



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Annual Report 2015

OUR VISION

A welcoming faith
community

We value
relationships

We pursue excellence
in learning

We live the Gospel
message of love

OUR VALUES

Respect

Faith

Courage

Learning

Community

OUR MISSION

St Mary's Catholic Primary School is committed to the traditions of the Mercy Sisters and a holistic education. We believe that all students can learn and that every student matters every day.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, in partnership with parents and the parish, strives to be a learning community that:

- Is centred on the person of Jesus Christ and grounded in Gospel values of justice, truth, peace, forgiveness, love, reconciliation and service of one another
- Recognises the individuality and dignity of each student
- Fosters, supports and challenges the development of each student's unique potential and spirituality
- Is enlivened by staff, both teaching and non-teaching, who are dedicated, committed and generous in their efforts
- Acknowledges our responsibility to be stewards of our earth and all of God's creation

The Principal's Annual School Report to the school community provides parents and the wider school community with reliable and objective information about school performance measures, about initiatives and developments of major interest and importance during the year and about the achievements arising from the implementation of the school's Annual Improvement Plan.

This report complements and is supplementary to weekly newsletters and other regular communications.

At St Mary's we have a process of ongoing review and reflection, thus providing direction for our school improvement planning.

In 2015, as part of the Quality Catholic Schooling Review process, the following components were reviewed:

- Effective Pedagogical Practices
- Pastoral Care of Students
- Targeted Use of School Resources
- Systematic Evangelisation Planning

In 2015, we conducted the School Climate Survey, where we sought feedback from staff, students and parents to gather a range of views on our school's culture and its learning programs.

Staff from Kindy to Year 2 met on a number of occasions to reflect on the quality of our Early Childhood Learning under the National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education, to identify strengths and to decide upon priorities for improvement. I have completed a National Quality Standard internal audit on each quality area and St Mary's has met the requirements for all areas. A Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) has been developed and will provide direction to plan for continued improvement in 2016.

This review and renewal process assists us in planning, supporting, challenging and inspiring students, staff and our community to continue to strive for excellence.

With all that we strive to do together at St Mary's, we continually look to our school Vision to guide us and to evaluate and review how we are travelling.

A welcoming faith community: What does it mean to be welcoming? What is a faith community?

How do we greet each other, include each other, care for each other and respect each other – daily and across the weeks of the school year, both on school site and outside?

We value relationships. Why are relationships important to us? Who do we relate with, and to, within the school community and in the wider Parish and Bunbury community? How do we show we value these relationships?

We pursue excellence in learning. What does learning excellence mean for each individual student and staff member? Do we recognise learning as being across all domains – academic, spiritual, physical, social and emotional?

We live the Gospel message of love. Are our words and actions modelled on the teachings of Jesus? What does the Gospel message of love actually mean? Does it include respect, care, forgiveness, compassion, service and justice?

This year, the annual report will be delivered within the context of LEAD, Learning, Engagement, Accountability and Discipleship, the four strategic directions of Catholic Education Office WA 2014 – 2016 and will report against St Mary's CPS Annual School Improvement Plan 2015. A copy of this plan was provided to all families at the commencement of 2015 school year.

LEARNING is what we do – we are committed to learning at every level.

How did I help others learn today?

ENGAGEMENT is essential – we are committed to Catholic Education's mission through relationships with all.

How did I promote positive relationships today?

ACCOUNTABILITY is not optional – we have personal and collective responsibility for our system's success.

How did I contribute to system success today?

DISCIPLESHIP is our calling – we are committed to deepening our relationship with Jesus.

How did I experience Jesus in others today?

Learning

Goal: That for 2015, all teachers are implementing 'Explicit Instructional Pedagogy' as per St Mary's Learning and Teaching Handbook.

This year, teachers have continued to develop and refine whole school practices in explicit instruction. Teachers met fortnightly in Professional Learning Community Meetings (PLCMs) to discuss and learn from and with each other. St Mary's Teaching and Learning Handbook, developed in collaboration with staff, has become a reference for best practice and for outlining agreed protocols and curriculum outlines for all teachers in all classes.

Teachers conduct ongoing assessment throughout the year, with formal end of year assessment and data collection being conducted to track progress and development for all students. As part of our PLCM discussions, teachers look at data and use findings to inform planning and target areas of need and to celebrate successes and affirm what is currently working.

In 2015, we extended the Spelling Mastery Program to include Year 3. All students from Years 3-6 have worked through this program in 2015, some within whole class setting and other students in one of the three smaller concurrently run groups. End of year assessment data attests to the success of this program and we will continue with this in 2016.

Teachers also commenced working with the concept of Growth Mindset and how we can respond to students to develop this growth mindset thinking, as opposed to fixed mindset. We will continue to develop this thinking as part of our focus on Effective Feedback in 2016.

During 2015, in addition to learning from and with each other through discussions at PLCMs, through professional reading and through an ongoing cycle of action and reflection, staff have also attended Professional Learning Courses in a number of areas:

- Aussie Optimism
- Explicit Instruction
- Protective Behaviours

- National School Improvement Tool
- Instructional Leadership
- Religious Education
- Schools Network Visits- Best Practice
- Google Apps
- Reporting
- Climate Survey Training
- School Improvement Review and Reflection
- Coaching
- Early Years Literacy
- Mindsets
- Science
- Developing Resilient Students
- Faith, Story and Witness
- Literature Conference
- Health and Physical Education
- Education Assistant Workshop
- Financial Management/ human resources

While we have a process of ongoing assessment, we also look to results from NAPLAN to track progress on a whole school, class and individual basis.

Results from 2015 NAPLAN indicate St Mary's continues to perform strongly when compared to national results.

NAPLAN 2015

Year 3 (30 students)

	National All Schools Mean	School Mean	Above National Minimum Standard	At National Minimum Standard	Below National Minimum Standard
Reading	425.8	426.6	27	3	-
Writing	416.3	403	26	4	-
Spelling	409.2	427.7	28	2	2
Grammar & Punctuation	432.7	419	24	4	2
Numeracy	397.8	392.9	27	2	1

Year 5 (30 students)

	National All Schools Mean	School Mean	Above National Minimum Standard	At National Minimum Standard	Below National Minimum Standard
Reading	498.2	512.5	25	5	-
Writing	478.1	518.4	30	-	-
Spelling	498.1	524.1	27	3	-
Grammar & Punctuation	503.8	525.1	27	2	1
Numeracy	492.3	519.3	30	-	-

Engagement

Goal: That in 2015, all in the school community are working towards the enhancement of effective social skills for all students.

This year, we have implemented the Aussie Optimism Program for Years 5 and 6, with this program being extended to Years 1 - 4 in 2016. We have also introduced the Protective Behaviours Program for students, with a parent workshop provided. Thanks to the coordination of the P&F, a Parent Workshop on Building Resilience in Children was presented. There was a very high attendance rate, with staff, parents and members of the wider community attending. It is important for our students' well-being that we, school and parents, continue to focus on developing the resilience and the coping skills of our students as they face the challenges in their daily lives and interactions with others.

We have a strong focus on sustainability at St Mary's, with our school having accreditation as a Water Wise School and a Waste Wise School. Thank you to Mrs Jenny Noack for her dedication and work in promoting and supporting the many sustainability initiatives that are part of school daily work and living.

At St Mary's we offer a quality and varied curriculum. It must also be recognised that students have been provided with a range of extra-curricular activities this year, activities outside the mandated curriculum and that enhance the school experience for students.

- School swimming carnival
- Interschool swimming carnival
- Fun Friday Fitness
- Before school swimming training
- Ride to School Day
- Walk to School Day
- Footy Colours day
- Year 6 Skills for Life Program
- Winter Sports Carnival
- NET Retreat Day – Year 6
- Drama Workshop – I Am Jack
- Young Writers Workshop
- Eisteddfod Choir Participation
- Choir participation at Catholic Schools Performing Arts Festival
- School Cross Country Carnival
- Interschool Cross Country Carnival
- NAIDOC Week events
- Mission Market Day
- Afternoon Tabloid Sports
- Eagles / Dockers Cup
- St Mary's Inaugural 60 Minute Challenge
- Science Week
- ANZAC March participation
- Book Week Assembly
- Grandparents Day
- Open Night
- School Athletics Carnival
- Interschool Athletics Carnival
- Numero Challenge

- Have Sum Fun Competition
- Spelling Bee
- T20 Cricket Blast
- ASHES Cricket Challenge
- Interm Swimming Lessons
- Year 6 Camp
- Year 5 Zoo Camp
- Excursions
- Sri Chinmoy Peace Run Assembly
- Individual Music Tuition
- Student Leadership Committees
- Lunch Time Chess
- Remembrance Day Service
- Performance Assemblies
- Scholastic Book Club
- 100 Club
- Nude Food Day
- Graduation
- End of Year Concert

Accountability

Goal: That throughout 2015, work towards the successful completion of the National Quality Standard requirements pertaining to the Early Years classes, Kindy – Year 2.

This year we had a reshuffle of classes in the cluster building in order to provide additional learning space for the Years 1 and 2 classes, as required by NQS. Over the course of the year, staff have continued to develop this learning space to provide quality learning experiences for the Year 1 and 2 students. Further development of this learning space will continue in 2016.

Staff in Kindy to Year 2 classes continue to work with the NQS to provide quality learning experiences and a quality environment for our younger students.

An audit of the 7 Quality areas of the NQS has been completed and a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) has been developed, with specific goals outlined for 2016.

This year saw the development of the former Year 7 classroom to a Science / Health Room. New stainless steel sinks were installed and the old carpets replaced with vinyl covering.

The basketball/netball/tennis courts were resurfaced and hardware upgraded with the combined financial contributions from P&F and the School Board.

Numerous census documents and reports were successfully completed as per governance requirements from CEO and National and State governments.

The school has managed all its finances as per requirements and has had a successful financial audit report provided by external auditors.

Discipleship

Goal: Review the current school Evangelisation Plan to ensure that it aligns to the Bishops' Mandate Letter and to respond to the challenges of implementing the Vision outlined in the School Strategic Plan 2015 – 2018.

The celebrations of the Sacraments of Penance, First Eucharist and Confirmation provided focus for the school as a Catholic community and as part of the wider Parish community. Parent and Parent/Student

workshops were conducted to support parents in the preparation of their children for receiving the Sacraments. The important role of parents as being the first faith educators of students is highlighted. Thank you to the teachers in Years 3, 4 and 6, Mrs Coulson, Mrs Webb and Mr Alberti, for their work in preparing the the students and to Ms Brown for her coordination of the Sacramental Program. Thank you to Fr Ed and Fr Tony for your support also.

The school continues to educate students in the Catholic Faith through its Religious Education Program. A schedule of Masses and Liturgies each term provided opportunities for all to gather in prayer and thanksgiving. Thank you to Fr Ed for his help and spiritual guidance over the course of the year and for his weekly school visits each Wednesday morning.

We gathered as a school community each Monday and Friday morning to begin the day in prayer. Prayer is also an important aspect of the beginning and end of each day in each classroom, and also before lunch. The Chapel has been open each week for individual prayer and reflection, with a number of students being regular visitors.

A number of senior students have taken part in lunchtime altar server training and carry out this ministry at school Masses.

Events that contributed to Christian Witness were:

- Whole school Masses
- Class Liturgies
- Class Masses
- Caritas Lenten Appeal
- Holy Week Liturgy
- Chrism Mass
- Mission Markets
- School Feast Day
- Year 6 Towards Adulthood Program
- Sri Chinmoy Peace Run Event
- National Evangelisation Team (NET) Retreat Day
- Casuals for CatholicCare Gold Coin Day
- St Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal
- Advent Liturgies
- Prayer

The results from the Bishops' Religious Literacy Assessment indicate the school's total mean score as being 11% above the All WA Schools' Mean Score.

A total of \$1350 was presented to Caritas, the money raised from fundraising over the school year, and I thank all who contributed to this total.

Planning for 2016

The Leadership Team has met with the Regional School Improvement Advisor and School Support Consultant to review school achievements and results this year and to report on progress against goals in the 2015 Annual School Improvement Plan. We will also articulate our goals for the 2016 Annual Plan and this will be provided for to school community at the commencement of 2016 school year.

P&F

On behalf of staff, students and parents, I thank the P&F Executive for their leadership and work this year. Thank you to the Class Reps for your coordination of the many fund raising and friend raising projects and to all families who have assisted with and supported these events. Your commitment and enthusiasm has ensured a very successful year for St Mary's P&F in 2015 and I congratulate you for all you have achieved this year. Our school community is enriched by the work you do together, with each other and for each other.

School Board

I thank all members of the School Board this year. Your work in supporting the financial management of the school and in planning for the maintenance and capital development of the school is greatly appreciated. Your wisdom and expertise ensure our school community is appropriately catered for within the constraints of our school budget. The provision of resources, staffing and facilities at St Mary's is essential if we are to continue to provide a quality Catholic education. This fact needs to be tempered with our modest capacity to generate income through school fees. A balanced budget is our annual aim and careful financial management is required to ensure we do that.

Thank you to Mr Martin Hynes for his leadership of the School Board in his role as Board Chair.

Thank you to Mr Daniel Marshall and Mr Paddy Catalano who step down from the School Board at the end of 2015, having served four years and three years respectively.

Staff

I thank all staff for their time, dedication and work this year. St Mary's is blessed to have such a dedicated and committed staff who give so much of themselves and their lives in service to the students and families at St Mary's. It is both heartening and rewarding to work with a team of people who love their school and treat it as more than a job that generates income. Experience tells me that there are schools who are not always as fortunate as we are here at St Mary's and, when we don't know or experience anything different, we can take it all for granted. To all teaching and non-teaching staff, I express greatest appreciation for all that you have done this year.

Students

Finally, I would like to make mention of the students at St Mary's. It is rewarding to work each day with these students as they strive to do their very best, both in work and in play, and as they show respect and care for themselves, each other and the adults who support them. I wish the graduating Year 6 class every success as they move to high school in 2016 and we look forward to hearing of their journey and their success.

Parents

I thank all parents for your support this year. Thank you to parents who volunteer their time and expertise in so many ways to assist in the many tasks that are part of life in a thriving school environment. We have valued and appreciated all that you have done in 2015.

To conclude, I wish all in our community a Blessed Christmas and a relaxing and enjoyable holiday break. When we gather in 2016, may our school motto – RESPECT, FAITH, COURAGE – guide us in all that we do. I look forward to the challenges ahead in 2016 when we will continue to live our school Vision.

Maureen Tully
Principal

November 2015