



Harrison Wheatcroft, 12, Betty Lewis, Isabella McQuile, 10, and Jayden Schiller, 11, at Hannans Primary School's fundraiser. Picture: Louise White

Students band together to support much-loved chaplain

■ **Tegan Guthrie**

Pink and purple shirts, skirts and tutus were all the rage at Hannans Primary School last week, as students showed their support for the school's long-serving chaplain.

Staff and students donned Betty Lewis' favourite colours and gave a gold coin donation on Thursday, raising more than \$600.

The fundraiser was organised by head boy Harrison Wheatcroft, 12, who decided to do his part to support Mrs Lewis after discovering

last year that her position was only secured until the end of this year.

During his head boy speech last year, Harrison suggested holding a "Save Mrs Lewis" fundraiser for the students to show their support.

While the funding has since been extended until the end of 2016, Harrison stuck to his word and organised the fundraiser, which was instead titled "Support Mrs Lewis".

"It is really good to see that my idea actually happened and everybody jumped on board," he said.

"I just decided to do something because she is our chaplain and she has been here so long and all the kids love her."

Mrs Lewis has been the school's chaplain since 2008 and says she hopes to stick around long into the future.

"It blows me away to think that schools today, and particularly Hannans Primary School, value chaplaincy so much," she said.

"The contract is up at the end of next year and I am hoping to be here beyond that, but I don't know

at this point. I think the best thing about this fundraiser is that Harrison had a vision and it has come to pass.

"I guess that is what I wish for other students that when they do have a vision, if they hang on to it and push through, it does come to pass."

The one-day gold coin donation event raised more than \$600, which will help the school continue to pay for Mrs Lewis to work a third day every week, which is not covered by Government funding.