



Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn
CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Moruya, NSW

2014 Annual Report



SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

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This report was prepared by:

Catrina Niddrie

PRINCIPAL

MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Principal's Message

For St Mary's 2014 has been a wonderful year full of initiatives and achievements. A major achievement was the outstanding and successful review by an external panel, of St Mary's curriculum, teaching staff and educational resources which resulted in the re-registration of the school for the next five years. A further highlight was our whole school performance of "The Coat" written and produced by the staff and students of St Mary's. We have much to be proud of and value the partnership between home, school, parish and the wider community. We continue to cherish the long history of providing quality Catholic education in the Moruya township. Our mission is strengthened by the commitment of staff to engage students in life-long learning through inquiry learning, our faith and our cultural identity.

School Council Message

St Mary's Primary School has continued to flourish, not only through the dedication of its excellent staff, but also through the generosity and support of the parent community. The Community Council, through its working parties, has raised funds that have been used to purchase resources that are paramount to the students learning. The working parties are integral to our school as they contribute money, effort and foster positive unity within the school community. The Community Council Executive have also shown dedication through developing plans and goals for the future direction of the school, all of which aim to have St Mary's being the leading educational option for parents in the region.

Student Representative's Message

Being part of the school leadership team for 2014 was an enormous honour. The students enjoyed planning all the events that help create community awareness at St Mary's. As SRC representatives we were proud to be able to raise money for the Missions overseas, Jeans for Genes day, State of Origin Day, School Disco and support the RSPCA in organising a cupcake day. We were thankful for being able to experience events outside school, like ANZAC Day where we attended the march to the RSL Hall and experienced a service on Remembrance Day. We collected hampers for the St Vincent de Paul Winter and Christmas appeals. We enjoyed working with the staff at St Mary's and are very thankful that they were here to encourage and support us through our journey this year.

SCHOOL FEATURES

St Mary's is a Catholic Primary School located in Moruya, South Coast NSW. The school caters for students in Kindergarten - Year 6, and has a current enrolment of 239 students. Students attending this school come from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities consisting of 119 male and 120 female students; 33 indigenous students; and 1 student with a Language Background other than English (LBOTE).

The school employs 28 staff comprising 19 teachers and 9 non-teaching staff, the latter being employed in a variety of capacities including Learning Support Assistants, Canteen Manager and Student Welfare Officer.

2014 saw the continuing employment of an Aboriginal teacher who works closely with our Aboriginal Contact Teacher to support the needs of our growing Aboriginal student population. This additional role for our school has been enriching to both staff and students. The understanding and appreciation for Aboriginal culture and tradition continues to be a focus in our school's programs.

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*.

At St Mary's, "We believe in an environment where each person is able to celebrate and achieve their personal best through a friendship with Jesus". We promote just and honest relationships within the school community and respect the beliefs of children from all faith traditions. The religious life of St Mary's continues to be nurtured through class Masses, Parish/school Masses, whole school and class liturgies and the celebration of special days. 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 reflect on the teachings 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. Each year we celebrate a Combined Schools Mass with St Bernard's Primary School, Batemans Bay and Carroll College, Broulee. The Parish Priest, school Principal and Religious Education Coordinator from each school meet in December to plan the combined Catholic Schools Mass for the following year.

Every child is respected for who they are, and is cared for spiritually, physically and emotionally. All Sacramental programs and meetings are attended by staff teaching the students. 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', in partnership with our Parish Priest. We have implemented the Seasons for Growth program, Christian meditation in classes and built a prayer garden with the help of our Parish Priest and parishioners. Parishioners are welcome in our school and many volunteer in our infants classrooms, assisting with reading.

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 | 402 | 412 | 426 | 402 |
| School | 464 | 440 | 437 | 463 | 437 |

| YEAR 5 | Reading | Writing | Spelling | Grammar & Punctuation | Numeracy |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| National | 501 | 468 | 498 | 504 | 487 |
| School | 524 | 489 | 514 | 511 | 505 |

Proportion of students at or above the National Minimum Standard

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

| YEAR 5 | Reading | Writing | Spelling | Grammar & Punctuation | Numeracy |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| National | 93% | 90% | 93% | 93% | 93% |
| School | 93% | 90% | 97% | 97% | 97% |

Proportion of students in each Achievement Band

| YEAR 3 | Reading | Writing | Spelling | Grammar & Punctuation | Numeracy |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Band 6 | 42% | 13% | 29% | 38% | 33% |
| Band 5 | 21% | 46% | 29% | 21% | 8% |
| Band 4 | 21% | 33% | 17% | 25% | 25% |
| Band 3 | 12% | 8% | 17% | 13% | 29% |
| Band 2 | 4% | 0% | 8% | 4% | 4% |
| Band 1 | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |

| YEAR 5 | Reading | Writing | Spelling | Grammar & Punctuation | Numeracy |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Band 8 | 21% | 3% | 23% | 20% | 10% |
| Band 7 | 24% | 23% | 23% | 17% | 17% |

| | | | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Band 6 | 31% | 33% | 27% | 23% | 38% |
| Band 5 | 14% | 27% | 13% | 30% | 28% |
| Band 4 | 7% | 7% | 13% | 10% | 7% |
| Band 3 | 3% | 7% | 0% | 0% | 0% |

The above tables show:

In Year 3 - the data showed that the students performed well in all Literacy and Numeracy areas. The data reflected that the results were above the National level in Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation, and Numeracy.

In Year 5 - the data showed that the student results were strong and above the National level in Reading and Writing. The results also indicated that the students were around the National level for Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation, and Numeracy.

Overall as a school the data showed that we were strongly represented in the middle bands and well represented in the upper bands. We have the majority of our students in the middle bands and thus, need to look at our teaching practices and decide on strategies that are going to challenge and extend these students to move them forward with their learning and growth to attain skills and understanding to achieve at the higher levels.

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>

The Principal welcomes all prospective families to St Mary's. Each family is invited to visit the school and experience the friendliness of the St Mary's community. We have strong K - 12 Pathway with Carroll College Broulee, and regular opportunities are embraced to integrate with the College to enrich learning across a variety of Key Learning Areas. An information package is available at the School Office.

Attendance Policy

In monitoring student attendance we are directed by the Archdiocesan Attendance at School (NSW) Policy which can be found on the Catholic Education Office website.

At St Mary's, parents are asked to notify the school whenever a student is absent. A written explanation stating the cause of the absence is required from the parents or guardian. This explanation of absence can be done in writing or via the Skoolbag App absentee form. Children are not permitted to leave the school grounds without the written permission of parents or legal guardian. For unexplained absences, a pro-forma is sent to the parents requesting a written explanation.

Unforeseen absences, for example, absences due to sickness, funerals, situations of pressing domestic necessity do not require an application for exemption.

Behaviour Management Policy

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 that 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

At St Mary's we believe in life-long learning. We have continued to build the school community this year and have enjoyed strong parental support. As a proactive and forward thinking school it has been transforming to have the autonomy to drive pedagogical change and make significant decisions to empower staff and parents to embrace new learnings. This past year has provided strategic focus to increase teacher capacity and provide the platform to better embrace 21st Century Learning, assess current practice in terms of learning spaces and delivery, ICT developments and prepare for professional conversations in light of the AITSL Professional Standards for Teachers.

The following key areas will be a focus at St Mary's for 2015:

- Catholic Identity: - focus on revisiting our Religious Identity and Culture through our mission and Vision Statements and work collaboratively as a staff to develop statements that will take us into 21st Century Learning and embrace the charism of St Mary's
- Professional Practice and Collaborative Partnerships: - focus on Professional Leadership and Capacity by supporting, encouraging and building leadership capabilities in all staff as we aspire to continue to excel in education.
- Pedagogical Principles and Practices: - collaboratively enhance learning spaces to become a more contemporary, shared and interactive learning environment through

the support of our Collaborating on Student Achievement (COSA) project and staff development, to support units of work that are inquiry based.

- Assessment and Reporting: - Continue to strengthen the link between planning and teaching, assessment and reporting practices. Staff are supported in analysing data and systematically tracking students so that teachers are informed of patterns and information that the data is telling us. Professional Learning Plans will be a targeted priority.
- Strategic Resourcing: - School Improvement focus of sustaining a physical environment that meets the needs of all our students with the intention of maximising learning outcomes for students.
- Continue to strengthen our K-12 pathways with Carroll College and St Bernard's Batemans Bay.

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 inservice, meetings and conferences.

The school held four whole staff days in 2014. The content of these days was as follows:

- Term 1 - all members of staff re-visited the Code of Professional Conduct and the expectations of Mandatory Reporting. First Aid training was given..
- Term 2 - A focus day on mapping the Australian Curriculum against the NSW Syllabus
- Term 3 - The staff spent a full day at the beginning of Term 3 on developing personal spirituality with Fr Emil.
- Term 4 - Professor Kaye Lowe provided materials enabling the school to engage in a full day workshop on reading and writing.

The staff engaged in extended professional development staff meetings during the year with a focus on coaching and professional conversations, assessment and Performing Arts.

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 2014 was 95%.

The teacher retention rate from 2013 to 2014 was 83%.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

The average student attendance for the school during 2014 was 91%.

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

Attendance rates by Year group

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Kindergarten | 92% |
| Year 1 | 93% |
| Year 2 | 89% |
| Year 3 | 93% |
| Year 4 | 93% |
| Year 5 | 89% |
| Year 6 | 89% |

PARENT, TEACHER AND STUDENT SATISFACTION

The feedback from parents, students and staff has continued to be positive during the 2014 school year. The school enjoys a good reputation in the community and enrolments have continued to increase during the year reaching 231 students in the August census. The work of our Aboriginal teacher within the school and the wider community has led to an increased number of Aboriginal children attending St Mary's. At the NAIDOC Mass in 2014 this work was recognised through the presentation of a special award.

Effective communication has been critical in developing a high level of parental support for the school. Teachers make regular contact with parents through formal and informal meetings. Attendance at community functions organised by the school has been impressive. The provision and promotion of K - 12 pathways with St Bernard's Batemans Bay and Carroll College in Broulee has had a positive influence on the promotion of St Mary's. We enjoy the support provided by the Community Council who meet on a regular basis to support the work of the school.

The contact with the wider parish community in Moruya is a feature of St Mary's Primary School. Children are involved in the life of the parish and the regular class and school Masses promote the support for the school among parishioners.

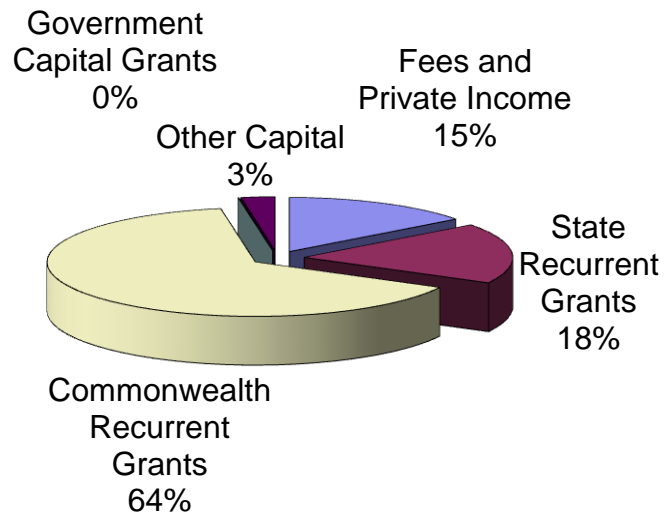
Staff morale is high at St Mary's. Staff support school initiatives and are very supportive of each other in their role as Catholic educators. There is a real sense of shared purpose among staff at St Mary's; issues are discussed and problems are shared. The staff are held in very high regard by the local community.

The students who attend St Mary's actively participate in the life of the school. The introduction of a more structured Student Representative Council (SRC) has given a voice to the student population and meetings were held on a regular basis during the 2014 school year. Children have enjoyed success in the sporting arena and the snow sports team represented St Mary's for the first time in 2014. St Mary's took out the prestigious Archdiocesan Public Speaking Competition for Stage 2.

The school undertook the process of School Registration during Term 1 of 2014. The feedback from the panel was affirming of the staff and community and students at St Mary's.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

St Mary's Moruya - Income



St Mary's Moruya - Expenditure

