

Principal's Address
2014 AGM for 2013 School Year

Firstly, I'd like to welcome Helen Reynolds onto the staff for the first 6 weeks of 2014 school year, as Helen is replacing Brett Love while he is on LSL.

2013 has been another significant year at St. Mary's. Firstly we welcomed onto our staff Mr Brett Love and Miss Kimberley Noble who have contributed to the school significantly.

Looking back at 2013 a number of noteworthy events have taken place: As a staff we have continued to look at the theories and research of Dr John Hattie. Dr Hattie's work has been a central focus for St. Mary's for 18 months and from his research a number of practices are now being implemented. These include:

- 1) providing to students clear learning intentions at the start of a lesson and monitoring the students' progress through self-reflection at the lessons conclusion.
- 2) ensuring students give feedback to the teachers regarding how effective their teaching was in each session;
- 3) ensuring that feedback is more meaningful and structured rather than praise or general comment,
- 4) goal setting with students,
- 5) managing response rates during questioning and
- 6) completing pre and post-test in mathematics in Term 3 & 4.

This enabled teachers to measure the effectiveness of their teaching. The results we have seen have been remarkable.

The teaching staff have also continued to begin the implementation of the Australian Curriculum. Also this year under the guidance of Greg Hollands we purchased a further 10 iPads for classroom use, this now gives us a grand total of 22, that ensures that each child in each class has access to one. We also upgraded all the Interactive whiteboards in the four classrooms and added apple TV's to them to allow interaction with the iPads.

Throughout 2013 the staff continued to focus on the development of the children's Literacy and Numeracy.

I'd like to acknowledge and thank Fr Larry, Sara, Brett and Daniela for coordinating the sacramental programs and for preparing the children for the sacraments.

Thanks to Marlo Elsum-Beaumont and Felicity Mourambine for their time at St. Mary's.

On a personal note I want to thank the School Board and P&F executive for their ongoing support and dedication to the students of St. Mary's.

2014

So what is ahead in 2014...

Well we have the continued integration of IT within the school with the possibility of purchasing more iPads and/or laptops for computer lab and painting of the undercover area and the passageway between the Year 3/4 classroom and old office.

Our curriculum focus for this year is Grammar. We had Dr. Beverley Derewinka attend our school for Professional Development on January 30. Dr. Bev was one of the key writers for the National Curriculum regarding Grammar so to get her insight about the document and how to teach Grammar at school was extremely insightful and beneficial. We have also had PD regarding the re-introduction of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit back into our school program.

The Year 5/6's will be heading off on their school camp in Week 8 of this Term and we will be hosting St. Lawrence's and Our Lady of Mount Carmel for three days of Professional Development regarding the theories and practices of Dr. John Hattie.

Change to swimming carnival format

LEAD: The Catholic Education Office of Western Australia has recently defined our systems Strategic Directions for the next three years which is encapsulated in the acronym LEAD - learning, engagement, accountability and discipleship. Over the coming years you will hear and see many references to LEAD as we (head office, staff, parents and children) work to embed it in every aspect of our schools.

Over time the office will produce some short video messages which we will place on the Catholic Education website and regular stories that showcase examples of schools bringing LEAD to life in their context.

In conclusion I would like to thank the staff of St. Mary's who make this a very special place to come to work each day, to the parents who work extremely well with the staff to ensure the best educational needs are met for their children and finally the students who come each day with a willingness to learn, socialise and do their very best.

Justin Tuohy
Principal