



Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn
CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE

ST MARY'S WAR MEMORIAL SCHOOL

West Wyalong, NSW

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Welcome to our School

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

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 an education environment that lives out its core business of nurturing growth.

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 as well as Mass and liturgy to celebrate important events in our lives and in the life of our church. The secondary students were honoured to have Fr Troy accompany them on their Sydney excursion.

In our classrooms teaching and learning focuses on engaging students by delivering the curriculum in a way that suits the learning style and ability of each student. In Kinder and Year 1 early literacy has been accelerated with the introduction of the Jolly Phonics program. Years 5 and 6 students have enjoyed the Middle School Program which has provided them with opportunities beyond the normal primary classroom.

Our students are certainly technology natives. They are skilled and comfortable in using ipod applications, Apple Mac and Windows operating systems and associated software as well as interactive white board programs for learning. They are able to produce quality print, audio and visual media.

For over 100 years young people of the West Wyalong district have been indebted to St Mary's War Memorial School for providing them with a solid Catholic primary and high school education that has stood them in good stead as they have continued their life journeys. The standard has been set that now challenges us to ensure that as a primary school St Mary's War Memorial School continues the legacy of providing quality Catholic education for the West Wyalong district from 2010 and beyond.

Highlights of the Year

St Mary's War Memorial School has had an exciting and vibrant year which has seen many special activities and opportunities for the students. Some of the highlights have been:

Primary excursions to Parkes Telescope, live theatre performance at Wagga and visit to Cowal Gold Mine. Secondary excursions to explore and learn more about the cultural and historical significance of Sydney, a trip to Griffith to study Italian migration to Australia as well as trips to the Wagga and West Wyalong Water and Land Management Facilities. School sporting carnivals for swimming, cross country and athletics saw students progress to represent the school at Western Region and Diocese at MacKillop levels. Students were also selected in the Archdiocesan AFL team. Teams of students also entered the Catholic Primary Schools Basketball Championships, the Paul Kelly Cup, Mortimer Shield competition and Cootamundra Touch Carnival. Fun and friendship was the theme for AFL, Netball, Rugby League and Tag Gala Days with local schools. Year 10 students were state finalists in the School Based Apprenticeships competition, "Know the Deal." Students have achieved success at credit and distinction levels in the University of NSW Competitions. The Student Representative Council has been responsible for organising Jeans for Genes Day, Jump Rope for Heart, raising money with pancake and cake stalls, an Easter Egg Raffle as well as mufti days 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 and MS Readathon. Harmony Day celebrations allowed us to show our appreciation of the many nationalities that make up the fabric of our country and the wonderful cultural experiences we have every day as a result.. Students from the primary school participated in the Western Region Public Speaking competition. All students enjoyed two concerts by Musica Viva groups and prepared 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 - At St Mary's War Memorial School the results of a parent survey indicate that the parent community agree that the school meets parental learning expectations; that teachers understand their children's needs; that school reporting is informative; the staff at the school listen to parent concerns; the school environment is safe; the school provides sufficient challenges for the students; parents have the opportunity to be involved in the school's activities and there is effective leadership within the school.

Teacher Satisfaction - Teachers at St Mary's War Memorial School have provided feedback that indicates that colleagues are supportive of each other; they feel that their role is important; they say that teachers are committed to the school; that there are clear goals and expectations at the school; staff say that colleagues display trust in administration; that leadership staff are open and understanding and plan and execute change well and colleagues set good examples to students.

Teacher Absence - The average number of days teachers at St Mary's War Memorial School were in attendance during 2009 was 197.13. There were 204 days in the school year.

Teacher Retention - Of the 22 teaching staff at St Mary's War Memorial School in August 2008, 77% were still employed in August 2009.

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 2009 school year teaching staff at St Mary's War Memorial School have participated in the following professional development activities: personal spiritual formation; best practise teaching and learning in literacy and numeracy; imbedding technology into all curriculum areas; imbedding the Quality Teaching Framework into all curriculum areas and exploring teaching and learning from an environmental point of view.

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

Principal's Report

We are proud of our school that works to ensure that we are able to nurture growth, achieve quality and celebrate excellence so that whatever the students do, they do well. At St Mary's War Memorial School we value that each of us is made in the image and likeness of God. Our vision statement of Plant the Seed, Nurture the Growth and Celebrate the Harvest calls us to provide a positive learning environment for all our students. Our staff are highly professional and are dedicated to providing quality teaching and learning for the students.

This year the majority of staff meetings have become mini professional development workshops. Our teaching and learning is guided by the Quality Teaching Framework and staff also work closely with the parent community to ensure that we meet the educational expectations they have for their children.

Students are provided with opportunities to participate in community events in our parish and town that develop their skills, talents and confidence to participate fully in the world beyond our school. In partnership with the local parish our students are supported in the development of the Catholic faith, knowledge and practice. St Mary's War Memorial School implements literacy and numeracy plans that are formed based on data gained from external and internal assessment. Staff have participated in professional development experiences in literacy and numeracy including review of the mathematics curriculum and an online writing assessment course based on the NAPLAN writing assessment process.

Our classrooms are learning centres that use new technologies for the technology native generation and again staff professional development in this area has enhanced student learning. We are indebted to the Country Areas Program (CAP) which has enabled the school to provide teaching and learning opportunities for staff and students that would not be possible due to our isolation from a large centre of population.

We are also grateful to the Federal Government program, Building the Educational Revolution, which has allowed us to improve student learning areas.

School Community Report

St Mary's War Memorial School parent community has had another busy and productive year. We are in the midst of exciting times as we build a dynamic and vibrant school which has come through great change.

Currently, the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution work is underway with a refurbished school hall, new woodwork building, replacement of demountables and improved student and staff restroom facilities, all in various stages of completion.

The parent community started the year with a welcome morning tea for the new Kindergarten parents. The welcome Mass, BBQ and Swimming carnival, held in the first few weeks of the school year, was a great way to reacquaint and introduce ourselves to new parents and staff. This year the parents introduced Mother's and Father's Day stalls. The children loved the idea of "going shopping" and excitedly took home some real bargains.

Our P & F school disco, as well as the annual fete, were also highly successful and a wonderful way for the whole school community to work together. The work of the P & F lamington, biscuit dough and Christmas pudding drives have all helped to boost the funds and a healthy bank balance that has been able to be distributed among various groups within the school. The P & F continue to help parents by assisting in payment of some of our administrative costs. The P & F also supports the children in their sporting achievements at MacKillop level and pays for the nomination fees for the teams at the Catholic Primary Schools Basketball Championships. This year the P & F have also purchased new footy jumpers for students to use at carnivals. The primary school has benefited by the purchase of many games to be used at lunchtimes on very hot or wet days. A refrigerated water cooler has been installed and a tent for use at outdoor events will soon be purchased. The P & F also contributed to the cost of the secondary excursion.

The parent community is also to be acknowledged for the work on the gardens and assistance in promoting the school in the wider community.

Student Achievement

The following tables show the school's results in the national testing of literacy and numeracy (NAPLAN) in 2009.

School and National Mean Scale Scores

| YEAR 3 | Reading | Writing | Spelling | Grammar & Punctuation | Numeracy |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| National | 411 | 414 | 405 | 420 | 394 |
| School | 389 | 399 | 397 | 402 | 367 |

| YEAR 5 | Reading | Writing | Spelling | Grammar & Punctuation | Numeracy |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| National | 494 | 485 | 487 | 500 | 487 |
| School | 505 | 494 | 474 | 502 | 500 |

The above tables show that, in most areas of Literacy and Numeracy, St Mary's War Memorial School is around the national average for Years 3 and 5. The only exception is Year 3 Numeracy where the school's results are significantly below the national average.

Proportion of students at or above the National Minimum Standard

| YEAR 3 | Reading | Writing | Spelling | Grammar & Punctuation | Numeracy |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| National | 94% | 96% | 92% | 93% | 94% |
| School | 100% | 95% | 100% | 95% | 95% |

| YEAR 5 | Reading | Writing | Spelling | Grammar & Punctuation | Numeracy |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| National | 92% | 93% | 92% | 92% | 94% |
| School | 100% | 95% | 86% | 95% | 100% |

The above tables show that, for most areas, St Mary's War Memorial School has a higher proportion of students at or above the National Minimum Standard compared with the national figures. Of note are the results for Year 3 Reading and Spelling, and Year 5 Reading and Numeracy, where all students are above the Standard.

Proportion of students in each Achievement Band

| YEAR 3 | Reading | Writing | Spelling | Grammar & Punctuation | Numeracy |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Band 6 | 0% | 11% | 11% | 0% | 0% |
| Band 5 | 42% | 16% | 21% | 53% | 21% |
| Band 4 | 16% | 58% | 32% | 21% | 11% |
| Band 3 | 26% | 11% | 26% | 16% | 42% |
| Band 2 | 16% | 0% | 11% | 5% | 21% |
| Band 1 | 0% | 5% | 0% | 5% | 5% |

| YEAR 5 | Reading | Writing | Spelling | Grammar & Punctuation | Numeracy |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Band 8 | 5% | 9% | 5% | 9% | 0% |
| Band 7 | 23% | 14% | 27% | 32% | 32% |
| Band 6 | 50% | 41% | 23% | 36% | 36% |
| Band 5 | 14% | 23% | 18% | 9% | 23% |
| Band 4 | 9% | 9% | 14% | 9% | 9% |
| Band 3 | 0% | 5% | 14% | 5% | 05 |

The above tables show that in Year 3 the majority of students have achieved results in Literacy in Bands 4 to 6 and in Numeracy in Bands 3 to 6. In Year 5 the majority of students have achieved results in Bands 6 and 7 in all areas. These results have informed our 2010 Literacy and Numeracy plans.

School Certificate: The 3 students at St Mary's War Memorial School, have performed well in the School Certificate. In English 66% of St Mary's students achieved A. In Mathematics 33% of St Mary's students achieved A.

Student Wellbeing and Engagement

At St Mary's War Memorial School we aim to provide an educational environment where students are safe and happy. Peer Support and Buddy programs help students to get to know and care for each other 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.

At the beginning of third term we hosted a series of very insightful girls bullying workshops for students and parents. The presenter was able to provide teachers, parents and girls with information to understand why bullying happens and some ways to become more resilient.

Sam Bailey was another important visitor who inspired the students with his life story of how he has been able to overcome difficulties and live a full and interesting life. This year we were also fortunate to have the Life Education Van visit our school to reinforce the importance of living a healthy lifestyle.

Student Pathways and Post School Destinations - All Year 10 students have enrolled for Years 11 and 12 at NSW schools.

Student Satisfaction - The results of a survey of students at St Mary's War Memorial School indicated that students feel their teacher's care about them, makes things they do in the classroom interesting and helps them with their work; the students say that their teacher expects them to try their hardest, to improve their standard of work and to act responsibly. The students at St Mary's War Memorial School say they feel safe at school.

Student Attendance - Student attendance at St Mary's War Memorial School is as follows:

Kinder: 97%; Year 1: 91%; Year 2: 93%; Year 3: 97%; Year 4: 95%; Year 5: 96%; Year 6: 92%; Year 8: 97%; Year 10: 100%.

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, reviewed in 2009, is available from the school office.

Enrolment - 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's website at <http://www.ceocg.catholic.edu.au/policies.enrolment.htm>

August census figures show we have 115 students enrolled in Kinder to Year 10 with 61 male students and 54 female students. One percent of our student population is Indigenous Australian. Our school also has a multicultural aspect with students families from several overseas countries enrolled.

Behaviour - This policy is based upon our Pastoral Care emphasis, which is inherent to our teaching of Religion and is in place in every KLA 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

To meet St Mary's 2009 goals to deliver high quality education for secondary students in Years 8 and 10 and to deliver high quality primary education in 2009 and beyond one of the major areas to target was professional development for staff. This was seen as important so that students would be involved in learning that met their needs here and now. As well as improving literacy and numeracy outcomes there was a strong focus on incorporating ICT and other technology in learning and teaching. This involved continuing the use of interactive whiteboard training so that teaching and learning in 2009 and beyond makes use of the many resources available at the student's finger tips to make learning meaningful, stimulating, challenging and successful. It was also recognised that it was necessary for students to have computer access throughout the day in their classrooms as well as investigating the use of other technologies which was achieved with the introduction of ipod technology and appropriate applications and the implementation of Apple Mac hardware and software. During 2009 we have fully implemented the revised Treasures New and Old syllabus in Religious Education.

The Country Area Program also assisted the school to meet our priorities with the following programs: Assessment and Tracking; Boost Literacy; Boost Numeracy; Leadership; Focus on Music as well as providing opportunities for students to overcome the problems of isolation with assistance with student travel.

During 2010 our community will continue to work to provide high quality teaching and learning for our students in an environment that nurtures growth. We will revise our whole pedagogical principles to ensure common understanding across the school. We also believe that we would benefit from exploring ways for staff, students and parents to work with more collegiality. Notably, we plan to extend opportunities for years five and six with middle school and leadership programs. All students will enjoy a whole school gymnastics program. We aim to foster growth in spirituality and worship with an enhanced liturgical music program. As well as implementing literacy and numeracy plans (see below,) we will review HSIE and RE teaching and learning documents. We will also further develop our knowledge of rich assessment tasks and use of assessment rubrics to assist students to successfully show what they know and can do. In 2010 CAP will fund the following programs to assist us in reaching our set targets: Educational Enrichment; Embedding Technology; Strengthening Literacy; Strengthening Numeracy; Supporting Leadership and Student and Staff travel.

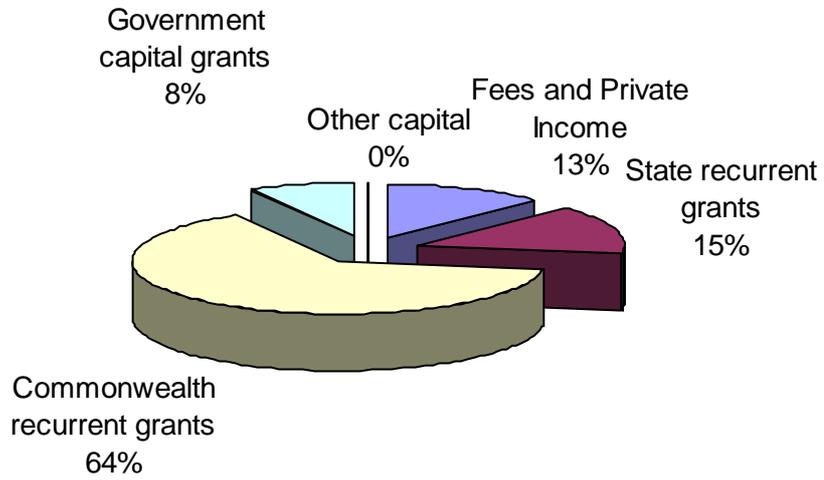
Literacy and Numeracy

In 2009 we have revised our Mathematics documentation which guides our teaching and learning. We have also focussed on improving student outcomes in the Space and Measurement strands. In literacy we have introduced a grammar and punctuation program, an intensive phonics program in infants, as well as focussing on the elements of NAPLAN writing.

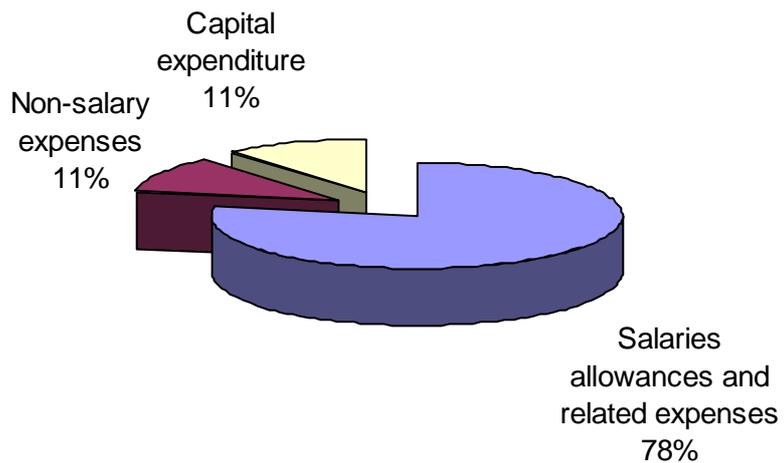
In 2010 we will focus on strong links with parents in teaching and learning in literacy and numeracy. This will include a review of the home reading program as well as co-ordinating literacy and numeracy forums and information sessions for families. We will also review spelling teaching and learning and achievement in all grades and participate in professional development to implement the revised First Steps Writing Program as well as participate in professional development that looks at what elements make up high quality reading, writing and numeracy blocks. Plans are underway to implement a new Mathematics scope and sequence across all grades and implement use of new mathematics resources that promote differentiated learning and compliments the Quality Teaching Framework and Count Me In Too Program. We will also further implement the use of online programs for teaching and learning in literacy and numeracy. There will also be a focus on planning and implementing rich assessment tasks and A to E rubrics in literacy and numeracy. Our CAP projects of Strengthening Literacy and Strengthening Numeracy will assist St Mary's to achieve set goals.

Financial Information

St. Mary's West Wyalong - Income



St. Mary's West Wyalong - Expenditure



School Contact Information

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
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