



Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn
CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE

ST MARY'S WAR MEMORIAL SCHOOL

West Wyalong, NSW

2013 Annual Report



SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

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This report was prepared by:

Mrs Robyn Akehurst

PRINCIPAL

MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Principal's Message

St. Mary's War Memorial School community is made up of committed, caring and loyal parents and staff. Our 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 using best practice pedagogy that ensures our students are engaged in learning that will equip them for their future world. The extensive use of technology further enhances student learning.

School Board Message

Assisting with the budget and monitoring the financial performance of the school is one of the primary functions of the Board. It is clear that St Mary's has a strong culture of careful cost control and sound administration despite ever increasing costs. In 2013 the Board developed a policy to assist parents and staff to communicate more effectively. This will be fully implemented in 2014. The Board has also continued to review the governance and procedures that are relevant to Board operations. The School Board values the relationship the school has with the parish and wider community and acknowledges the quality work of the Parents and Friends Association, the students and the staff.

Student Representative's Message

The Student Representative Council takes responsibility for voicing concerns of the student population as well as raising funds for our World Vision sponsor child with special events that allow participation by all students. This year all senior students have had designated leadership roles which carry special areas of responsibility. The groups have assisted with liturgy, ICT, school sport resources, fundraising and raising awareness with the student population of other people who need our prayers and support.

SCHOOL FEATURES

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 97 students.

Students attending this school come from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities consisting of 59% male and 41% female students and 3% indigenous students.

The school employs 16 staff comprising 10 teachers and 6 non-teaching staff, the latter being employed in a variety of capacities including school support, learning support, canteen manager cleaning and maintenance.

St Mary's was founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1897 and became a War Memorial School after the present building was constructed and opened 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 activities. Some of the highlights have been: Years 4/5/6 participation in environmental projects which included our school hosting Kids Teaching Kids expo with students from district schools all coming together to share ideas, knowledge and skills in 'hands on' workshops. All students attended Life Education sessions and met Happy Healthy Harold. Year 6 participated in Opera Workshops.

The Parents and Friends Association have provided fun and entertainment for the students with a movie night and disco. The Lake Cowal Conservation Centre provided magnet and science workshops

Students have the opportunity to belong to the School Choir. A highlight of our year is the annual whole 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 and NSW State 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 and cricket gala days with other local schools. Students have achieved success at credit and distinction levels in the University of NSW Competitions. 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. A well known Australian author visited our school and conducted workshops with students celebrating a love of reading. Students participated in the Western Region Public Speaking competition. All students prepared art works for display at 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. To end the year all students have the opportunity to participate in a swimming program conducted by qualified swimming teachers.

The school's website can be found at www.smwms.nsw.edu.au

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

The School community regularly participates in class, whole school and parish 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 parish and school support each other with fund raising activities. This year we participated in a very successful Christmas Box campaign. Our Parish Priest is very active within the school in an educational role but also as a pastoral leader showing care and concern for all and guiding us in faith development.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT - NAPLAN

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

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	419	416	411	428	397
School	399	448	397	428	407

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	502	478	494	501	486
School	537	493	481	505	516

Proportion of students at or above the National Minimum Standard

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	95%	95%	94%	95%	96%
School	92%	100%	92%	100%	100%

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	96%	92%	93%	95%	93%
School	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Proportion of students in each Achievement Band

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 6	25%	8%	8%	8%	8%
Band 5	17%	75%	17%	33%	25%
Band 4	17%	8%	33%	42%	42%
Band 3	17%	8%	33%	17%	25%
Band 2	17%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Band 1	8%	0%	8%	0%	0%

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 8	31%	0%	0%	7%	15%
Band 7	30%	29%	14%	4%	23%
Band 6	15%	29%	43%	43%	23%
Band 5	15	36%	36%	29%	31%
Band 4	8%	7%	7%	7%	8%
Band 3	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

The above tables show for Year 3 the school average is equal to, or above, the national average in Grammar & Punctuation, Writing and Maths. For Year 5 the school average is equal to, or above, the national average in Reading, Writing, Grammar and Punctuation and Maths.

SCHOOL POLICIES

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>

Enrolment packages are available from the front office. We usually have vacancies in all classes and we enrol throughout the year. Executive members of staff are readily available to answer questions and conduct tours of the school.

Attendance Policy

The staff of St Mary's War Memorial School are responsible for ensuring that all students who are of school age and are enrolled at St Mary's War Memorial School attend on a regular basis.

It is compulsory in NSW, according to NSW Act for all students between the ages of 6 and 17 to attend school. If a student is absent from school for four days and no explanation is received executive staff contact families. Families are encouraged to complete exemption from school forms if a child is absent for preplanned family activities.

We encourage students to attend school by emphasising how important school is for their growth in learning and future happiness; for their friends to remain in contact and that we miss their company when they are not at school.

Pastoral Care Policy

Our purpose is to provide an educational climate that allows students to learn together to achieve their personal best. At the heart of Pastoral Care is the concern for the spiritual, intellectual, social, physical, emotional, aesthetic, moral and cultural well being of each person and that justice for all is achieved. We believe that all are loved by God and as a

school community it is our duty to be liberators, leaders and shepherds. Pastoral Care must endeavour to involve and enrich all of the members of our community and is the responsibility of each member of the community. It is the right of all members of the School community to expect and receive Pastoral Care. 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.

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 St Mary's War Memorial School Pastoral Care 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

School priorities in 2013 focussed on developing a professional teacher network within our school community. This involved teachers identifying key areas of challenge in their teaching, carrying out research and implementing new practices in their teaching. A significant element of this process was working with a mentor teacher. All teachers reported that they experienced growth in their professional life and are looking forward to the program continuing and expanding. This year St Mary's has also implemented ipad technology in teaching and learning. This has been successful and the program will be further expanded in 2014.

Our priorities for 2014 include:

- 1 Implementation of Understanding By Design pedagogy
2. Explore teaching and learning to support students with additional learning needs

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Professional Learning

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

The school held five whole staff days in 2013. The content of these days was as follows:

Term 2: Senior First Aid

Term 3: Teaching and Learning in Religious Education

Term 4: Teaching and Learning of English Conventions; Implementation of the new NSW English Curriculum (2 days)

Teacher Qualifications

All the 11 teachers at St Mary's War Memorial School are qualified as required by the relevant State and Territory bodies.

TEACHER ATTENDANCE AND RETENTION

The average teacher attendance rate during 2013 was 96 %.

The teacher retention rate from 2012 to 2013 was 100 %.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

The average student attendance for the school during 2013 was 94.6 %.

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

Attendance rates by Year group

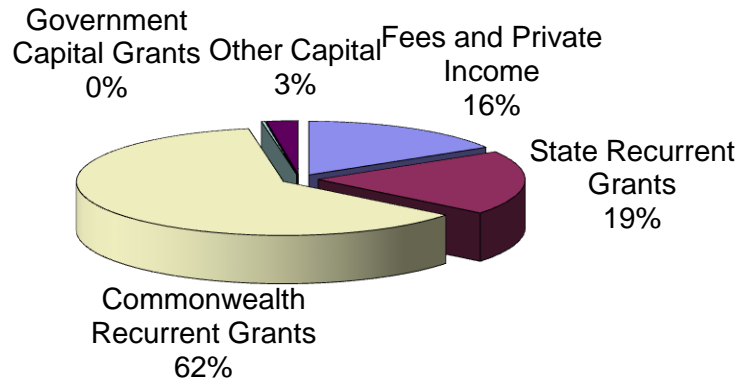
Kindergarten	96%
Year 1	92.5%
Year 2/3	95 %
Year 4/5	92.5 %
Year 6	97%

PARENT, TEACHER AND STUDENT SATISFACTION

St Mary's War Memorial School used a confidential survey to seek the opinions of parents and staff on a range of aspects of school life. Students participated in a workshop around the theme, More Than A Great Education, and produced reflective class posters focussed on this theme. Parents have expressed the opinion that the school has a Catholic atmosphere that their children have access to a variety of resources to help them learn and that as parents they have the opportunity to be involved in the activity of the school. Students have expressed the opinion that their school is a happy place that promotes friendship, sharing, respect and acceptance. Older students appreciate the leadership responsibilities they are entrusted with. Staff appreciate the focus given to creating a Catholic environment that is attuned to their needs and the needs of today's society. They are also supportive of each other and are focussed on maintaining a high priority given to professional development.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

St Mary's West Wyalong - Income



St Mary's West Wyalong - Expenditure

