



Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn
CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE

ST MARY'S WAR MEMORIAL SCHOOL

West Wyalong, NSW

2010 ANNUAL REPORT



Welcome to our School

Welcome to St Mary's War Memorial School, West Wyalong!

We are a community of committed, caring and loyal parents and staff whose actions ensure that the students are happy, safe and well cared for in an education environment that lives out its core business of educating hearts and minds.

As a Catholic school we offer our students spiritual leadership and work closely with our parish to ensure the school is operating as an effective Catholic School. Our Parish Priest, Fr Troy Bobbin, plays an important role in the lives of the children when they receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. We celebrate Mass and liturgy to commemorate important events in our lives and in the life of our church. We joined with the parish in Operation Christmas Child to give a special Christmas Box to children in third world countries.

This year we have introduced a meditation program and the response of the students to this program has encouraged us to plan for further development in this area in 2011.

In our classrooms teaching and learning focuses on engaging students in the Quality Teaching Framework. Our students are skilled and comfortable in using a wide range of technology including hardware and software to produce quality print, audio and visual media. Each day the students and staff greet each other at assembly with "Good Morning, May God Bless You". To bless someone is to wish them the very best in health and wellbeing and hope that they are happy. We celebrate being a Catholic school.

Highlights of the Year

St Mary's War Memorial School has continued to provide its students with a rich and challenging learning environment. We are very proud of 2010 Naplan results which show that the school average is above state and national averages in all areas. Excursions to Lake Cowal Conservation Centre, Altina Wildlife Park, Mrs Beckett's Farm and a visit from the Taronga Mobile Zoo have encouraged the students to investigate our natural environment further. Years 5 and 6 visited Canberra to explore the facilities of the National Capital and further enhance their learning of government.

Live theatre and concert performances at neighbouring schools and band workshops from Marist College, Sydney and Mitchell Conservatorium, as well as our end of year performance were enjoyed by all.

Students participated in an 'in house' talent show and represented the school at Eisteddfod level.

School sporting carnivals for swimming, cross-country and athletics saw students progress to represent the school at Western Region and the Diocese. Students from our school were also selected in Archdiocesan team sports, the Catholic Primary Schools Basketball Championships, the Paul Kelly Cup and Trent Barrett Shield and all students participated in a Gym program. Fun and friendship was the theme for AFL and Netball Gala Days with local schools. Sport skills were enhanced with clinics for Cricket; Backyard Rugby; Little Athletics and Aussie Rules.

Students have achieved success at credit and distinction levels in the University of NSW Competitions and students participated in the Western Region Public Speaking competition. 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 and MS Readathon and enjoyed a visit from author David Miller.

We celebrated aspects of our past with Sorry Day celebrations held at a local aboriginal site, Manna Mountain and the Sisters of Mercy "Walking Nuns" Exhibition. All students joined local schools to prepare art works for display as part of the Bald Archy Travelling Exhibition. As in other years the students were very proud to be invited to participate in the local Anzac Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies.

School Overview

Parent Satisfaction - Parent Satisfaction - At St Mary's War Memorial School the results of a parent survey indicate that the parent community strongly agree that the school meets the social needs of their children; that the staff of the school are approachable; the school has a safe environment; parents are given the opportunity to be involved in the school's activities and the school has high standards of student behaviour.

Teacher Satisfaction - Teachers at St Mary's War Memorial School have provided feedback that indicates that colleagues are supportive of each other and the staff display trust in administration. They feel that their role is important; and they say that teachers are committed to the school. Teachers also believe that they have opportunities for professional development and our school encourages a climate conducive to learning. Teachers also say that colleagues set good examples to students; encourage student responsibility and that student management is consistent.

Teacher Absence - The average number of days teachers at St Mary's War Memorial School were in attendance during 2010 was 198.18. There were 204 days in the school year.

Teacher Retention - Of the 19 teaching staff at St Mary's War Memorial School in August 2008, 63% were still employed in August 2010.

Teacher Qualifications - All of the St Mary's War Memorial teachers are qualified as required by relevant state bodies.

Teacher Participation in Professional Development - During the 2010 school year teaching staff at St Mary's War Memorial School have participated in the following professional development activities: personal spiritual formation; and best practise teaching and learning in literacy and numeracy.

Workforce Composition - The staff is made up of both male and female staff and the range of teaching experience varies from over 30 years to beginning teachers in their first and second years of teaching.

Principal's Report

St Mary's, as a genuine Catholic school, works to achieve our goal of educating hearts and minds because we believe that this is how we show God's love to each other with staff, parents and the wider community working together in the interests of the students. The School Board has worked hard this year to ensure that the facilities and resources that the school provides allow best quality learning to take place. The decision to replace the air conditioning and heating system in all learning areas within the school assures that our students will be able to work productively in all weather conditions. The Parents and Friends (P&F) have ensured that the students have play areas that are safe, are pleasing to look at and that create a friendly atmosphere. The P & F have also provided sporting and teaching resources. We thank the Board and P & F for their contributions and assure you they are very much appreciated.

Staff at St Mary's are all committed to ensuring that each and every child in their class achieves to their full potential; educationally, socially and spirituality. This year the implementation of the new maths program and revised spelling program, as well as additional sporting and cultural opportunities, has certainly provided a challenging learning environment for all students which is necessary for continued growth. We are very grateful that the Federal Government's, 'Building the Education Revolution' (BER) Project has enabled us to restore our school hall for use as a cultural and entertainment space and will be ready for use at the beginning of 2011. We have also received funding via the BER for upgrading our toilet facilities and other refurbishments.

I congratulate all students on a very successful year and I thank our staff, parents and wider community for making 2010 such a rewarding year.

Mrs Robyn Akehurst
Principal

School Community Report

I would like to thank the members of the St Mary's School Board for the enthusiasm, co-operation and optimism they have shown throughout this year. Without your support our many achievements would not have been possible. Combined with the tremendous effort of our Principal, Robyn, and all the staff, St Mary's has forged ahead to formulate and implement policies that will directly benefit students now and in the future.

This year I have been very impressed by the way the students have been singing the National Anthem which demonstrates pride in our country.

An integral part of the school is the P & F who have done a fantastic job this year raising funds and working hard on the garden makeover as well as purchase of outdoor and indoor games, which is just one of a number of positive outcomes they have provided for our children. Without this group of parents and other helpers within the school, all of these extra improvements would not be possible. I would like to mention that the school has improved the building with new air-conditioning units, new solar panels and a refurbished hall. There have been so many changes to the school you can hardly believe it is the same place.

Lastly, I would like to thank the students. It has been a big and busy year for you and you all make us proud to belong to St Mary's. It is a pleasure to be involved with a school where students take pride in all aspects and this shows in the happy and friendly attitude of the school.

Plant the Seed, Nurture the Growth, Celebrate the Harvest!

Roger Bolte
St Mary's School Board Chairman

Student Achievement

The following tables show the school's results in the national testing of literacy and numeracy (NAPLAN) in 2010.

School and National Mean Scale Scores

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	414.3	418.6	399.2	416.9	395.3
School	441.8	432.9	415.9	444.3	414.4

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	487.3	485.2	487.1	499.7	488.7
School	503.8	501.9	513.7	528.2	518.2

The above tables show that St Mary's average is above the National Mean Scale in all areas of literacy and numeracy.

Proportion of students at or above the National Minimum Standard

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	93.9%	95.6%	91.0%	92.0%	94.2%
School	93%	100%	93%	93%	93%

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	91.3%	93.1%	91.9%	92.2%	93.6%
School	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

The above tables show that all students in Year 5 at St Mary's have achieved results above the National Minimum Standard and the vast majority of students in Year 3 have achieved results at or above the National Minimum Standard.

Proportion of students in each Achievement Band

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 6	33%	13%	20%	27%	20%
Band 5	20%	53%	20%	33%	27%
Band 4	27%	27%	33%	27%	27%
Band 3	7%	7%	20%	7%	13%
Band 2	7%	0%	0%	0%	7%
Band 1	7%	0%	7%	7%	7%

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 8	20%	10%	10%	20%	10%
Band 7	10%	0%	10%	30%	40%
Band 6	30%	80%	40%	20%	20%
Band 5	30%	10%	40%	20%	10%
Band 4	10%	0%	0%	10%	20%
Band 3	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

The above tables show that in Year 3 the majority of students have achieved results in literacy and numeracy in Bands 4 to 6. In Year 5 the majority of students have achieved results in literacy and numeracy in Bands 6 to 8. These results have informed our 2011 Literacy and Numeracy plans.

Student Wellbeing and Engagement

At St Mary's War Memorial School we aim to provide an educational environment where students are safe and happy. In 2010 our Peer Support Program has focussed on anti-bullying with particular reference to the role of bystanders and their role in preventing and stopping this type of behaviour. Kindergarten and Year 6

Buddy program helps the younger students to get to feel safe and comfortable at school and this is further enhanced by our Pastoral Care and Discipline Policy. An important feature in implementing this policy is that all matters, however small, need to be given attention so as to solve problems quickly.

Our students are very motivated by our award system. Each week a student in each class is awarded a 'Student of the Week' certificate for academic achievement while another student receives a 'Peer Support' award in recognition of social skill development. The 'Going for Gold' award allows all students to receive recognition from all staff for all actions and attitudes they display that are in accordance with the values of our school. Our annual presentation evening also recognises students who have achieved high academic success or have displayed personal qualities that make them stand out from the crowd.

The Student Representative Council has been responsible for leading the students in caring for others with fundraising to assist victims of the Haiti earthquake and our World Vision sponsor child. The students have also had further opportunities to explore talents and new hobbies with the chess club that was very successful in regional competitions; to volunteer to belong to the choir and perform at community events and join an environmental group to work in the school vegetable garden.

Student Satisfaction - The results of a survey of students at St Mary's War Memorial School indicated that students feel their teachers expect them to try their hardest, have firm and fair control of their classrooms, makes their work interesting and challenging and care about them as individuals.

Student Attendance - Student attendance at St Mary's War Memorial School is as follows:
Kinder: 85%; Year 1/2: 92%; Year 3: 90%;
Year 4: 95%; Year 5: 89%; Year 6: 96% .

School Based Policies

Management of Non-attendance - All non attendance is followed up and requires an explanation in writing from parents or carers. A copy of this policy, is available from the school office.

Enrolment - In enrolling students we are directed by the Archdiocesan Enrolment Policy which can be found on the Catholic Education Office's website at <http://www.ceocg.catholic.edu.au/policies>.

Behaviour - This policy is based upon our Pastoral Care emphasis, which is inherent to our teaching of Religion and is in place in every Key Learning Area and aspect of the school.

Discipline is administered with the dignity of all members of our community in mind.

Encouragement and reward is used as the means for the promotion of self-discipline and a sense of personal worth. Students are expected to remember that they each have rights as well as corresponding responsibilities. A copy of this policy is available on the school website at

<http://www.smwms.nsw.edu.au/report/index.htm>

Complaints and Grievances -This policy describes the process for effectively managing complaints whilst protecting the right of all parties involved and seeking solution to the problem in the best interests of all affected. A copy of this policy is available via the school website:<http://www.smwms.nsw.edu.au/report/index.htm>

Priorities and Targets

In 2010 we began the year by revisiting our vision statement, 'Plant the Seed, Nurture the Growth and Celebrate the Harvest' and the pedagogical principles associated with this to ensure common understanding of teaching and learning across the school. We believe that our vision comes alive by further imbedding the quality teaching framework across all key learning areas.

To strengthen Mathematics teaching and learning staff have participated in professional development led by experts in this area which included workshops, as well as, ongoing support for teachers and students in classrooms and at staff meetings. We also evaluated and updated the maths resources available for effective learning. Assessment at school level and NAPLAN results have shown that the students have improved their knowledge and skill in implementing a variety of strategies when problem solving. So that this way of working becomes second nature to the students we will continue to focus on this area in 2011.

To further improve literacy results we have revised the teaching and learning of spelling, via First Steps Writing program, and again our NAPLAN results have indicated that this is successful. The work in class in mathematics and spelling has also involved a structured home study program which allowed parents to be involved in, and kept up to date with, their children's learning. Professional development in First Steps Writing will continue in 2011 and the strategies learnt by the teachers will continue to be implemented in the classrooms. We have also continued professional development in the implementation of interactive whiteboards in all areas of teaching and learning. In 2011 we will also focus on further implementing QTF in science. Staff and parents have also supported and provided opportunities for the students to achieve success, and explore potential, in the both the arts and sport via excursions, workshops, interest groups, clinics, performances and forming positive links with the wider community. This will also continue in 2011 with support from the Country Areas Program. In 2011 we will also review all school policies and documentation in preparation for registration in 2012.

Literacy and Numeracy

In 2010 we have:

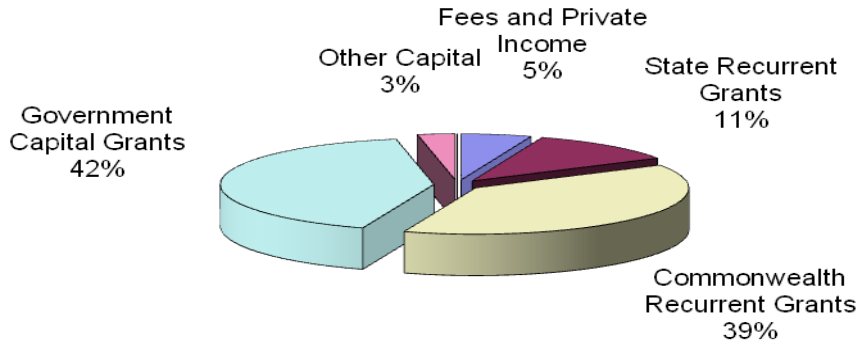
- reviewed teaching and learning in mathematics and writing
- provided extensive professional development in the teaching and learning of mathematics and writing
- further implemented the quality teaching framework in teaching and learning of mathematics and writing.

In 2011 we will:

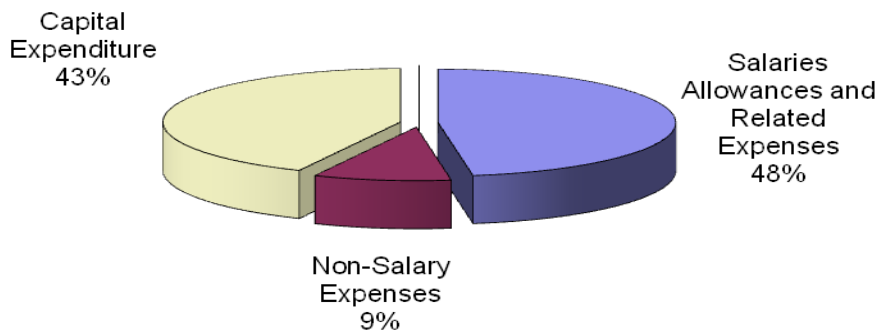
- continue to imbed quality teaching framework in all teaching and learning of mathematics and writing.

Financial Information

St. Mary's West Wyalong - Income



St. Mary's West Wyalong - Expenditure



School Contact Information

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