



Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn  
CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE

# ST MARY'S WAR MEMORIAL SCHOOL

West Wyalong, NSW

2011 ANNUAL REPORT



## SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: England Street  
West Wyalong 2671

Principal: Mrs Robyn Akehurst

Parish Priest / School Chaplain: Fr Mick MacAndrew

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This report was prepared by:

Mrs Robyn Akehurst

PRINCIPAL

## MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

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### Principal's Message

St. Mary's War Memorial School community consists of committed, caring and loyal parents and staff whose actions ensure that the students are happy, safe and well cared for in a Catholic educational environment that lives out its core business of nurturing growth. We offer our students spiritual leadership and work closely with our parish to ensure the school is operating as an effective Catholic School. Teaching and learning focuses on educating hearts and minds with the embedding of the Quality Teaching Framework. This will ensure our students engage in higher level thinking which includes extensive use of technology and relevant experiences that will equip them for their future world.

### School Board Message

St Mary's has had another successful year. The Building the Education Revolution (BER) project has provided us with a school hall that has been used for a variety of functions. The new air conditioning units have made class room activities extremely comfortable for all. We appreciate the high level of support, dedication, enthusiasm and co operation provided by Father Mick, the Parish, Parents & Friends Association and School Board. Students and staff take pride in all aspects of school life. This is apparent in the values upheld and the friendly and happy attitude displayed throughout the school.

## SCHOOL FEATURES

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St Mary's War Memorial School is a Catholic Primary School located in West Wyalong. The school caters for students in Kindergarten - Year 6, and has a current enrolment of 89 students.

Students attending this school come from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities consisting of 51% male and 49% female students; 2% indigenous students; and 2% Language Background other than English (LBOTE).

The school employs 16 staff comprising 6 fulltime teachers and 4 part time teachers and 6 non-teaching staff, the latter being employed in a variety of capacities including office staff, teacher assistants, aboriginal teacher assistants, cleaner, grounds person and canteen manger.

St Mary's was founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1897 and became a War Memorial School after refurbishments which were completed in 1959. The School Board and P & F Association have an important role in the life of the school. Through effective communication they are able to influence school policy and the direction the school takes in many important matters. The financial contributions gained from fund raising activities of the P & F are very much appreciated. The P & F also support the community via social events. Students at our school have participated in many interesting and challenging events. Some of the highlights have been: Years 3 and 4 excursion to Parkes telescope, CSIRO workshops, live theatre performances at Wagga and Temora, leadership day for Year 5, and Years 5 and 6 visit to Cowal Gold Mine. Students have the opportunity to belong to the School Choir and Chess Club. A highlight of our year is the annual School Concert. School sporting carnivals for swimming, cross country and athletics saw students progress to represent the school at Western Region level and the Diocese at MacKillop levels. Teams of students entered the

Catholic Primary Schools Basketball Championships, Trent Barrett Shield and Mortimer Shield competition. Fun and friendship was the theme for AFL, Netball, Rugby League and Tag Gala Days with local schools. Students have achieved success at credit and distinction levels in the University of NSW Competitions. The Student Representative Council has been responsible for raising money for World Vision and our sponsor child. Our annual book fair was an exciting time with students and staff celebrating their love of books and reading. Many students also participated in the Premier's Reading Challenge. Students participated in the Western Region Public Speaking competition. All students prepared art works for display as part of the 'Bald Archy' Travelling Exhibition and the local West Wyalong Show. As in other years the students were very proud to be invited to participate in the local Anzac Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies. The school enjoyed a visit from local members of our indigenous community in NAIDOC Week.

The school's website can be found at <https://www.smwms.nsw.edu.au>

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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St Mary's War Memorial School follows the Archdiocesan Religious Education Curriculum, *Treasures New and Old*.

The School community regularly participates in a variety of Masses and Liturgical celebrations throughout the year. We begin our assemblies and gatherings with prayer. Preparation for each Sacrament (Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation) occurs in the classroom and through meetings conducted at Parish level. Staff have the opportunity to participate in reflection and spirituality days. The school is supportive of the development of the Archdiocesan initiative of the Western Mission of which the Parish is an important part. Our Parish Priest is very active within the school in an educational role but also as a pastoral leader showing care and concern for the poor.

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT - NAPLAN

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Students in Years 3 and 5 sat the *National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy* (NAPLAN) in May this year. NAPLAN assessment results provide valuable information about student achievements in Literacy and Numeracy. An analysis of these results assists school planning and is used to support teaching and learning programs.

### School and National Mean Scale Scores

<b>YEAR 3</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>	<b>Spelling</b>	<b>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</b>	<b>Numeracy</b>
<b>National</b>	416	416	406	422	394
<b>School</b>	460	461	414	460	458

<b>YEAR 5</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>	<b>Spelling</b>	<b>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</b>	<b>Numeracy</b>
<b>National</b>	488	483	484	500	488
<b>School</b>	500	479	466	484	477

### Proportion of students at or above the National Minimum Standard

<b>YEAR 3</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>	<b>Spelling</b>	<b>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</b>	<b>Numeracy</b>
<b>National</b>	94%	95%	93%	93%	96%
<b>School</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

<b>YEAR 5</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>	<b>Spelling</b>	<b>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</b>	<b>Numeracy</b>
<b>National</b>	92%	92%	91%	92%	94%
<b>School</b>	100%	86%	93%	93%	100%

### Proportion of students in each Achievement Band

<b>YEAR 3</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>	<b>Spelling</b>	<b>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</b>	<b>Numeracy</b>
<b>Band 6</b>	36%	18%	9%	36%	36%
<b>Band 5</b>	45%	73%	27%	27%	27%
<b>Band 4</b>	9%	9%	64%	36%	27%
<b>Band 3</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%
<b>Band 2</b>	9%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Band 1</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

<b>YEAR 5</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>	<b>Spelling</b>	<b>Grammar &amp; Punctuation</b>	<b>Numeracy</b>
<b>Band 8</b>	7%	7%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Band 7</b>	29%	14%	14%	36%	21%
<b>Band 6</b>	21%	36%	29%	14%	14%
<b>Band 5</b>	36%	21%	36%	29%	64%
<b>Band 4</b>	7%	7%	14%	14%	0%
<b>Band 3</b>	0%	14%	7%	7%	0%

The above tables show that in Year 3 students are above the national average in all areas with the majority of students in the top two bands in reading and writing and the top three bands in all other areas. A number of initiatives have impacted on these results including the implementation of a range of teaching strategies to improve student understanding of Literacy and Numeracy in the early years of schooling.

## SCHOOL POLICIES

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### **Enrolment Policy**

In enrolling students we are directed by the Archdiocesan Enrolment Policy which can be found on the Annual Report page of the school's website or on the Catholic Education Office website at <http://www.ceocg.catholic.edu.au/parents/Pages/GeneralPolicies.aspx>

While we accept application for enrolment all year, for planning purposes we prefer to have notification of impending enrolments for the following year by the end of Term 2.

### **Behaviour**

The heart of pastoral care at St Mary's School encompasses concern for the spiritual, intellectual, social, physical, emotional, aesthetic, moral and cultural well being of each person.

Making time for others and affirming each individual develops a sense of personal worth and can make us all feel that we have gifts to offer the School Community. St Mary's pastoral care of students means we try to: make each child feel important, special and cared about; reinforce student achievements; take an interest in every child affirming their strengths and their family; know where each student is at developmentally so as to cater for their needs in a positive manner; help students feel at ease in new situations; show respect and understanding; be available and be a good listener.

Corporal punishment is expressly prohibited in this school. In addition we do not sanction the administering of corporal punishment by non-school persons to enforce discipline at our school.

The full text of the school's Pastoral and Welfare Policy is available on the school website or from the Front Office.

### **Complaints and Grievances Resolution Policy**

The school policy is based on procedural fairness and recognises that parents and caregivers must have access to processes that allow them to resolve concerns in a supportive and conciliatory environment. Any concerns raised are responded to promptly and fairly and confidentiality is always maintained. A full text of the school policy is available on the school website or from the Front Office.

## PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

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The priorities outlined in our 2011 Management Plan have been met. We have successfully continued to improve teaching and learning in numeracy by further embedding quality teaching strategies. We have reviewed teaching and learning of literacy with emphasis on explicit teaching of reading groups. We have begun to implement a revised Science program and all students are becoming more connected with the outside world via technology and Connected Learning Community (cLc). The Country Areas Program also assisted the school to meet our priorities by providing opportunities for students to overcome the problems of isolation with assistance with student travel, technology and professional development for staff.

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

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### Professional Learning

All teachers have been involved in professional development activities during the year. These activities are designed to develop the skills and understandings of staff to improve student outcomes. Professional development can take many forms including whole staff days, subject specific inservices, meetings and conferences.

The school held four whole staff days in 2011. The content of these days was as follows: Spirituality, ICT, Literacy and Numeracy

### Teacher Qualifications

All teachers are qualified as required by the relevant State and Territory bodies.

## TEACHER ATTENDANCE AND RETENTION

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The average teacher attendance rate during 2011 was 97%.

The teacher retention rate from 2010 to 2011 was 71%.

## STUDENT ATTENDANCE

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The average student attendance for the school during 2011 was %.

School attendance rates disaggregated by Year group are shown in the following table.

**Attendance rates by Year group**

Kindergarten	90%
Year 1	90%
Year 2	92%
Year 3	96%
Year 4	97%
Year 5	87%
Year 6	95%

## PARENT, TEACHER AND STUDENT SATISFACTION

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St Mary's War Memorial School used a confidential survey to seek the opinions of parents, students and staff on a range of aspects of school life. Parents have expressed the opinion that the school has high standards of student behaviour and that the school is meeting the social needs of the students. They have also reported that the staff of the school are approachable and listen to their concerns. Students have expressed the opinion that their school provides a caring environment, that expectations and rules are clearly explained and that they receive help with their work when they are having difficulties. Students also feel that a lot of energy and preparation is put in by their teachers into teaching the class. Staff are of the opinion that colleagues display trust in the administration of the school; that our school encourages student responsibility and that they work in

a supportive environment that allows them to be committed and that encourages a climate conducive to learning.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

