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Introduction

St. Mary’s Primary School is a vibrant Learning Community supported by the Parents and Friends of our school. The township of Corowa is situated on the majestic Murray River and hosts a diverse range of agricultural and commercial industries. The majority of the 190 students live in Corowa or nearby rural areas.

The School motto, “Love and Truth” was designed in 1969. The school believes in striving for quality education in a safe and caring environment, in all aspects of the children’s growth and development.

1. The School

VISION STATEMENT

We believe St Mary’s Primary School is a community in which:

✦ Jesus is our prime focus enabling us to be active members of a faith-filled community.

✦ Children are prepared in a collaborative, cooperative and supportive environment, for the changing world, through the promotion of a comprehensive quality curriculum.

✦ The dignity of each person is upheld and respected, and where the ideas of compassion and justice are allowed to flourish.

✦ Parents, parish and teachers work towards total development of the child in a safe, cooperative and collaborative learning community.

MISSION STATEMENT

St Mary’s Primary School is committed to being:

A Community of Faith

Jesus is our prime focus enabling us to be active members of a faith-filled community, witnessed by:

✦ Implementation of a spiritually rich, well informed, relative and flexible Religious Education curriculum.

✦ Class Masses

✦ School Masses

✦ Anointing Masses

✦ Paraliturgies

✦ Classroom Prayer

✦ Ecumenical Services

✦ Sacramental Preparation

A Community of Learning

Children are prepared in a collaborative, cooperative and supportive environment, for the changing world, through the promotion of a comprehensive quality curriculum, witnessed by:

✦ Investing in independent thinking, and the development and application of targeted skills

✦ Provision of quality learning experiences in Key Learning Areas:
  Religious Education
  English
  Mathematics
  Science and Technology
  Human Society and Its Environment
  Creative and Practical Arts
  Personal Development, PE and Health

✦ Other Cross Curriculum Areas
  School Choir and Musicals
  Computers and related Technology
  Cultural Performances
  Excursions/Outdoor Education
  Educational Kinesiology
  Sport
  Perceptual Motor Programme
A Community of Care
The dignity of each person is upheld and respected, and where the ideas of compassion and justice are allowed to flourish, witnessed by:

✦ A Positive Pastoral Care programme
✦ The Peer Support programme

A Community of Service
Parents, parish and teachers work towards total development of the child in a safe, cooperative and collaborative learning community, witnessed by:

✦ A commitment to the community by servicing a wide range of community based projects, for example:
  • Anzac Day March and Ceremony
  • Visits to Karinya House
  • Project Compassion and support of Missions
  • Caring for our school and local environment

✦ Specifically encouraging parental involvement in school life including:
  • Active participation in Key Learning Areas
  • Improving our school environment
  • Enhancing our outdoor education program
  • Contributing to the liturgical and pastoral life of our school

Religious Education
The school’s Religious Education Syllabus is ‘Sharing Our Story’. This Diocesan syllabus was introduced in 2004. The teaching of Religious Education occurs daily in classrooms, with children learning about their Catholic faith, and covering the strands of God, Jesus, Church, Sacraments, Scripture, Christian Life and Prayer.

In 2006 the school conducted a variety of liturgical celebrations. Each class prepared their Class Mass in Terms 1, 2, 3 and 4. Mass was celebrated to mark the beginning and end of the School Year, and the school participated in Masses at various times throughout the year to mark significant feasts and observances, including the Feast of the Assumption and the Feast of the Annunciation.

Senior children attended Parish Anointing Masses during the year. Children often assisted in the preparation of Masses and were involved in Liturgy of The Word, altar service and as choristers. During Holy Week all school children participated in the Holy Week Liturgy which celebrates the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. Staff and children are involved in the preparation of school and class liturgies.

The Sacramental Program included regular liturgical celebrations in students’ homes as well as in St Mary’s Parish Church, with each program culminating in the celebration of the particular sacrament (Sacraments of Penance, Eucharist and Confirmation).

The Arts
The school’s Creative Arts Curriculum was formally reviewed in 2006. The report noted a high standard of teaching and learning in this area.

All students enjoyed music lessons with the specialist teacher and a variety of activities in visual arts, dance and drama with their class teachers. Students enjoyed keyboard lessons and senior students developed their skills on guitar and recorder.

Sport
St. Mary’s School was involved in numerous sports in 2006. Our major events were swimming, AFL football, cross country and athletics. Carnivals were held for these sports with points awarded to all children who participated. Overall team winners were also acknowledged as well as age champions and children were selected for deanery carnivals.

Sporting trials were held to select children for deanery and diocesan events such as netball, cricket, Aussie Rules, hockey and tennis. Students who displayed excellence in a sport or represented the diocese in the MacKillop team for 2006 were acknowledged at our school’s final assembly.

The school won the inaugural Paul Kelly Cup (Southern Division) in AFL, playing against other schools in the region.

Senior girls and boys competed in the AFL/Netball/Beach Volleyball Carnival Day at Finley.
School Initiatives

- Teacher Professional Development in the areas of Chemical Safety, Child Protection, Duty of Care, CPR / First Aid and Assessment and Reporting
- Healthy Canteen Program, including use of funds from the Commonwealth Government Grant to introduce more healthy food choices at the Canteen and establish a vegetable garden
- Review of the School Vision and Mission Statement
- Implementation of policies and practices in the National Safe Schools Framework
- Implementation of the mandatory reporting framework
- Establishment of the School Student Representative Council (SRC)
- Fundraising ‘Disco’ run by the Student Representative Council
- ‘Teachable Moments’ – Catholic Personal Development / Sexuality Program. Sessions for students and parents
- Painting of classroom areas in accordance with the School Maintenance Plan
- Investing In Our Schools Program funding submission for ICLT and school beautification projects in 2007

2. Information on Key School Programs

Curriculum Focus

Criterion-referenced assessment and A-E reporting have been areas of high priority in 2006. The teaching and learning process is also a high priority for staff, with a strong focus for 2007 on continued improvements in curriculum delivery and quality teaching and learning. The Creative Arts Curriculum was reviewed in 2006 and English will be reviewed in 2007.

Programs to Support Learning

The school’s learning support initiatives include:

- Current technology, including use of cameras, DVDs, scanners, photocopiers and use of internet and intranet for learning
- Reading Recovery Program, to support reading skill development for children ‘at risk’ in the early primary years
- Peer Support Program, assisting self-esteem, self awareness, communication skills and group co-operation
- PMP (Perceptual Motor Program), to develop co-ordination and motor skills of the infants children

Equity Programs

- Aboriginal Education, supporting indigenous students’ access to the curriculum
- Centacare, supporting students and parents through provision of counselling services
- Multicultural Education, supporting Catholic principles of awareness, respect and understanding of people from different backgrounds and cultures

Programs to Support Students

- Students with disabilities are supported through special education programmes tailored to their individual needs
- Drug Education Program supported by ‘Life Education’ sessions for all children
- ‘Teachable Moments’ – Catholic Personal Development / Sexuality Program. Sessions for students and parents
- Student Representative Council, which forms part of the student leadership team in the school
- ‘Teachable Moments’ – Catholic Personal Development / Sexuality Program. Sessions for students and parents

School Policies

The Catholic ethos of the school means that respect for and responsibility of all people is a core value in all dealings with all people.

Students are helped to develop respect and responsibility through the implementation of the Student Welfare and Discipline Policies. The school has policies for dealing with complaints and grievances, in accordance with the Catholic Schools Office - Wagga Wagga, which has established a Complaints Handling Policy implemented by all schools in the Diocese. The full text of these CSO policies can be found at www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au
• Peer Support Program, assisting self-esteem, self-awareness, communication skills and group co-operation

**Respect and Responsibility**

The Catholic ethos of the school means that respect for and responsibility of all people is a core value in all dealings with all people. Students are helped to develop respect and responsibility through the Religious Education Programme, Peer Support Programme and Student Welfare and Discipline Policies.

Drug Education and Personal Development Programs, the Peer Support Program, visits to local pre-schools and aged-care facilities are some ways in which the children learn about respect and responsibility.

The ‘Values for Australian Schooling’ and ‘National Safe Schools Framework’ posters are displayed in the school.

**Student Achievement**

**Statewide Tests and Examinations**

The table below indicates the percentage of students who have achieved national literacy and numeracy benchmarks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>96</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Basic Skills 1998 to 2006**

Our school has participated in BST Literacy and Numeracy since 1998 and in BST Writing since 2001. The school monitors the BST Trend data each year and uses that information to inform its learning and teaching practices for the upcoming year.

**Staff Achievement**

In addition to whole staff professional learning achievements, individual members of staff have been involved in programs including spiritual development, retreats, autism workshops, early literacy and numeracy projects and Reading Recovery.

**3. School Renewal**

**Progress of the School Renewal Framework**

**School Improvement Targets**

Targets for 2007 include

- Development of the Learning Agenda: shared vision and agreed practices for teaching and learning
- School beautification: parent project with Commonwealth Government funding
- Community Water Grant Application: watering system and toilet block refurbishment
- Curriculum Review and staff professional development in the area of English
- Student Welfare Policy Review to improve practices and communication

In 2006 the school completed the Registration Review and has been re-registered for a further 5 years. Curriculum Review of the Creative Arts Policy was completed also. Both processes have informed future direction and long-term planning.

School beautification and improvement of facilities continue to be high priorities and the school’s parent representative bodies, the P&F Association and School Council, are involved in the planning and development of special projects.

**4. School Overview**

**School Enrolment**

**Enrolment Policy**

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga has established and Enrolment Policy which is implemented by all schools in the Diocese. The full text of this policy can be found at www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au

The implementation of this policy is monitored by the Catholic Schools Office.

**Student Enrolment Profile:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Indig’</th>
<th>LOTE*</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Language background Other Than English
Structure of Classes
In 2006 there were 8 class groupings: Kindergarten, Kinder/Year 1, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6.

Staff
Teacher Standards
The NSW government requires that this report detail the number of teachers in each of the following categories:
A) have teaching qualifications from a recognised higher education institution
B) have qualifications from a recognised higher education institution but no formal teacher education qualifications
C) have relevant successful teaching experience and appropriate knowledge but no formal teacher qualifications.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Professional Learning
2006 staff professional learning included:
- Chemical Safety
- Child Protection
- Duty of Care
- CPR / First Aid
- Assessment and Reporting

Teacher Attendance and Retention
The federal Schools Assistance Act 2005 requires that each school report on the average attendance rate of staff members in a given school. The end figure is determined by calculations including certain periods of absence due to sickness, personal carers leave, leave without pay, special leave and accident/workers compensation leave. An attendance rate of 95% was achieved in 2006 by staff at St Mary’s Primary School, Corowa.

Parent Involvement and Participation
- St Mary’s School P&F Association raises funds for needed and /or desired amenities that assist the school body and raise the teaching facility of the school
- The School Council, advisory to the Principal, has 4 parent members
- Assistance at school functions including sporting carnivals and events
- Assistance during excursions
- Help with reading groups, PMP and other class activities
- Working Bees
- Involvement in Parish Sacramental Programs

Community Use of School Facilities
- Various community groups hire or borrow the school’s portable shade structures
- Use of school grounds for outdoor parish masses
- Sharing of equipment for sporting events with other local schools

Community Satisfaction
The following information has been provided to the school. It has been a valuable gauge for determining the level of satisfaction our community has with St Mary’s Primary School.

Parents
My child is usually happy at St Mary’s Primary School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parents</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students
I am usually happy at St Mary’s Primary School.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Staff
I am usually happy at St Mary’s Primary School.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Financial Statement Summary
See Appendix A

About This Report
This report was written with input from the staff, P&F Association and School Council.
APPENDIX A

This data shown below is a summary of Diocese of Wagga School System income and expense and includes income and expense of all system schools.

System Income 2006

- Commonwealth Government Recurrent Grants: 57%
- State Government Recurrent Grants: 21%
- Other Fee Income: 5%
- School Fees: 14%
- Capital Income: 3%

System Expenses 2006

- Salary and Related Expenses: 73%
- Non Salary Expenses: 20%
- Capital Expenditure: 7%
The total income and expense of the school, that is included in the above, is shown below.

**Income**

- Capital Income: 2%
- School Fees: 6%
- Other Fee Income: 10%
- Commonwealth Government Recurrent Grants: 60%
- State Government Recurrent Grants: 22%

**Expenses**

- Capital Expenditure: 5%
- Non Salary Expenses: 15%
- Salary and Related Expenses: 80%