



Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn
CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Batlow, NSW

2012 School Report to the Community



SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

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Mrs Christine Baron

PRINCIPAL

MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Principal's Message

Welcome to St Mary's Primary School Batlow! As expressed in our school Vision, St. Mary's strives for educational excellence, emulating the Gospel values of our Catholic tradition, to face future challenges with confidence and enthusiasm. 2012 has been an exciting year of professional development and growth. Numeracy have been a major focus through the National Partnerships program particularly with the Numeracy Intervention Program and targeting explicit teaching strategies. This has enabled us to cater for individual needs more effectively. Literacy has also been a continued focus especially targeting specific reading strategies. We look forward to more exciting opportunities in 2013!

Community Council Message

2012 has been a busy year for St Mary's.

The new executive is working with the aim of better engaging the school community in the management and decision making processes of the school.

Our goal is to enhance our student's education and achievements through the active participation of parents in the running of our school.

The Community Council acknowledges the hard work of the many parents who volunteer their time in many different ways to contribute to the success of our school year.

We eagerly look forward to continued success and achievements in 2013.

Mark Jones

Chairperson

Student Representative's Message

In 2012, Year 6 students were given three areas of leadership; Hospitality Hosts, Media Moguls and Sport Specialists. We were presented with our leadership badges at the Opening School Mass as well as given responsibility for our Kindergarten buddies. Throughout the year the Year 6 students have held many fundraisers including a School Disco, Talent Quest, St Patrick Day, Footy Day etc. Money raised from these special days have been donated to various local and international charities. St Mary's staff have allowed us to develop our leadership skills by allowing us to share in decision making, listened to our ideas and helped us put them into action.

By Nyah Karauna and Jack Baron

SCHOOL FEATURES

St Mary's Primary School is a Catholic Primary School located in Batlow. The school caters for students in Kindergarten - Year 6, and has a current enrolment of 35 students.

Students attending this school come from a variety of backgrounds comprising 49% male and 51% female students.

The school employs 7 staff comprising 5 teachers and 2 non-teaching staff, the latter being employed in a variety of capacities including Learning Support Assistant and Office Administrator.

St Mary's has a strong sense of history, established in 1923 by the Josephite Sisters. The Josephite tradition still remains a focus within the school today, despite the departure of the sisters many years ago. Continued involvement in community events such as Batlow Daycare, Apple Blossom Festival, Anzac Day etc are of utmost importance to the school community. The St Mary's Community Council played a pivotal role in supporting the school with many fundraisers held throughout the year to assist in purchasing much needed equipment and resources for the school eg purchasing of new readers and IT programs. The students have also been involved in many sporting opportunities such as 'Footsteps Dance', soccer gala day, Boorowa Touch and Netball carnival, tennis lessons and golf lessons as well as representation at Western Region and Archdiocesan events. Students were also represented in the Small Schools Swimming and Relay events that saw bronze medallions awarded to the swimming team for their efforts. Several excursions throughout the year, funded mainly through the Country Area Program (CAP) enabled the Upper Primary students to experience three days in Sydney while a whole school excursion to Canberra to the National Zoo & Aquarium for the Infants and to see the Silk Road exhibition for the Primary students, further enhanced HSIE units. The Active After School Community Program was also established this year with many students taking the opportunity to actively participate in this government funded program.

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

St Mary's Catholic Primary School was founded by the Sisters of St Joseph and their traditions and values are still reflected in the daily activities within the school. Whole school prayer and celebration of feast days at St Mary's continue the spirit of the Sisters. The school community is grateful to Fr Brian Hassett, the Parish Priest and to Sr Carmel Piffero, the Parish Coordinator for the support they give to the school.

The school has a strong social justice focus and activities were organised to support many charities and worthwhile causes. Emphasis on social justice issues is very much a part of the Religious Education Program and the culture of the Catholic school. As a school community, St Mary's School supports those in the community, who are experiencing difficulties through prayer and fund-raising. During Mission Month the students at St Mary's raised money for the children in the Philippines. Highlights throughout the year include the ceremonies for Reconciliation and First Eucharist, The Opening School Mass, Mother's Day and the Father's Day Liturgies, the celebration of our school Feast Day and the Year 6 Graduation Mass. We live out our school motto of Peace, Love and Joy in our everyday lives.

Jane Roche REC

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	407	424	422	445	381

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
National	493	476	494	490	488
School	459	447	510	480	464

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%	100%	100%

Proportion of students in each Achievement Band

YEAR 3	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 6	17%	0%	33%	33%	0%
Band 5	17%	50%	17%	17%	17%
Band 4	50%	50%	33%	50%	50%
Band 3	0%	0%	17%	0%	17%

Band 2	17%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Band 1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

YEAR 5	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar & Punctuation	Numeracy
Band 8	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Band 7	0%	0%	50%	0%	0%
Band 6	0%	0%	0%	50%	0%
Band 5	100%	100%	50%	50%	100%
Band 4	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Band 3	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

The above tables show the proportion of students in the top three bands in Reading, Writing, Spelling Grammar & Punctuation and Numeracy in Year 3 is very pleasing compared to National figures. It is also very pleasing to note that in the bottom two bands of both Year 3 and 5, there is no representation with the exception of Year 3 reading. This is testament to the fact that the initiatives employed over the last three years are taking effect and students results are showing great improvement. A number of initiatives have impacted on these results including the implementation of a range of teaching strategies including the Gradual Release of Responsibility Model in both Literacy and Numeracy and the impact of the Numeracy Intervention Program. NAPLAN results will be further analysed to inform and guide the direction for future improvements particularly in the areas of Writing, Spelling and Numeracy with an emphasis on moving the top students into the highest bands, particularly for Writing and Numeracy. More emphasis will also be placed on improving students results between Year 3 and Year 5.

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>

To be accepted for enrolment in Kindergarten at St. Mary's Catholic School a child must turn 5 years of age by April 30th of the year of enrolment. An Open Day is held during Term 2 each year, where all eligible children and their families are invited to the school for an information and classroom familiarisation visit. Enrolment forms are handed out with a due date given. Consecutive orientation days are offered during Term 4, for all new Kindergarten students due to begin the following year. This provides an opportunity for students to familiarise themselves with the school environment. For new families wishing to enrol in other classes, an appointment may be made with the Principal and/or class teacher/s together with the family members to find out any relevant information, obtain a school information package and/or tour the school.

Behaviour

The aim of the St Mary's Pastoral Care and Fair Discipline Policy is to ensure a consistent, caring and positive approach to behaviour management, ensuring everyone is treated with dignity and respect and to value each person as an individual. With Jesus Christ as our model, we aim to develop a truly Christian community that endeavours to give witness to Gospel Values as expressed in our school motto 'Peace, Love & Joy'. We believe that as a staff, we are committed to modelling responsible behaviour to the students in our care and dealing with them at all times in a fair and consistent manner. The school implements support structures and programs which prioritise and address the identified needs of individual students or the school as a whole. The school's policy involves a three tiered system where students are awarded with Great Behaviour Award cards for displaying excellent behaviour. When five cards are collected the children are presented with a bronze certificate, ten cards the students are presented with a badge and silver certificate and fifteen cards constitutes a gold certificate and special privileges. The aim of the policy is to ensure a consistent, caring and positive approach to behaviour. 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.

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The full text of the school's St. Mary's Pastoral Care and Fair Discipline 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

In 2013, St Mary's will have a number of set targets and priorities to work towards! Our number one priority will be to continue the numeracy journey that began this year and to strengthen and build on strategies implemented throughout the year. Mathematical experiences, numeracy warm ups and explicit teaching will be the main targets next year as well as building on the great foundations begun this year. The Numeracy Intervention Program will also be continued and this will allow us to target students experiencing difficulty in Mathematics. 'Working like a Mathematician' strategies will also be implemented across the primary classes. Literacy will continue to be a priority with the First Steps Reading and Writing strategies being implemented K-6, and a major focus on the implementation of the Gradual Release of Responsibility model being targeted in all stages. A major focus in literacy will be to develop students ability to develop higher order thinking skills in reading ie inferring, connecting and applying. Spelling will follow the First Steps approach with more explicit emphasis on spelling rules and strategies. Enquiry learning will also be further developed in the

areas of HSIE and Science and Technology which will allow staff to develop more creative and challenging programs that engage students and see them work towards their best potential. In the area of IT, the LIFE platform will continue to be developed and utilised as a tool for learning not only at school but at home as well. IT programs such as Reading Eggs, Reading Eggspress and Mathletics will be utilised to strengthen classroom programs. Laptops will continue to be used in the classrooms as well as IPADS which will be updated with the latest resources and used for small group activities in the classroom. The Country Areas Program (CAP) will be utilised to provide the students with the best possible opportunities to integrate IT and creative skills into classroom programs. The students will continue to be included in local CAP initiatives and experience opportunities that would otherwise be unavailable in remote country areas CAP funding also assists with costs towards excursions and other cultural and sporting experiences. We are very excited about the learning opportunities and experiences that will be offered at St Mary's during 2013!