



Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn
CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Moruya, NSW

2011 ANNUAL REPORT



SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

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PRINCIPAL

MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Principal's Message

Welcome to St Mary's! St Mary's is a Catholic co-educational school, which caters for 185 students from 126 families. St Mary's has a proud history of service to the Moruya township and enjoys strong community support. Our Mission is to ensure a truly Catholic learning community where the integration of faith and life is central to the culture and identity of the school, at every level. Our commitment is to engage students in life long learning to develop skills of effective communication, independence and collaborative learning, and problem solving. I am proud of the unique educational environment we offer at St Mary's and our personal approach with each family is central to our Mission.

Community Council Message

St Mary's has continued to flourish throughout 2011. Always looking for ways to stay abreast or lead the way in education, St Mary's parents, community and staff have worked whole-heartedly as a team to fundraise and purchase the best possible resources and assets for the students to make their experience at school the best it possibly can be. A significant alteration to the structure of St Mary's Community was the change to a Community Council. Based on advice from the Catholic Education Office, the Community Council was established to streamline the way in which various working parties contributed to the school. This transition has been highly successful for our school.

Student Representative's Message

As the current School Captain I would like to share with you some highlights of the past year as a member of the Student Representative Council at St Mary's. The SRC held several fundraisers throughout the year to buy many desired resources for the school and donate to those less fortunate. I am very lucky to have been part of a great SRC team. The Kindergarten and Year 6 Buddy system is a fantastic idea. I remember how I felt when I started school and my buddy was there to guide and help me. Now as a Senior student, I am the buddy and I enjoy assisting the Kindergarten students during class and on the playground. It has been a privilege to be part of the St Mary's learning environment.

SCHOOL FEATURES

St Mary's is a Catholic Primary School located in Moruya. The school caters for students in Kindergarten - Year 6, and has a current enrolment of 185 students.

Students attending this school come from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities consisting of 52% male and 48% female students; 9% indigenous students; and 1% Language Background other than English (LBOTE).

The school employs 19 staff comprising 13 teachers and 6 non-teaching staff, the latter being employed in a variety of capacities including School Officer, Learning Support Assistants, Technical Support and School Counsellor.

The Catholic community of the Archdiocese challenges its schools and teachers to share with parents the sacred responsibility for the educational, spiritual and emotional development of the young people in its care. The staff are highly dedicated and professional educators who demonstrate personal integrity through the Christian climate they create, as individuals and as a community. In

their vocation as Catholic educators, they have the interest of the students at heart and will endeavour to ensure the maximum is done in the development of each child.

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

St Mary's School has a strong belief and commitment to Catholic Education. We promote St Mary's as a Catholic school with strong Christian values in a welcoming and caring community. The religious life of St Mary's continues to be nourished through whole school Masses, Parish/school Masses, whole school and class liturgies and the celebration of special days such as 'All Saints Day' and the Feast of Christ the King. Focus Assemblies are celebrated in our Performing Arts Centre and are well attended by parents, friends and parishioners. Through these Focus Assemblies we proclaim the Word of God and imitate the Gospel values of Jesus. We have a close connection between the school and the parish. Further partnerships are being developed through the promotion of school/parish functions as well as our K-12 Pathways with Carroll College. Every child is respected for who they are, and is cared for spiritually, physically and emotionally. All Sacramental programs and meetings are attended by the staff involved. St Mary's actively contributes to the spiritual development of the students by helping them with their preparation for the Sacraments using Religious units of work from 'Treasures New and Old' as well as their Religious formation, in partnership with our Parish Priest. During the last year we have implemented Christian meditation in classes and built a prayer garden with the help of our Parish Priest and parishioners.

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	416	416	406	422	394
School	394	408.7	389.7	412	392.9
YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	488	483	484	500	488
School	508.7	500.9	485.6	524	519.4

Proportion of students at or above the National Minimum Standard

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	94%	95%	93%	93%	96%
School	86%	100%	100%	97%	93%

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	92%	92%	91%	92%	94%
School	92%	96%	100%	92%	96%

Proportion of students in each Achievement Band

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 6	17%	3%	7%	17%	17%
Band 5	17%	34%	21%	21%	17%
Band 4	24%	31%	31%	24%	24%
Band 3	21%	24%	24%	24%	21%
Band 2	7%	7%	17%	10%	14%
Band 1	14%	0%	0%	3%	7%

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 8	28%	8%	8%	20%	8%
Band 7	8%	24%	12%	20%	44%
Band 6	28%	40%	32%	40%	20%
Band 5	20%	16%	36%	12%	24%
Band 4	8%	8%	12%	0%	0%
Band 3	8%	4%	0%	8%	4%

The above tables show that our Year 5 students are achieving above the National Mean Scale Score in all domains, being particularly high in Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy. This is very pleasing, reflecting the extensive in-servicing that staff have undergone, especially in the area of Numeracy. The Year 3 cohort have not performed as well as we expected this year, particularly in Reading and Spelling. We will use this information to direct our 2012 strategic plan, specifically looking at teaching pedagogy in the early stages of schooling, when Literacy development is key.

Already we have begun to revisit the way in which we teach Spelling, trialling the use of a revised scope and sequence and explicit teaching of sound blends. In addition, we are in the process of undergoing professional development in First Steps Reading.

The low percentage of our students who fall in the lowest bands is testament to the Learning Support program that is provided to students who have been identified with learning needs. While we recognise that we are under-represented in the highest bands, we have implemented an Enrichment Program in 2011 that we will now continue into the future with National Partnership Funding.

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>

As Principal, it is my pleasure to personally welcome all prospective families to St Mary's. I invite you to come and visit the school and experience for yourself the warmth and vibrance of the St Mary's community. We have strong K - 12 Pathways with Carroll College Broulee, and regular opportunities are embraced to integrate with the College to enrich learning across a variety of Key Learning Areas.

Behaviour

At St Mary's we value the dignity and individuality of each child, and the development of positive relationships between all members of our community is paramount. Our Behaviour Management Policy is based on a proactive approach, which is achieved through positive reinforcement and an awareness of the needs of each individual. We believe that as a staff, we are committed to modelling responsible behaviour to the students in our care and working closely with parents to ensure positive outcomes are achieved. Parents are fully informed of incidents as they occur at school. We value the support of parents in ensuring clear expectations are articulated from both home and school so a strong partnership is reinforced for students. The principles of Restorative Justice are embedded in the school's Behaviour Management Policy.

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 Behaviour Management 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

Our Vision promotes a learning for life mindset. We have continued to build the school community this year and have enjoyed strong parental support. Curriculum development and improved academic results have been highlights. The following key areas have been a priority throughout 2011 and will continue to be a focus at St Mary's for 2012 and beyond:

- Catholic identity
- Promoting excellence in education
- Literacy and Numeracy
- Supporting staff in the analysis of NAPLAN data and implementing teaching strategies for future school growth
- Increase school enrolments and introduce two Kindergarten classes for 2012 school year
- Continued community link and school growth K-12 with Carroll College, Broulee and St Bernard's, Batemans Bay
- Quality Teaching Framework
- Maintaining ICT purchase plan - Interactive Whiteboards
- School grounds maintenance and upgrade to cater for growing numbers
- Introduce new model for Internal School Review process
- Staff Professional Development and spirituality
- Pastoral Care and support of low socio-economics families
- Parish links - integration of school with weekend Masses / Sacramental Programs

The following goals highlight key elements for improvement in Literacy and Numeracy at St Mary's for 2012.

LITERACY

Goal/s

- To improve staff awareness of quality writing criteria.
- Provide Professional Development in the explicit teaching of phonemic awareness and graphophonic knowledge.
- Develop a school Scope and Sequence for the teaching of phonemic awareness and graphophonic knowledge.
- Revisit and evaluate our current agreed practice for the teaching of spelling. Staff to be more informed at implementing and analysing results in Single Word Spelling Test (SWST) Benchmarking resource.
- All staff to be trained in First Steps Reading program.
- Focus on Archdiocesan 'Read On' document as a key resource to support the teaching of reading.

NUMERACY

Goal/s

- Focus on assessment practices and data collection to inform teacher practice to cater for different levels of ability.

- Investigate pedagogies which encourage students to work mathematically.
- Priority to increasing resources to allow Count Me In Too and Board of Studies Work Sample activities to be implemented.
- Support staff to attend all relevant professional development opportunities.
- Investigate the purchase of interactive whiteboards for each classroom as part of the ICT Strategic Plan.

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 four whole staff days in 2011. The content of these days was as follows: Term 1: Spelling Strategies; Term 2: First Steps Second Edition Reading Course; Term 3: Introduction to Christian Meditation for Teachers with Ruth Fowler; Term 4: Staff Spirituality with Fr Peter Day.

Teacher Qualifications

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

TEACHER ATTENDANCE AND RETENTION

The average teacher attendance rate during 2011 was 98%.

The teacher retention rate from 2010 to 2011 was 100%.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

The average student attendance for the school during 2011 was 92%.

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

Attendance rates by Year group

Kindergarten	89%
Year 1	90%
Year 2	93%
Year 3	95%
Year 4	94%
Year 5	88%
Year 6	93%

PARENT, TEACHER AND STUDENT SATISFACTION

The level of parent, staff and student feedback at St Mary's has been very positive throughout 2011. Our overall school enrolment reached 195 students with two Kindergarten classes projected for 2012. Numerous initiatives have been undertaken to promote St Mary's in the wider community and to provide diverse opportunities for student learning. Parents feel welcomed as partners in the

education of their children and their level of support at all school functions is testament to this. The increase in student enrolments indicates that parents are satisfied and continue to promote St Mary's in the local community. When issues arise, processes and procedures are followed to ensure a positive resolution can be reached. Effective communication has been critical to this process. Nurturing of positive relationships among parents has greatly contributed to an environment of mutual respect. The implementation of a new model for School Governance has proven to be an empowering model to further increase parental involvement. Extra curricula initiatives have been well received by the parents and students, namely the Enrichment Program which targets highly capable students and extends their skills in literacy and numeracy. Lunch time clubs and interest groups have attracted a diverse range of students to allow for Kindergarten to Year 6 interactions. Interactive Whiteboards were purchased for each grade level to enhance teaching and learning.

Staff morale at St Mary's is high. Staff fully support all school initiatives and appreciate their privileged role as leaders in Catholic education. Their support of the school and level of satisfaction is further evidenced by their commitment to meet this challenge of service to parents, to students and to the whole Church. The staff are committed to encouraging and strengthening their students in those areas which will help to achieve the goals of the educational process. Regular staff feedback indicates a positive working environment. Satisfaction surveys overwhelmingly indicated a positive working environment where teachers and support staff felt appreciated and challenged in their roles. In Term 4, the staff undertook a Staff Spirituality day with Fr Peter Day. All were inspired by his teachings of service to the community.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

