



Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn
CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Moruya, NSW

2013 School Report to the Community



SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

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PRINCIPAL

MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Principal's Message

St Mary's is a Catholic co-educational primary school, which caters for 220 students from 150 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 at every level is central to the culture and identity of the school. Our commitment is to engage students in life long learning to develop skills of effective communication, independence and collaborative learning, and problem solving. At St Mary's we offer students a variety of extra curricular activities including Performing Arts, Sport and Private Music Tuition.

School Community Council

St Mary's Primary School has continued to flourish, not only through the dedication of its excellent staff, but also through the generosity 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 2013 is an enormous honour. As SRC representatives we were proud to be able to raise money for the Missions overseas, Jeans for Genes day and support the RSPCA in organising a cupcake day. We were thankful for being able to experience events outside of school, like Remembrance Day where we attended the RSL Hall and experienced a service on Remembrance Day; Local Council Week, where we visited the local council and met some of the other local school students in the Eurobodalla region. We enjoyed working with the staff at St Mary's and are very thankful that they were here to guide us through our journey this year.

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 220 students.

Students attending this school come from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities consisting of 112 male and 110 female students; 24 indigenous students; and 1 student with a Language Background other than English (LBOTE).

The school employs 26 staff comprising 19 teachers and 7 non-teaching staff, the latter being employed in a variety of capacities including Learning Support Assistants, Canteen Manager and Student Welfare Officer.

2013 saw the 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 in our local area has been heightened through the employment of this teacher.

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" (2006). 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 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 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. 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' as well as their Religious formation, 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	416	411	428	397
School	449	445	420	457	410

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	502	478	494	501	486
School	526	511	501	520	496

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	100%	97%	93%	93%	100%

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	96%	92%	93%	95%	93%
School	100%	100%	97%	97%	100%

Proportion of students in each Achievement Band

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 6	33%	23%	27%	37%	10%
Band 5	17%	50%	10%	27%	31%
Band 4	27%	17%	37%	23%	31%
Band 3	13%	7%	20%	7%	28%
Band 2	10%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Band 1	0%	3%	7%	7%	0%

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 8	9%	15%	12%	12%	13%
Band 7	38%	24%	18%	33%	6%
Band 6	50%	24%	30%	30%	44%
Band 5	0%	27%	27%	18%	22%
Band 4	3%	9%	9%	3%	15%
Band 3	0%	0%	3%	3%	0%

The above tables show pleasing results for our school, especially for Reading, Writing and Grammar and Punctuation in Years 3 and 5. Literacy is very strong across the whole school. Students achievement in Numeracy is at state average. Students have demonstrated significant growth from Years 3 to 5. Areas for future development will be our teaching of Spelling and Numeracy.

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>

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. 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. 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. An email from parents explaining an absence is accepted.

Parents/guardians must complete an Application for Exemption from Attendance at School form for all absences when the absence is known in advance (eg holidays). If the request for absence is less than 101 days it can be approved by the Principal. If the request is for 101 or more days it must be forwarded to the Catholic Education Office. It will then be sent through the NSW Catholic Education Commission to the Minister of Education or his delegate, for his approval.

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

If an Application for Exemption from Attendance at School is approved by the Principal/Minister the school will complete a Certificate of Exemption. This is kept on the student file and a copy is supplied to parents. This must be produced upon request by the Police or other authorised attendance officer. When departing the country the certificate can be requested by customs/passport officials.

The Application for Exemption from Attendance at School form is available on our school website and can also be collected from our school office.

Students arriving late for school are expected to collect a late slip from the front office which is then presented to the classroom teacher. In this instance, a part absence will be recorded in the roll.

In the case of a student exceeding the 15 day limit of unexplained absences or in the event that a student continually presents late to school (ie. after the start of the school day) it is the expectation that classroom teachers track and monitor this situation and make and document contact with the parents/guardians. It is the responsibility of the classroom teacher to notify the Principal when a pattern of absenteeism is evident and the number of days reaches 10-12 days. The Principal will then notify the Regional Attendance Coordinator in consultation with the Catholic Education Office.

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 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 St Mary'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. Professional Learning through Empowering Local Schools has been a highlight. As Lead school it has been transforming to have the autonomy to drive pedagogical change and make significant decisions to empower staff to embrace new learnings. The past twelve months 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, 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 2014:

- Catholic Identity
- Aspire to excellence in education
- Implement Australian Curriculum and the Key Learning Areas of English and Mathematics
- Plan for whole school Essential Agreements eg. Scheduled collaborative planning between Stage partners
- Plan units of work to support student inquiry
- Support staff in the analysis of data to allow for accurate and systematic tracking of student progress
- Foster a learning culture that is personalised and allows for a student-led learning environment
- Change the classrooms to accommodate a more contemporary, shared and interactive learning space
- Continue community links and school growth K-12 with Carroll College, Broulee and St Bernard's, Batemans Bay
- Continue to implement the online learning management system 'LIFE' and support teachers in their use of this system
- Continue to work with external consultant to increase leadership and teacher capacity through the relationships formed during the Empowering Local Schools Government Grant roll out in 2013
- Maintain Reading Recovery Program - an intervention program for students in Year One having difficulty with reading
- Re-introduce Numeracy Intervention Program (NIP) for identified students
- Maintain ICT purchase plan
- Continue the conversation with the school community regarding the introduction of 1:1 ipads BYODD
- Maintain school grounds, including painting project and school re-organisation to cater for increasing enrolments
- Investigate a government building grant for extensive refurbishment of the school
- Professional and Spirituality Development for staff
- Pastoral Care and support of low socio-economic families
- Parish links - integration of school with weekend Masses / Sacramental Programs
- Student Welfare Officer - continue supporting students emotionally, socially and academically

The following goals highlight key elements for improvement in Literacy and Numeracy at St Mary's for 2014 in light of NAPLAN data and our understanding of best practice for 21st Century learning.

LITERACY

Goal/s

- Revisit and evaluate our current agreed practice for the teaching of Spelling through whole school implementation of the Soundwaves program
- Track and monitor student academic levels. Use online benchmarking tools to collate this data
- Incorporation of digital literacies to meet requirement of Australian Curriculum for NSW

NUMERACY

Goal/s

- Continue to implement Working Like a Mathematician across the school through incorporating WLAM strategies in programs
- Ongoing improvement of numeracy resources
- Provide opportunities for staff to update professional expertise in numeracy teaching
- Implement a new unit planning organiser which promotes Inquiry, WLAM and Gradual Release of Responsibility