help schools implement a professional development model that can enhance standards-based instruction by assisting teachers to offer students engaging, technology rich, learning activities. The Peer Coaching Program is designed to train teacher leaders to serve as peer coaches for colleagues. As coaches, these teachers will assist their peers in identifying ways to enhance standards-based instruction and to offer their students engaging, technology-rich, learning activities. In doing so, peer coaches will help their colleagues to develop the necessary technology skills and instructional strategies needed to integrate technology into teaching and learning.

Coaches assist teachers to develop the skills and strategies needed for classroom use of technology by:
• Planning technology-rich activities or projects with individual teachers.

• Identifying resources or strategies necessary for successful learning activities.

• Modeling or team-teaching lessons that integrate technology and engaging learning strategies.

• Reflecting or debriefing on learning activities.

*Jenny/ Karen to add to this.*

**OHSW**

Erica Kalman was OHSW coordinator last year and we were compliant in all areas.

We are compliant in all areas.

Completed stress management, voice care, manual handling.

We have our First Aid course in March.

Compliance Report for 2012(attached)

*Thanking you*

*Jason Mittiga*

*Principal*

*St Albert’s Catholic School*