



Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn
CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE

ST MARY'S WAR MEMORIAL SCHOOL

West Wyalong, NSW

2012 ANNUAL REPORT



SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

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This report was prepared by:

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 with the embedding of the Quality Teaching Framework that ensures 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

Assisting with the budget and monitoring the financial performance of the school is a primary function of the Board. It is clear that St Marys has a strong culture of careful cost control and sound administration. However in the context of ever increasing costs and possible changes in external financial support, we will need to continue to be very vigilant in watching our costs and balancing our budget. The Board has also established two sub committees. The first committee will continue to enhance the governance and procedures of the Board. The second is developing new ideas that will open up even further channels of communication.

Student Representative's Message

The Student Representative Council takes responsibility for voicing concerns of the pupil population as well as raising funds for our World Vision sponsor child with special events that all the students like to contribute to.

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 58% male and 42% female students; 2% indigenous students; and 3% Language Background other than English (LBOTE).

The school employs 16 staff comprising 9 teachers and 7 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 5 and 6 excursion to Canberra, live theatre performances by neighbouring schools in West Wyalong and at Temora, excursions for Kinder, Years 1 and 2 to the Wagga Wagga Botanical Gardens and Years 3 and 4 visit to the Aviation Museum at Temora.

Students have the opportunity to belong to the School Choir and Chess Club. 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 and teachers giving them all imaginative ways to improve their skills in this area. 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 local Indigenios community as part of the Science Curriculum

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	415	414	424	395
School	439	434	446	450	423

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	493	476	494	490	488
School	518	477	498	477	524

Proportion of students at or above the National Minimum Standard

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	94%	95%	94%	93%	94%
School	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	92%	92%	93%	90%	93%
School	100%	100%	100%	93%	100%

Proportion of students in each Achievement Band

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 6	10%	10%	10%	40%	10%
Band 5	40%	50%	60%	20%	30%
Band 4	40%	40%	10%	20%	50%
Band 3	0%	0%	20%	10%	10%
Band 2	10%	0%	0%	10%	0%
Band 1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 8	14%	7%	21%	14%	21%
Band 7	14%	7%	7%	0%	21%
Band 6	57%	14%	29%	21%	21%
Band 5	7%	57%	29%	29%	29%
Band 4	7%	14%	14%	29%	7%
Band 3	0%	0%	0%	7%	0%

The above tables show that Yr 3 have achieved above the national mean in all 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. NAPLAN results will be further analysed to inform and guide the direction for future improvements particularly in the areas of Grammar and Punctuation. The high percentage of students achieving minimum standards is testament to the focus on quality teaching, including ongoing assessment practices, operating in the school over the past two years.

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.ceog.catholic.edu.au/parents/Pages/GeneralPolicies.aspx>

Attendance

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.

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.

Behaviour

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.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

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 five whole staff days in 2012. The content of these days was as follows: Term 2: Internal School Review: Religious Education. Term 3: Australian Curriculum Implementation, West Wyalong Schools Conference. Term 4: Religious Education Accreditation A; ICT; Evaluation of 2012 data and planning for 2013.

Teacher Qualifications

All of the 12 teachers are qualified as required by the relevant State bodies.

TEACHER ATTENDANCE AND RETENTION

The average teacher attendance rate during 2012 was 98%.

The teacher retention rate from 2011 to 2012 was 100 %.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

The average student attendance for the school during 2012 was 93%.

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

Attendance rates by Year group

Kindergarten	93%
Year 1/2	91%
Year 2/3	95%
Year 4/5	95%
Year 5/6	92%

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 Catholic Schools Week theme, Every Child Counts, and produced a reflective photo board focussed on this theme. Parents have expressed the opinion that the school is committed and enthusiastic in its approach to teaching and provides a stimulating environment for the students. Students have expressed the opinion that their school makes Jesus real, is fair to everyone, gives them choices and has great teachers who offer support. Staff say that they work in a supportive environment, they feel committed to the school and as staff they set a good example to students. Students, parents and staff are also appreciative of the resources the school provides, especially in the area of technology.

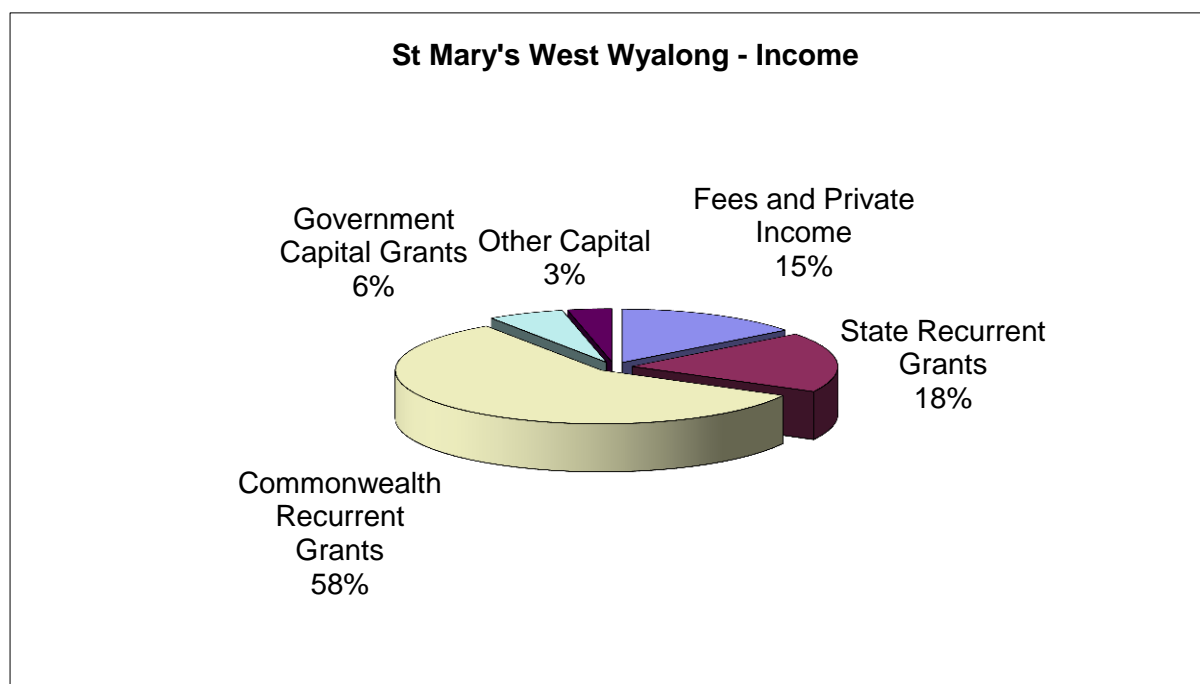
PRIORITIES AND TARGETS

School priorities in 2012 focussed on reviewing and evaluating all curriculum documents and school policies. We are very pleased with the development of the Core Document which is derived from our School Vision and Mission statement: Plant the Seed, Nurture the Growth and Celebrate the Harvest. We have continued to fully implement quality teaching strategies into our mathematics curriculum and have also continued to evaluate and improve the teaching of spelling. Success of this focus has been evident in our 2012 Naplan results for years 3 and 5 in both of these areas.

Our priorities for 2013 include:

- 1 staff professional development focussing on whole school assessment
- 2 implementing improved tracking of student academic growth from year to year

FINANCIAL INFORMATION



St Mary's West Wyalong - Expenditure

